

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Howie's in the pink to help charity funds

## Countdown to the Royal National Mòd

check out our preview on pages 14 and 15

mòd an Òbain 2015

SECRET MEETING TO 'AMALGAMATE' HOSPITAL BEDS

# Fears rise as another ward closes in town

LOUISE GLEN  
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SECRET PLANS to amalgamate another ward at Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital have come under attack from patients, community activists and politicians.

For the second time in as many years, beds are under threat at the general hospital. And staff claimed the ward closure will lead to job losses.

The lack of permanent consultants has seen confidence in the future of the medical facility diminish in the local community.

Oban community council has become increasingly concerned over the years about the gradual depletion of resources at the hospital.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said this week: 'We have been asking questions regarding the hospital at every community council. We are not convinced that patients' needs - particularly children's needs, are being put first.

'For some time now, we have

been increasingly frustrated at any communication with the hospital.

'In September, we invited a member of the health board to come along, but no-one came.

'If staff concerns about this amalgamation are true, it means we have fewer beds for local patients.

'We have been concerned for some time with the building of a new hospital in Fort William and how this would impact on the Oban hospital, although we have always been told that it would not affect us here. This is a very worrying situation and for it to have been done in secret does not bode well for the people of Oban and surrounding area.

'The health board must be reminded that we are a statutory consultee that should be informed of changes to our community hospital, before it's a done deal.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said he was also in the dark about changes to the hospital, but had heard from staff that changes were afoot.

He said: 'I am concerned to hear of the ward amalgamation which has not been discussed with the local community, as far as I know, nor has notice of it been given to local MSPs or the MP. There is no point in NHS Highland talking about the need for consultation and community participation, if it plays fast and loose with local facilities without any local involvement at all.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland confirmed the news: 'The shifting of the balance of care from a hospital environment into the community has resulted in more and more patients being cared for in their own home environment rather than having to be cared for in a hospital.'

'We therefore have a responsibility to our patients and the public generally to ensure that our limited resources are directed to where they are most needed and, in many cases, this will be in the community.'

'We have also been examining the patient flows within the hospital in order to reduce the length of time that patients wait to be assessed within A&E.'

'Our proposal is to have one medical unit within the hospital which will retain all functions that exist at present.'

'In addition, a four-bedded medical assessment unit would be developed where patients can be cared for whilst awaiting diagnostics and admission, transfer or discharge. This will ensure that we continue to provide a wide range of health and social care services in the most appropriate setting.'



CRITICAL: Lorn and the Islands hospital in Oban



THAT'S MY GIRL: proud owner Victoria Miller with Nakura, the 11-year-old basenji who beat cancer to make it to Crufts

## From cancer to Crufts

TAYNUILT show dog, Nakura, defied the odds when she bounced back from liver cancer to walk away with a top prize at Crufts, writes Emma Crichton.

Victoria Miller, owner of the 11-year-old basenji, feared the worst when a tumour was discovered last year, but the prize pooch went on to win best veteran bitch at the world-famous dog show

in March this year, just six months after an operation to remove the growth.

Nakura has now fully recovered from the painful tumour, which had grown so large that it had begun to drain the blood supply from her stomach and was eating away at her abdomen.

Victoria said: 'She's a great wee dog and I just can't imagine life without her. We're

just so relieved.' Nakura may be close to retiring from shows, but Victoria said the dog won't be relaxing yet as her three sons and five grandchildren all live at the same house in the village.

'I think I'll take her out of shows soon, but I've been saying that for years. She's got life in her yet and she has the other dogs to keep her going.'

## TIMESLINE

### NHS can claw back £5M, says director

NHS HIGHLAND is at risk of running over its budget target by £5 million for 2015-16.

However, finance director Nick Kenton will tell today's health board meeting that he believes break-even can be achieved, and he sets out a contingency plan to cover the potential overspend.

But he warned there would be no room for any overspends or changes.

### Island councillors is common sense

DEDICATED councillors for the islands is a 'distinct possibility' after Holyrood minister Derek Mackay announced new proposals for islands' representation.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon from Mull welcomed the news. She said: 'This is about time. Mull is the third largest island and yet it has no dedicated representation.'

'Finally we are seeing common sense.'

### Tough choices lie ahead for Argyll

PARKING charges, burial costs and the price of council services are all set to rise under 'Service Choices' proposals at Argyll and Bute council.

More than 140 proposals will be put to councillors today, Thursday, before going out to public consultation. Turn to page seven for full story.

### Public opening of high-profile space

A GRAND opening of a high-profile public space in Oban was due to take place yesterday, Wednesday.

The Stafford Street pedestrianisation precinct has been open since July this year.



### Stamp, Coin & other Collectables Advisory Day

Warwick and Warwick, the leading stamp, coin and collectables auctioneers, will be visiting your area shortly and look forward to meeting you at:

**The Oban Bay Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5AE, Tuesday, 13th October 2015, 9am - 1pm**

We will be pleased to advise on the sale of stamps, coins, banknotes, postcards, cigarette cards, medals, die-cast toys, model railways, militaria and silver. We will be accepting material for valuation and sale by our team of experts in Warwick. There will be no fee for valuation; all that we ask is the cost of returning the collection, fully insured, to your door, if you decide not to sell.

Please phone or e-mail for an appointment if you have a large or valuable collection. Car parking available.

Home visits may be possible for exceptionally large collections.

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## Island air travel takes off as Holyrood slashes fares

FLIGHTS to Scottish islands will be cheaper from next year as the Air Discount Scheme has been extended. The price cut for travellers from remote communities will be increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent from January 1. This comes after the scheme was extended until 2019 earlier this year.

The announcement on Tuesday also revealed a freeze on ferry fares for 2016/17 across all Scottish government subsidised services.

Announcing the further discount, Derek Mackay,

Scottish government minister for transport and the islands, said: 'The Scottish government continues to support communities in the Highlands and islands and measures such as the Air Discount Scheme and freezing ferry fares make a real difference for local residents.'

'The scheme has proved hugely popular, as it tackles the issue of high air fares in the Highlands and Islands. By increasing the discount to the maximum, we are aiming to make sure these communities remain connected.'

## Oban's Mòd will be the best yet, says organiser

THE ROYAL National Mòd returns to Oban this weekend - bigger and better than ever before and boosted by more than 100 children from the town taking part.

Local Mòd chairman, Duncan Macdonald, said he was delighted with the response from participants, volunteers and the money the town has given to stage the nine-day festival of Gaelic culture, starting tomorrow, Friday.

Former Mòd gold medallist, Duncan said: 'The excitement is really building up, all thanks to the people of Oban, the

Oban Times and BID4Oban, who have all done a great job raising awareness of the event.

'So much about the Mòd is voluntary and we are all thankful for their great help.'

'We have grown from two junior competitors at the Mòd in Inverness to more than 70 entrants here in Oban after we set up a Mòd Academy.'

'The challenge now is to keep it going.'

The Mòd gets under way in Oban with a torchlight procession from Station Square to the Corran Halls gathering at 6.15pm on Friday.

### Adding Value to Accountancy

**Wylie + Bisset**  
Chartered Accountants, Business & Tax Advisors

Wylie & Bisset LLP provide comprehensive accounting and advisory services to local businesses in the Argyll & Bute area.

**A reminder that paper returns should be submitted to HMRC by 31st Oct and on-line returns by January 31st 2016**

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# NIGHT ONLY

## Bed and Mattress SALE NOW ON

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## Catherine is a window winner

AN ARTIST from Lochgoilhead has won the Rockfield Centre's Windows on the World Art competition launched in August.

Catherine Gray submitted three innovative design ideas for window murals to enhance the six tall window sections at the front of the former school.

While the building is being renovated, Oban Communities Trust (OCT) is pushing forward with improving the looks of the outside of the building and grounds.

'Windows on the World' is intended to illustrate the purpose of the Rockfield Centre and Catherine's murals will be painted on panels over the boarded up windows.

Artists and art teachers, Val Hamilton and Val Leckie, have co-ordinated the project. They said: 'Catherine's colourful and inspirational ideas will really brighten up the front of the building and outline what the future of the centre is all about.'

'The emphasis of the contest was to incorporate the centre themes of History and Heritage, Arts and Culture, Enterprise and Education and Community and wellbeing. These themes will be colour co-ordinated.'

Catherine's three ideas are bold images which can be seen both from a distance and up close. They show a variety of different designs and patterns.

Eleanor MacKinnon, OCT project facilitator said: 'Windows on the World is part of our stalled space site development and has given a great opportunity for creative involvement from the community artists to have work incorporated into our renovations.'

'We look forward to Catherine's ideas bringing life back to the front of the building for everyone to enjoy.'

## Artists to help Mary's Meals

TWENTY Scottish artists are coming together to support the Dalmally based charity, Mary's Meals, in fighting poverty across the world.

The artists will donate up to 60 per cent of the money made from their paintings to the charity, which provides a meal a day for over one million hungry children in some of the world's poorest countries.

James Davis, one of the artists involved, said: 'I was moved to take part when I learned it costs just £12.20 to feed a hungry child for a whole year.'

'Our goal is to raise enough money to feed a whole school.'

The Breeze Gallery in Ingram Street, Glasgow, is providing space for the display and will not charge commission on any painting sold.

## MSP grilled by keen Iona pupils

HIGHLAND MSP John Finnie visited Iona primary school last week to discuss a wide range of topics, chosen by the children, which included the search for a new local doctor. The children also quizzed him on why he wanted to be an MSP.



TURKISH DELIGHT: Jean Horsley, Becca Craig, Valerie Cleave and Joan Drummond prepare to belly dance 7\_t39belldance01

## Exotic dancing to help breastfeeding charity

A TRIO of women from the Oban area were treated to their first ever belly dancing experience recently, in support of a breastfeeding charity.

Valerie Cleave, from Oban,

who has been belly dancing since 2007, organised the class at the town's Grassroots Cafe, in support of Baby Milk Action.

The charity's mission is to stop what it sees as misleading

marketing by the baby feeding industry, and to promote breastfeeding.

Valerie explained: 'This is to raise awareness of the charity, and also that the Grassroots

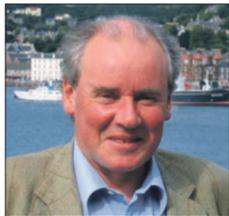
cafe in Oban is a place that welcomes breastfeeding of any age child.'

Donations from the belly dancing class were to be handed over to Baby Milk Action.

The three women said they thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to the time-honoured exotic dance, describing it as a good deal of fun and great exercise.

## MSP welcomes bill which could see evil human traffickers jailed for life

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ACTION CALL: Jamie McGrigor

A WEST Highland politician has welcomed a new bill making human trafficking a specific crime for the first time.

But Jamie McGrigor, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has warned 'slave masters' will continue to operate in Scotland.

Offenders can now face a maximum life sentence under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act passed in Scottish Parliament last Thursday.

The legislation also gives victims access to support and lays out specific instructions about how prosecutors should deal with offenders.

Mr McGrigor said: 'Action is clearly urgently required and I am pleased that the Scottish government has moved swiftly to legislate on this issue, as have Westminster and Northern Ireland.'

'The Scottish government has also rightly recognised the cross border nature of this crime and is co-operating closely with

the UK government to ensure, where practicable, a co-ordinated approach on the issue.

'However, that legislation is about to be added to the statute book does not mean that we should lose sight of the broader issue, which is that traffickers and slave masters will continue to coerce, deceive and force individuals into lives of degradation at source.'

'The harrowing pictures splashed across the front pages of national newspapers and on our television screens in recent weeks serve as a stark reminder that there are hundreds of

It does not mean that we should lose sight of the broader issue, which is that traffickers and slave masters will continue to coerce, deceive and force people into lives of degradation

Jamie McGrigor

thousands of vulnerable people who are suffering in the hope of creating a safer, more secure life for themselves and their families.'

This comes just 10 weeks after Shamsul Arefin (pictured right) was jailed for three years for subjecting four Bangladeshi men to what was deemed 'mod-

ern day slavery' at the Stewart Hotel in Duror, between 2008 and 2010.

During a five-week trial at Fort William sheriff court in July, victims said they were left 'emotionally scarred' from working long hours for a fraction of the agreed pay.

Mr McGrigor has called for

the bill to be regularly scrutinised to keep it 'future-proof'.

He added: 'Human trafficking is a complex, multifaceted and evolving issue and our response must adapt to keep pace with it.'

'I therefore urge the Scottish government to carefully and consistently review this legislation. I similarly encourage the Scottish parliament to conduct rigorous post-legislative scrutiny of the bill over the coming years to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and future-proof. There is no doubt that perpetrators will do everything in their power to exploit and manipulate the vulnerable to their advantage, regardless of the deterrents in place.'



## TIMESLINE



SOARING: work at the airport

## Work on business park in full flight

WORK on the first of Argyll and Bute council's Lorn Arc projects, a business park access scheme at Oban Airport, is taking off.

The excavation work is now complete, with an extra 1000 tonnes of earth removed to level the site.

Other work has included initial ducting, which is vital to providing the future services to the site, as well as the start of drainage system construction.

This £600,000 scheme will see access improvements to the Oban airport site to open up a business park opportunity and will be delivered in two phases - the road itself first then the site specification after that.

The 150 metres of two-lane carriageway and single sided footway, with associated service ducting, drainage and street lighting, is expected to be complete by next month.

## Police praise swift emergency action

OBAN Mountain Rescue, Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service were praised by Oban police sergeant, Alan Moore, for their response to a call-out to help a woman with a head injury at the weekend.

The search and rescue mission to help a 44-year-old woman began shortly after 11am on Saturday morning when her husband phoned police.

The couple had been climbing on the hillside by Loch Creran when the woman fell.

She was taken to Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital where she was treated.

## Sweet sacrifice for a healthy cause

RESIDENTS of Oban are being urged to take part in 'Choctober' this month by the National Kidney Federation (NKF).

Choctober is a campaign encouraging people to give up chocolate in October in order to raise money, as most kidney patients are not allowed to eat chocolate.

It is estimated that 2 million people in the UK have kidney problems.

Anyone who would like to get involved or find out more about Choctober, should email [pete.revel@kidneynkf.com](mailto:pete.revel@kidneynkf.com) or call 01263722287.



### Eye to eye with John Wallace

#### 20/20 Clear Vision

I often hear comments about patients able to see near the bottom of the test chart who still not happy about their vision. This is often the case when is trying to read and only being aware of some letters in each word rather than the whole word. When we read most of us recognise whole words and don't actually have to read out the individual component letters of the word.

Last weekend I attended a fascinating meeting on how to help patients who are only able to read parts of a word rather than the whole word. We learnt how some patients have extremely limited fields of vision and are completely unaware of what is happening in their peripheral vision. By using a combination of special coloured filters and exercises it was possible to significantly expand their visual world to enable fluent reading.

I have previously mentioned how the use of coloured filters can have a beneficial effect on reading capabilities. For many years I have used an Intuitive Colorimeter which enables patients to accurately choose which colour gives the maximum benefit. For years critics said it was "quackery" but several years ago functional MRI studies of patients reading conclusively showed major changes in brain activity when an appropriate coloured filter was used. This new technique, once mastered, will enable a much more precise application of colour with even more dramatic effects on reading ability.

One of the most frustrating aspects of eye-care is examining children previously labelled as poor readers despite never having had an eye examination. If your child is having problems reading, please don't assume they are dyslexic. Often all they need is some form of vision correction and possibly vision therapy. A comprehensive eye examination should be your first step in dealing with any reading problem.

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## MULLlines

### Drum roll sounds successful retreat

IT was a case of hit me with your rhythm stick as the Isle of Iona and the Ross of Mull were resounding to the boisterous pounding of drums last month, at Iona's first ever drumming retreat.

Jana McLellan, a local resident and long-term drumming enthusiast, invited people from all over Britain and farther afield, to beat a retreat to the beautiful Iona youth hostel.

Under the skilful leadership of Paul John Dear and Jane Bentley - both members of the UK Playshop - all those who joined in shared the joy of not just keeping time, but spending it with one another far from the jarring noise of everyday existence.

They were also accompanied in their musical endeavours by the excited children from the Iona and Bunnass primary schools, who were on a roll with their drum kits.

Between 50 to 60 people gathered on a Sunday afternoon in Iona village hall for the first ever Iona Drum Circle.

Jana said: 'We would like to thank Caledonian MacBrayne who generously sponsored Paul and Jane to bring a whole van full of drums and rhythm instruments to Mull and Iona for the event.'

'Everyone had such a wonderful time at this magical weekend that we hope to make it an annual event.'

Louise Glen



BIG HIT: drumming retreat on Iona was enjoyed by islanders and those from farther afield

## Award for environment-friendly pupils

LOCHDONHEAD primary school on Mull has fought off stiff competition to win the top prize of £1,000 in a national environmental competition.

Run by Scotland's Environment Web and supported by SEPA, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Young Scot and Education Scotland, the Our Environment competition invites young people across Scotland between the ages of six and 18 to identify an environmental

issue and submit their ideas on how they would improve it.

Two pupils from Lochdonhead represented the school when they attended the competition's awards ceremony at the Scottish parliament.

The school has already been busy transforming its grounds by draining an existing pond, placing an old rowing boat in the area and preparing it to be planted in the spring. They have also made

bird boxes and a bug hotel and have created pathways around the school using chips.

The school now plans to develop the grounds further by creating a conservation garden. The pupils are planning to use the prize money to erect a shed and create a small science laboratory in the school grounds where they can use various resources to study the flora and fauna. They plan on inviting the local community

and other schools to go along and make use of it too.

Martin Marsden, chairman of the Our Environment partners said: 'We decided on Lochdonhead primary school because we felt the quality of their submission was superb.'

'It showed that they had put a lot of work into their idea, and also that the benefits go beyond the school, into the wider community.'

# It doesn't sit easily with the inn

'IF THE COUNCIL WANTS TO PROMOTE CAFE CULTURE, WHY STOP ITS PROGRESS IN AN EXCITING AREA OF THE TOWN?'

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

THE taste of cafe society has turned sour for a Mull entrepreneur who has claimed the council has reneged on his plans to bring continental-style outdoor cuisine to a prestigious Oban seafront development.

Investor in the Oban Inn in Stafford Street, Calum Maclachlainn, said he was told he could have 50 pavement seats outside his premises at Stafford Street.

The £350,000 Stafford Street pedestrian precinct was heralded a site for developing 'cafe culture' in the town, but Calum Maclachlainn claimed the local authority has gone back on its word.

Mr Maclachlainn runs a multi-million pound business investment and procurement scheme throughout Scotland, including a number of interests in Mull and Oban, and employs more than 400 people.

He said this week: 'I want to invest in Oban. Over the past few years we have seen the town extend its year - thanks to the incredible work of people like Alan MacLeod (who recently died) and his son Callum, Paul Sloan, who is a co-director of the business and many others who



SEATING ROW: Calum Maclachlainn of the Oban Inn in Stafford Street says he was told he could have 50 outside seats in the new £350,000 pedestrian precinct

are running superb restaurants for both visitors and residents.

'Most restaurants now offer superb food. Oban is becoming renowned for that high quality of offer.'

'We have been interested in taking forward the Oban Inn for more than two years, and have

worked with its guarantors over that time.

'We had an agreement with the local authority that would have made the business work and provided jobs for more than 20 people.'

'This was to have a licensed outdoor seating area, something

you would find in most areas of Europe.'

'Without this the Oban Inn is no longer a viable proposition. But the council has reneged on that promise and it leaves the business plan in tatters.'

He added: 'If the council wants to promote cafe culture - as it



INVESTOR: Calum Maclachlainn

says in all its business promotion documents, then why stop its progress in one of the most exciting areas of the town? We work with six different councils across Scotland, but Argyll and Bute is the most difficult.

'I have been trying to get a meeting to resolve this, but all they have done is to invite me to an opening ceremony. It doesn't make any sense.'

However, Councillor Ellen Morton, policy lead for infrastructure, said the council had made strenuous efforts to accommodate Mr Maclachlainn's business plan.

She said: 'The regeneration of Stafford Street is about creating a great new public space for residents and visitors, and it's already proving to be popular and well used.'

'We worked very hard to combine the wishes of the Oban Inn with the interests of other businesses on Stafford Street and members of the public.'

'Following extensive consultation with businesses along Stafford Street, we found a way to offer the Oban Inn a pavement cafe licence in principle which would allow it 32 outside seats, only eight less than it had originally requested, with the public seating remaining.'

'We had not entered into any contract for use of the public seating, but given the effort made to realise this opportunity for outdoor dining, it is very disappointing that the Oban Inn will not now take advantage of the offer of 32 outside seats.'

'There is tremendous potential here for local businesses to use the flexible space provided by the council.'

## TIMESLINE



PRIZE GUYS: hotel general manager David Lapsley and John McNulty

### Coveted accolades for a local hotel

TAYNUILT Hotel's chef tasted success with a first AA Rosette after its grading for having a 'passionate, enthusiastic and friendly team.'

John McNulty, who hails from nearby Tayvallich, bought the hotel in December 2012 after working in various restaurants in England and the Kilberry Inn seafood restaurant between Lochgilphead and Tarbert.

The Taynuilt Hotel has also received a Taste Our Best award from VisitScotland and been included in the Michelin Guide.

### Young people win a host of awards

THE achievements of Argyll and Bute's young people have been recognised at a prestigious ceremony in Oban.

Eight prizes were handed out at the town's Phoenix Cinema, picked by a panel of judges from hundreds of nominations.

Three Oban youths won awards: Billy Pearson, 18, for unsung hero, Fraser Campbell, 12, for entrepreneur and Abigail Evans, 19, for sport.

The Weekenders, a musical band based in the town, also won the health and wellbeing award.

Not to be outdone, islanders held their own on the night as Pippa Garrard, 25, from Mull won the environment award and Shannon Maclean, also of Mull, was first in the arts category.

Bute's Thomas Howat and David McLaughlin won the volunteering award and citizenship award respectively.

### Exchange visit by Irish musicians

AN evening of Gaelic music and song was held in the Royal Hotel, Oban on September 30 from young musicians, An Crann Og from Donegal in Ireland.

The musicians visited the town on an exchange trip to Scotland. The event was arranged and hosted by Furan Gaelic Centre and members of the Oban Gaelic community. The group also visited Glasgow.

## Government's new analysis of wild salmon should ring alarm bells

WILD salmon populations have fallen below 'safe' conservation limits in all rivers in the Scottish West Highland salmon-farming zone.

Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland (S&TCS) has called upon the Scottish government to place an immediate moratorium on further expansion of salmon farming in light of Marine Scotland's new analysis.

The Scottish government's newly-published classification of the country's salmon rivers puts all the rivers in the West Highlands and Inner Hebrides in the worst-performing category, with wild salmon stocks not reaching what are known as 'conservation limits' - a measure of the overall health of the population.

Andrew Graham-Stewart, Director of S&TCS, said: 'This new analysis by Marine Scotland should ring alarm bells. The fact that no single river within salmon farming's heartland of the West Highlands and Inner Hebrides has a sufficient stock of wild salmon for any exploitation to be sustainable, cannot be a coincidence.'

# Legendary correspondent 'Mr Scalpay' was a renowned Gaelic poet and Bard of the Mòd

HE BROUGHT us stories from the edge of the world in his 20-year-plus stint as a district correspondent for the *Oban Times*.

Donald R Morrison, a fluent Gaelic speaker, better known as 'The Scalpay man, died aged 95 in a nursing home in Harris last Friday (October 2).

Donald Morrison brought the readers of the newspaper many memorable stories of life through his special lens illustrating a bygone era.

Weekly, he would send a handwritten note in his scratchy writing to the newspaper offices, whereupon junior reporters for more than two decades would write them up for the next edition.

The number of tourists on Scalpay, the building of the bridge, the herring running in the seas, yachts in the bay, whether the sheep were on the hill or in the field - 'Mr Scalpay' was first with the community news from the island.

Former news editor, Euan Paterson, marked Mr Morrison's death saying there would never be a reporter like him again.



STORYTELLER: Donald R Morrison, known as 'The Scalpay man'

Euan, who worked with him for many years, said: 'One of my first jobs as a reporter was to type up notes from Mr Morrison.'

'He was a diligent correspondent and would send news often, sometimes three times a week.

He was keen to get news from Scalpay out to the world via the newspaper.'

'For a man who wrote so eloquently - he was a man of very few words on the telephone.'

'He would phone and ask for

envelopes and notepads and pens. We sent them to him and he sent his news back to us.'

'One of my favourite stories was the argument between two islanders over the age of one of them. One islander said that he would be 80 on his birthday - while the octogenarian disagreed.'

Euan continued: 'Anyway the upshot was that no-one would be able to find out as, at that time, births were not registered on the island.'

A humble man, it was not for many years that Euan found out that Mr Morrison was in fact a renowned Gaelic poet.

'In one report he said three important things happened in 1953 'Edmund Hillary climbed Mount Everest, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned and I was named the Bard of the Royal National Mòd.'

'It is sad to think that it is the end of an era. He continues to be one of the reasons that people like the Oban Times.'

While Mr Morrison had no family of his own, and never married he benefited from working in the family woollen and knitting business as well as

helping out in the family shop. It is understood that he was born on the island into a large family.

Niece, Christina Macinnes, who now lives in Inverness said: 'He was a confirmed bachelor and was well looked after later by his three nieces and the wonderful staff in Harris House residential care.'

'He was affectionately known locally as Dolly.'

'He was born on Guy Fawkes night 1919. He was quite private about his writing. He would write in private and it wasn't until it was published we would know about it.'

'He lived with us, in the old style with him at one end of the house and us at the other. There was a living area in the middle where we all would spend time together.'

'While he was very private at home, Mr Morrison would meet his other 'bachelor friends on a Saturday night in the shop - where they would share a few stories.'

His funeral service was held in the Free Church Continuing in Scalpay at noon on Tuesday.

## Stop the unfair postcode penalty, says MSP

'ABSURD' postage costs, including a £50 surcharge to deliver an item worth less than £2, have been discussed by a Highlands and Islands MSP, writes Steven Rae.

John Finnie urged the Scottish government to end the unfair surcharges during a parliamentary debate on

September 24. Suggestions to alleviate the charges included implementing legislation whereby consumers could choose delivery specifically by Royal Mail.

Mr Finnie said: 'With around half of online retailers charging often extortionate delivery surcharges, and

some refusing to deliver to parts of the Highlands and Islands altogether, consumers are paying an unfair postcode penalty.'

'Citizens Advice Scotland has reported absurd delivery charges, like £40 to deliver a £6 roll of parcel tape, and £50 on a bakery tool costing just £1.15.'

The Scottish government's Transport and islands minister, Derek Mackay, said, in part of his response: 'I am particularly interested in the legislative aspect of being able to choose the provider - that is, to choose Royal Mail.'

'That is a very helpful suggestion,' he added.

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**Kerrera's new berthing boost**

THE island of Kerrera is all set to benefit from almost £2million to upgrade to its ferry berthing facilities. A sum of £1.7 million will be invested in the construction of a new breakwater and extension of the slipway.

The project also includes an extension to the Gallanach slipway at the mainland end of the crossing.

The move comes after years of discussions between islanders and land owners with the Scottish government.

Transport minister, Derek Mackay MSP said: 'I'm delighted to announce this improvement programme for Kerrera, which will bring real benefits to the community who depend on the ferry service.'

'By building a new breakwater and extending the slipways, we will improve ferry resilience and lessen the impact of poor weather conditions. It will also mean that current tidal restrictions on vehicle-carrying services will be lifted, allowing a better flow of vessels between the two ends of the route.'

'This investment is further proof of the Scottish government's commitment to providing the best possible ferry services for the communities that rely on them and ensuring that our islands remain an attractive and accessible destination for visitors.'

The works, which will be delivered by Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), will commence on January 4 2016 and will be completed by the summer of 2016.

Ruairidh Campbell, project manager at CMAL, said: 'CMAL is delighted to be managing the delivery of this marine investment on Kerrera as part of our ongoing commitment to develop and maintain our port and harbour infrastructure.'

'We are looking forward to working with the contractor and strengthening our relationship with the ferry operator and local community.'

**Cruachan: a compelling story**

THE bunting will be out and flags will be fluttering as Cruachan hydro power station celebrates a remarkable 50 years.

The power station on the banks of Loch Awe has been hailed worldwide as marvel of engineering.

Four thousand men worked to create the power station, known as the 'hollow mountain', which was opened by The Queen on October 15, 1965.

To mark this special occasion, the Oban Times in conjunction with Scottish Power, is producing a special anniversary supplement in next week's edition (Oct 15) to record this remarkable story.

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# Professor honours 'exceptional' class of 2015

**STEVEN RAE**  
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A LEADING professor has described the honours class of 2015 at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI as the 'most exceptional' he has ever seen.

Professor Geoffrey Boulton, a former Vice Principal of Edinburgh University, and current SAMS UHI President, praised the 18 fourth-year students as he awarded the coveted 'student of the year' prize to the entire class at the Dunstaffnage campus' graduation ceremony.

The cohort of students gained 13 first class honours degrees and all five of those specialising in Arctic Studies received firsts.

Professor Boulton, who last year received the prestigious Founder's Gold Medal from the Royal Geographical Society, said: 'I have been teaching university students for more than 50 years and you are the most exceptional class I have known.'

'You have all developed high technical level skills and you have developed the capacity and

confidence to grapple with complexities without being overawed by them.

'We are proud of you.'

There were individual successes for two of the fourth-year students as Catherine Tate was presented with the SAMS Council Award for Academic Excellence and Kevin Purves was given the SAMS UHI Award for Overall Achievement.

Dr Pete Taylor, who currently works with SAMS Research Services Ltd at Dunstaffnage, was named UHI Postgraduate student of the year, and also won SAMS' Johanna Fehling Memorial Prize for the best published paper by a PhD student.

UHI Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Clive Mulholland, who gave the principal's address at the ceremony last month, said: 'Pete has performed at the highest level throughout his PhD and is a deserving winner of our postgraduate student of the year award.'

'His work has included national and international collaborations and he has great passion and enthusiasm for his science.'



CLASS OF THEIR OWN: SAMS' graduates gather to celebrate their first class achievements and are clearly delighted with their collective award of 'student of the year'

## ACHA board move for local man Neil

A FAMILIAR face has joined the board of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA). Neil Mackay, a former Oban councillor, was nominated to the social housing group at its annual general meeting held last week.

Mr Mackay, now with business improvement company BID4Oban as its events and marketing manager, he says his own experience of finding permanent housing in Oban almost 40-years-ago was a key reason for becoming a volunteer on the board.

Mr Mackay said: 'I am delighted to be nominated for the board of ACHA. This is a voluntary position and I was previously a member for five years. It will help having been a member of its subsidiary company A.H.F.A. (Argyll Homes For All) since its inception until recently.'

'The level of governance, expertise and the training for the senior officers and also the board is excellent. ACHA has invested £18m in existing housing stock and new builds all over Argyll and its islands in the last year. Having a home is a fundamental fabric of life and a basic need for everyone.'

'While it might have been some time ago, I have experienced the test of not having a home for your family and what it can lead to. That t-shirt would probably be too tight now, but I've still got it and if I can draw on my experiences and utilise the knowledge I have gained in the many organisations I have been part of to help my work with ACHA, then all the better.'



ON BOARD: Neil Mackay

## Barra lifeboat tows stricken fishing boat

THE Isle of Barra lifeboat was called out last month to help a prawn trawler which had lost power 17 miles from shore.

The lifeboat, Edna Windsor, arrived on the scene at 3.20am on September 23 to assist the immobile fishing boat, which had suffered a ruptured fuel line.

The volunteer lifeboat crew towed the vessel to Northbay harbour, Barra, arriving at 6:45am, where the trawler remained awaiting repair.

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# More than 200 hard-to-let houses in Argyll could go to Syrian refugees

ANYONE WHO COMES TO LIVE HERE SHOULD BE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SAME CULTURE, SAYS COUNCILLOR

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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MORE than 200 families could be offered a home in Argyll and Bute, a meeting of councillors heard last week.

While to date only 20 Syrian families have been offered a place to stay in Argyll, it is understood the local authority would like to house 210 displaced families from the war-torn country.

Councillor Aileen Morton, who represents Helensburgh for the Liberal Democrats, said she understood the situation more than most, as her husband's family had immigrated to Scotland.

Ms Morton said: 'People are naturally tribal and it is about making sure they are together and supported.'

'We need to make sure that anyone who comes to live in Argyll has the ability to be with people of the same culture as themselves, as well as with people from the area.'

'Living in Argyll for people from Syria is more likely to be sustainable if we don't split



SUPPORT: councillor Morton

refugees up.'

Argyll and Bute council's Executive director, Cleland Sneddon, said he had learned a huge amount about refugees over the past few weeks.

He said: 'People who are resettled in Argyll are more likely to be successful if they are living close to other people from a similar culture.'

**"We have an over-supply of housing in some locations"**

Cleland Sneddon

'It is hoped that, working with social housing partners, we can re-home people in hard-to-let areas.'

'One of the learning processes is to find permanent secure premises.'

'I could take someone into my own home, but arrangements like this are short-term and not recommended. Mr Sneddon continued: 'We have an over-supply of housing in some locations.'

'People will stay in Argyll for 12 months and then can be resettled anywhere in the UK.'

'We can take as many families as we have empty homes for.'

Councillors agreed that there were around 230 empty homes in hard-to-let areas in Argyll within social housing.

Lomond North Independent councillor George Freeman said the council had to provide the best possible opportunities for refugee families to thrive in Argyll.

But he also emphasized the scale of the refugee crisis and that the council was constrained in what it could realistically achieve to help alleviate the problem.

Council leader Dick Walsh added: 'The discussions over the initial numbers of families we will take were after a number of different conversations that we had with a number of players.'

'We have set up a refugee resettlement group to progress our work and progress the desire to accommodate greater numbers in the future.'

'We haven't closed the door. This is a complex process that needs to be done in a new way.'

## Table's travels from Oban to Chigago

WHEN Oban man, Michael Acey, created his unique coffee table in the shape of Staffa island, the last thing he expected was to be tracked down eight years later by a woman who lives on the other side of the globe.

Michael made the unique one-off table, that follows the shape and volcanic structure of the island, as a wedding present for a friend.

But it wasn't until this year, when Michael's friend advertised her house in a property magazine, that a woman from Chicago laid eyes on the table and managed to get a hold of the former Oban high school pupil.

The American woman then ordered her very own bespoke island table, which Michael, who runs his own furniture business, finished last week. It has now started its 3,607-mile journey from Oban to Chicago.



SETTING THE TABLE: Michael showing off his creation 15\_141staf-fatable01

## Gill says goodbye to Home-Start Lorn

A RETIREMENT party last week saw the end of a faithful career with an Oban family charity.

Gill Cadzow started with Home-Start Lorn when it was first established back in 1988.

After accepting the post of secretary, Gill discovered the funding application had been unsuccessful, but continued to work, unpaid, for a few months until the committee received funding from The Tudor Trust.

The lunch was in the Waterfront Fishhouse Restaurant and Gill was presented with a beautiful painting of Oban Bay by Robert MacCulloch, which will remind her of the wonderful view from her office above Waterstones.

Gill was also presented with some colourful dishes, flowers and gardening vouchers. Gill and her husband, Patrick, are planning to move to England to be nearer family.



BEST WISHES: Gill with some of her colleagues at Home-Start Lorn at her retirement party

## Piping stars will take centre stage in Oban

THREE of Scotland's top pipers will take part in recitals hosted by the Netherlorn Piping Society at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban this season.

Calum Beaumont from Bo'ness will headline the opening show on Wednesday, November 25, and the second event, on January 27 next year, will be a local affair, with Oban high school taking centre stage as guest pipers.

February 24 will see Alasdair Henderson from Dunoon taking to the stage and Finlay Johnston from Glasgow, who has strong Tیره connections, will play on March 30.

The season will conclude on April 27, with a pre music festival party that will see many young players, from Oban and surrounding areas, perform.

## Mull arts body bends to public outcry as new board takes on local members

ISLAND arts organisation, Comar, which is responsible for the An Tobar venue and Mull theatre, has bowed to community pressure by appointing four members to its board.

Comar was handed an ultimatum by the community to reinstate two long-standing senior staff members made redundant and to give islanders a bigger presence on the board of the organisation.

And, as a result of growing disquiet with the strategy of Comar, islanders organised a 'shadow board'.

A 'transitional' board has now been formed with the appointment of the four shadow members. It met for the first time on Tuesday, September 29, and was chaired by a retired company solicitor Roger Lewis, who accepted the role of 'transition board' chairman.

The four new board members, co-opted from the shadow to the transitional board are Dawn Reade, Neil Hutton, Sian Scott and Alan Jack. They joined the four existing members: Duncan MacInnes, Brian Davidson, Norah Campbell and Elise Kinghorn. Caroline Winn, Comar's executive officer, is also a board member.

A spokeswoman for the board said: 'The meeting agreed an outline action plan for the next eight-10 weeks until board elections, which includes finalising the 2014/15 accounts.'

'Working parties are being set up to review and develop the membership proposal, the finance, structure and future vision for the organisation.'

'Everyone on the transition board agreed that a huge priority was to support the entire staff during this time. We recognise that change and uncertainty is stressful for everyone involved.'

'Everyone who works at Comar should be proud of the outstanding things being achieved every day, and this fuels our optimism for the future of the organisation.'

'We expect many challenges over the coming weeks, as well as some difficult decisions. However, we have made an open, sound and sensible start. We hope we will earn the continued support of everyone - staff, community, funders - as we try to find the best way forward.'



DRESS SENSE: Howie Nicholsby shows off the pink kilt in the streets of Edinburgh

## Howie's in the pink to help charity funds

LOUISE GLEN  
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NORTH Connel kiltmaker to the stars, Howie Nicholsby, has joined forces with Breast Cancer Now, a cancer charity working in Scotland, to generate vital funds for research.

The owner of 21st Century Kilts, based in Edinburgh, Howie designed a special pink kilt which he has donated to the charity.

Howie told the *Oban Times* his inspiration comes from the west coast and, in particular, the place he, his wife and two children are happiest.

Howie's family used to own Geoffrey the tailor, kiltmakers and tartan specialists, in Oban.

He said: 'I was married near our family home at the waterfront at North Connel. I visit the area five or six times a year and we have strong connections to the area. As a family, it is the time that we take to be together and to enjoy the world.'

'The west coast and its traditions are important to kilt

wearing. The pink kilt will raise awareness of breast and testicular cancer and it is important that everyone takes the matter seriously.'

'I'm delighted to create this kilt for Breast Cancer Now. I've styled many well-known faces, but making this kilt to help fund cutting-edge research is pretty special.'

'I hope that the Breast Cancer Now kilt will help to remind people that breast cancer is not a done deal and that women are still dying from this disease.'

'Everyone knows someone affected by breast cancer, so it's crucial that people continue to support research and help save lives.'

The striking pink kilt will be worn by Lawrence Cowan of Breast Cancer Now, every day, throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month, (October).

Lawrence will encourage those who spot him to take a picture, share their photograph on social media using #pinkkilt and donate to Breast Cancer Now by texting BCM70 £5 to 70070.

Lawrence said: 'Right now breast cancer is at a tipping point. More women are surviving.'

'But more are being diagnosed than ever before. As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month I want to take to the streets and do my part to raise awareness of this awful disease.'

'The generosity of the team at 21st Century Kilts has been amazing and the kilt looks fantastic. This month, I'll be wearing the pink kilt every day - at every meeting, every conference and every weekend.'

'My target is to raise £1,000 for Breast Cancer Now, that's £1 for every woman who dies from the disease each year in Scotland.'

'So if you spot me, then please do lend your support by taking a picture, sharing it on social media and making a donation.'

All of the money raised will be invested in research to prevent, treat and ultimately stop breast cancer. Breast Cancer Now aims to stop women dying of breast cancer by 2050 and currently invests £1.6 million in projects across Scotland.

## Appin woman follows PM to refugee camps

LOUISE GLEN  
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A WOMAN from Appin is playing a leading role for a charity helping refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.

Ali MacLeod, a former pupil of Oban high school, is the director of fundraising and marketing for the internationally-renowned Mercy Corps, based in Edinburgh.

Ali continued: 'We at Mercy Corps seek to bring refugee and host communities together to develop a common understanding that will mitigate community pressure and improve lives.'

'Following the Prime Minister's visit to Zaatari I then went to Azraq refugee camp.'

'Built to host refugees and only opened 15 months ago, the camp is organised, but is isolated and desolate.'

'I met people with deeply tragic stories, among them two 15-year-old boys stood out.'

'When the refugees came

'Many fled their country with little more than the clothes they were wearing. They now call Zaatari village home. Despite their poverty, the people of Zaatari have welcomed refugees, both within the camp and in their village.'

'Yet, with resources stretched almost beyond breaking point, costs rising and opportunities dwindling, tensions have risen between refugees and residents.'

'I spent time with Syrian refugees who are living in refugee camps in Jordan. It was a moving and humbling visit.'

'We met the prime minister in Zaatari village in the Mafraq governorate. With a pre-war population of 15,000, today more than 30,000 people live there.'



HUMBLING EXPERIENCE: Ali MacLeod

to the camp, community relationships were strained. Police responded with violence and the situation deteriorated.'

'In effect, these two boys lost their childhood.'

'They were forced to stay indoors, constantly expecting

a barrel bomb to land on their home or their parents not to return from buying food - they told me they were scared all the time, even when they slept.'

'Now in Azraq, they feel safe, but they feel hopeless for their future and life is very hard.'

She added: Families are living in the toughest of circumstances, but we can make a difference. While there are over 50 million refugees globally - more than at any time since World War Two - attention is focused on Syria.'

'Mercy Corps is currently helping nearly four million people in the region get the food, water, shelter and the other basic supplies they need.'

'While we continue to provide much-needed support in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Syria, we are also expanding our operations to the most used refugee ports of entry in Greece - Lesbos and Kos - and working on how we can best support communities and refugees in the Balkans.'

Mercy Corps is an international humanitarian organisation working in over 40 countries helping people to survive and communities thrive.'

Donations can be made at [mercycoops.org.uk](http://mercycoops.org.uk) or by phoning 0131 662 5160.

## Don't waste millions on town - MacIntyre

LOUISE GLEN  
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PLANS to rejuvenate Oban town centre have been put on hold, thanks to the prospect of a busy shopping scene between October and Christmas.

But if one councillor has his way, plans for millions of pounds' worth of investment on George Street should be reviewed or even cancelled altogether.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Neil MacIntyre, said

he thought the plans should be stopped or, at the very least, re-considered: 'Very quickly we will find out if we are wasting money in Oban.'

'What is the point of us putting down millions of pounds worth of money on something we don't know will work. We need to ask ourselves to hold back.'

'We should be asking, "If we don't do that work, how does it effect the town?"'

'If there is no difference to the town, then we should consider

whether we should do the work or not. It (the plans for Oban) seems to be a mish-mash at the moment and are happening without any joined-up thinking.'

At the recent meeting of Oban community council, councillor MacIntyre continued: 'We do have a problem if we have an expansion on the (railway) pier as we cannot swing a cat there.'

'This is a complete waste of money - we have to sort that out first, and enhance that whole area.'

'My personal opinion is to halt any work anywhere else.'

In the meantime, Argyll and Bute council has confirmed the work on George Street has been delayed until Monday, January 4, 2016 and is expected to be completed by summer 2016.

A spokesman for the council said: 'The tender for the contract indicated a start on site in October, however, the contractor's civil engineers considered it would be more sensible to start in the New Year.'

'There are a number of benefits to this approach.'

'There will be no disruption during the Royal National Mod or in the lead-up to Christmas, traditionally a busy trading time. And the contractor will not be leaving an excavated site when they go off-site for the Christmas shutdown.'

'It is better to carry out the excavation work in January/February of next year as this work is not weather-dependent and the contractor will be on site

from the start of the works to completion.'

He added: 'The contractor will be aiming to complete the shopfront side of George Street and Station Square first, with the seaward side going ahead last.'

The council spokeswoman for infrastructure, councillor Ellen Morton, said: 'This is yet more good news for people in and around Oban. Having met the contractor, we are happy with their plans and the positive direction outlined for this project.'

## New group aims to make proceedings more 'democratic'

A NEW political group in Argyll and Bute council is determined to bring positive changes to the local authority.

The Reform Group, which presently boasts a membership of three, said one of its key objectives is to initiate a thorough 'reform of Argyll and Bute council to ensure it works for, and is answerable to, the people of Argyll and Bute'.

Councillors Michael Breslin (Dunoon), Vivien Dance (Helensburgh) and Bruce Marshall (Cowal) said they recognised the group needed to attract as much support as possible from other elected members.

To achieve that aim, the group has also created a broader political platform called the 'Reform Alliance', to allow members from other parties to unite under the common cause of change.

Outlining its key policies, group leader, Michael Breslin, said: 'The alliance will work to achieve this aim by moving decision-making to local areas to the maximum possible extent.'

'This will ensure that councillors are accountable to their communities for decisions made, listening and responding to the views of local communities and minimising bureaucracy to bring democracy back to people in a simple and straightforward manner.'

Appealing to councillors to join the Reform Alliance, he said any member was welcome, 'provided there is a broad commitment to reform'.

He continued: 'We will ensure all issues that affect the people of Argyll and Bute are dealt with as openly and fairly as possible.'

'The use of exempt items for council business will only be used when absolutely essential. We will be swift and open in dealing with complaints, be willing to accept fault where fault is found and we will learn from any complaints made.'

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**Harris**

THE OFFICIAL opening of an Isle of Harris distillery in Tarbert was attended by Jamie McGrigor MSP. Mr McGrigor has consistently supported the Harris distillery project which is the first distillery to be built on Harris.

He said: 'I am absolutely delighted the new Isle of Harris Distillery has now formally been opened. It was a great honour to attend the official opening ceremony which was a wonderful event. The creation of up to 20 local jobs is a very significant boost to the local economy and indeed to the tourism offering of Harris and the Western Isles. I will remember when Burr Bakewell, the founder and chairman of Isle of Harris Distillers Ltd, came to see me in Parliament with the concept many years ago and I agreed to become a friend of the projected distillery.

'It is tremendous to see an inspirational idea of this magnitude coming to fruition. I congratulate Burr Bakewell for his entrepreneurial role in this project, and all those individuals and organisations who have worked so hard.

'I wish the distillery every success in the future and have no doubt that the Hearach whisky will become a firm favourite for whisky lovers across the world.'

**Cowal peninsula**

ACTORS from 50 Shades of Grey, Downtown Abbey, the American TV series, Breaking Bad, as well as artists and musicians, are all signing up to stop the sale of an 'iconic' building owned by Argyll and Bute council.

The 'I love Castle Toward' campaign has attracted the attention of more than 100 famous artists, actors and musicians - who used the historic building as young people - to safeguard a 'precious haven'.

Supporters include singer, Ricky Ross, broadcaster, Kirsty Wark, actors Laura Knight from Breaking Bad, Joanne Froggatt from Downtown Abbey, 50 Shades of Grey's Jamie Dornan, and popular artist, John Lowrie Morrison, Jolomo.

The 'I love Castle Toward' campaign issued a statement to say: 'This campaign is now calling for the present owner of Castle Toward, Argyll and Bute council, to protect this treasured Scottish icon from development, and to work together towards restoring the castle to be the flourishing hub for youth, arts and sport that it once was.

'The campaign believes that within the ethos of Culture for Life, this project can attract funding from Scotland, the UK and further afield.'

**Plockton**

IT WAS a reverse school trip for the fourth years of Plockton high, when an art gallery came to visit them at school.

The pupils learned how artwork is created and the inspiration behind each piece in the travelling exhibition. One pupil, Sophia Lockley, said: 'The travelling gallery was a great experience. It was wonderful to learn about the different artists and their artwork.

'The more we learnt about the art and artists the more it became filled with colour and creativity. Each piece of artwork had its own meaningful story behind it that made it even more beautiful.'

**Taynuilt**

A WHIST drive held in Taynuilt village hall on September 18 to raise funds for the local branch of the Scottish Women's Institute collected £126.30.

Ladies: 1 Marina MacInnes, Connel; 2 Mary Scott; 3 Peggy McIntyre, Dalavich; 4 Christine Jamieson, consolation prize; Lily Wilson, travelling prize; Peggy MacIntyre, Gents, all ladies playing as gents: 1 Wendy Forbes; 2 Brenda MacLean; 3 Katy Clayton; 4 Christine Allen, consolation prize; Stafford Day, travelling prize; Katy Clayton. The card master was Dave Watson, Dalavich.

**Oban**

RESULTS of the whist drive held in Glencruitten golf club, Oban, on September 29 were:

Ladies: 1 Marina MacInnes; 2 Helen Duncan; consolation prize, Helen Jackson; travelling prize, Helen Duncan. Gents: 1 Jim Grout; 2 Rebecca McPhee, playing as gent; consolation prize, Willie Walker, travelling prize, Jim Grout.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to go along to the next whist drive on Wednesday October 21.

**Stirling**

A NIGHT in the Albert Hall, Stirling, celebrated the work of volunteers throughout the region.

The ceremony took place recently, with prizes being awarded for volunteer of the year, volunteer team of the year and young volunteer of the year.

Stirling MP Steven Paterson said: 'It was a fantastic opportunity for voluntary organisations to be brought together in celebration of the vital work they do.'



WORKSHOP: Arisaig youngsters became scientists for a day when E.ON visited to teach them about energy

**Pupils power through workshop**

ARISAIG primary school pupils donned lab coats for the day when they took part in the E.ON Smart Scientist workshop.

Children in primary five, six and seven were visited by Professor Smart

Alec and his assistant, Neon Bright, and used games and activities to learn about energy and how to use it efficiently at home.

Martin Jones, Arisaig primary headteacher, said: 'The Smart Kids

workshop is a great way for children to learn about energy and how to use it wisely in the home in a fun way.

'The children were really engaged with the activities from the beginning.'



HONOURED: John Blackwell, left, receives his BEM from Patrick Stewart

**Luig**

**Medal honour marks charity fundraising**

A LUING man who has raised more than £37,000 for charity has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for voluntary service.

John Blackwell, 72, who was born and bred on Mull, was presented with the award by Patrick Stewart, Lord Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute, at the council's municipal buildings on Friday, September 18.

The Lord Lieutenant said: 'John Blackwell has raised more than £37,000 for charities including the RNLI and Cancer Research by organising activities on Luig.'

Mr Blackwell, who is married with four children, added: 'This has been achieved, not just by myself, but by the whole community of Luig, and I would like to thank everyone who has helped to organise and who has attended the events which have raised this money.'



LEARNING: the Lochaber branch of the Scottish Women's Institute enjoyed a two-day embroidery class. Ladies from across the region learned blackwork embroidery needlework, under the expert eye of Alison Willis from Mull

**Lochaber ladies brush up on needlework skills**

**Lismore**

**Mock wedding and scarecrows**

KILTS were ironed, jewels were buffed to sparkling and dancing shoes were dusted off - but who was wearing what?

Liosachs and visitors had a fabulous time mixing things up to celebrate the 'mock wedding' of Delores Daphne Tramp to The Land Baron of Achinduin.

No secret has been so closely guarded as that of the identity of the groom, adding to the nerves of beautiful first-time bride Delores (Davy Henderson). Luckily, bridesmaids Hughina Heifer (Duncan MacLean) and Slapper McTart (Douglas MacDougall) and best man Shifty Wide-o (Katy Crossan) got him to the church on time and saw him wed to Land Baron - played by Iris MacColl, Davy's actual mother-in-law.

The wedding was not without its drama, as the service was hijacked by last year's bride, also from Achinduin, and the speeches interrupted by fits of giggles from the groom.

However, in true Lismore tradition, the food was hot, the music loud and the community gathered to raise more than £1,000 which was divided between the Oban multiple sclerosis therapy centre and the Lismore community website group.

Many outfits worn to the mock wedding

were revived for this year's scarecrow competition, during which a record number of scarecrows made an appearance over the island.

They were judged by public vote and by councillor, Elaine Roberston, who commented on the high standard of the entries.

Well done to the winners of the public vote: adults, 1 Vincent Van Crow by Hazel MacCormick; joint second Long John Silver by Gillesbuig and Norma Black and Maighdean-mhara by Catherine Davies; 3 Sometimes mum just needs a break by The Cook family.

Winners of the public vote for the children were: 1 The Rascals by Rachel and Donald MacCormick and Watch Dog by Ealasaid MacLean-Fleming; 2 Caught by Fionn and Fergus Cook and MacMinion by Cormac and Cian MacDougall.

Judge's award for the adult scarecrows: 1 Hingin' On by Lorraine King; 2 Long John Silver by Gillesbuig and Norma Black; 3 Scaryvore Rock Concert by the people of Achinduin. Children's awards: 1 Watch Dog by Ealasaid MacLean-Fleming; 2 MacMinion by Cormac and Cian MacDougall; 3 When is the Next Ferry? Scarecrow by Stephen Kelly and TaylorMacCallum.

**Aberfeldy**

A PROPOSED wind farm near Aberfeldy may not go ahead after an objection was lodged by the local authority.

Members of Perth and Kinross council's management committee agreed unanimously to oppose the controversial Crossburns project. Aberfeldy commu-

nity council also objected to the 25 377ft turbines. The plans, by West Coast Energy, will need to go before the Scottish government for approval because of its scale. If approved, the farm would be installed on land south-west of the town, close to the existing Calliachar Wind Farm.

**MORVERN lines**

**Your glen or mine?**

'YOUR glen or mine?' was once the precursor for drinks or dinner when absentee landowners in the Highlands migrated north for the annual deer stalking season.

With the introduction of the Scottish Land Reform Bill, that question has taken on an entirely different meaning.

Someone has to own the land - but who will do the best for it and, more importantly, the folk who live there all year round?

Old families who have had it for generations, faceless hedge-fund managers and bankers who will flog it off overnight if there is a downward shift in the FTSE 100 Index, others who bought it fair and square on the open market when land values were at rock bottom or the less well-defined 'local community' who, or whatever, that may be?

The present system has by and large worked reasonably well in Scotland for around 800 years. So why replace it and with what?

The late Mrs Cameron-Head of Inverailort, whose family ancestors owned land in the west for centuries, always used to say 'you never own an estate, it owns you and with it comes responsibility and a duty to those who depend on you'.

Her own property on the Road to the Isles was an exemplar of what a properly run estate could achieve for the community, but it made many of her neighbours - I have an estate in Scotland but I don't get up nearly as much as I would like - hang their heads in shame. Before her death in 1994, a good deal of Gaelic was spoken on the estate.

This, coupled with a genuine respect for her employees, meant there was none of the bitter class differentiation that still sours so much in the Highlands. The tragedy was her uniqueness.

Of course, every system has its faults and the custodianship of large tracts of land is no exception. Behind closed gates there are still people who behave as though this is 1915.

Indeed, someone jocularly remarked to me not long ago that if President Vladimir Putin took a holiday lodge in a certain part of the Highlands and was able to speak to the 'natives', he would think he had been transported back in time to a period before the Russian revolution.

It's shades of an earlier and more serious period when, following the Highland Clearances and the emptying of the glens and straths, the Duke of Sutherland tried, unsuccessfully, to recruit enough fighting men on his estate to form a regiment to halt the Russians who were advancing across Europe at the time of the Crimean war.

He was told at a great gathering of the men who were left that, if the Czar of Russia took possession of Dunrobin Castle the following term, the locals could not expect worse treatment than they had experienced in the hands of his family for the past 50 years.

During the reign of the feudal system, a local laird condemned one of his vassals to be hanged for some minor crime.

When Donald was brought bound to the gallows, accompanied by Janet, his faithful wife, he seemed reluctant to climb the ladder. 'Go on Donald,' urged Janet, 'gang up like a man just to please the laird'. Little wonder an anti-landlord feeling still exists even although it is rooted in the past.

No such sentiment entered the minds of the late Jock and Ely Elliot who bought the island of Staffa in 1986 and presented it to the nation.

The Elliots came from New York to Glenhurich, a lonely glen across the hill from Strontian in West Lothaber.

When Jock retired from his international advertising company, whose clients included Shell, IBM, Aga and American Express with annual billings of more than \$2bn, the couple intended buying an estate in the Highlands, but quickly decided they would have more fun with a cottage.

Ely once remarked: 'When I come over I am greeted with a kiss from the ghillie and a lovely tease from the post woman. I am sure if we had bought the estate and joined the snooty set, she would have just been giving us a sheaf of bills and he would have been poaching our salmon, and good for him.'

As an alternative to the present set-up, local communities are being encouraged by the 2015 Land Reform (Scotland) Bill to buy and run agricultural and shooting estates.

Community ownership may work well enough with small plots of land close to towns and cities, but taking on larger rural units involving peoples' livelihoods will be an altogether different matter.

Who, one might reasonably ask, is going to meet the capital and revenue costs if private wealth is taken out of the equation? It can only be done with government assistance which will mean a rise in taxation for everyone.

Not every community in Scotland will want the responsibility or have the leadership to make it work.

If change is necessary, the outcome will not be a success if it is based on envy or ideology; it needs to be done slowly and carefully for the benefit of everyone.

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# Team work secures £2m site for new replacement town hospital

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LAND has been secured for a new hospital in Fort William, following the sale of Tesco's site.

Highland council has bought the £2 million shovel-ready ground on the Blar Mor, next to the medical centre and new ambulance and police stations, to replace the 50-year-old Belford hospital in the town centre. This follows Tesco's announcement last year that it would not be building a supermarket after years of delays.

Once funding is in place, NHS Highland will buy the site from the local authority and, when the new hospital is built, sell the current Belford Road building to Highland council.

This will be combined with the neighbouring Fort William RC school (St Mary's) to be turned into affordable housing.

A 2.5 acre site adjacent to the proposed hospital could also be used to build a new science and technology centre under plans by West Highland College UHI.

This will be the first facility for science, technology, engineering, maths and digital technologies (STEMD) in the West Highlands.

Dr Michael Foxley, NHS Highland board member and



ON THE MOVE: a £2 million site has been bought for a replacement Belford Hospital 16\_41belford01

chairman of UHI's further education regional board, said a new hospital and learning centre will 'rise like a phoenix' after Tesco's disappointment: 'As the instigator of the plan, this is a great result for team work by the public bodies.'

'I am absolutely delighted that the bid for the Tesco site on the Blar Mor by Highland council was successful. This is a great result for team work and genuine community planning.'

'I know that Lochaber wanted a major supermarket to be built for much-needed competition, but when Tesco abandoned their plans I wrote to their chief executive explaining that

Tesco could leave a legacy with very considerable local benefits if they sold the site for these transformational developments. This they have done.'

The project, which has had support from the Scottish government, will still leave space for another development, with the possibility of a medical research site for Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

John Hutchison, chairman of West Highland College's board of management, said: 'This is a long hoped for opportunity for West Highland College UHI to develop its capacity for technical education.'

'We are delighted to be working with all major community

planning partners and we are grateful to the Scottish Funding Council for supporting our project, which is a regional priority for the University of the Highlands and Islands.

'We are now moving to secure the significant funding required to build the centre which will contribute to strengthening the local economy through training a skilled workforce.'

Audrey Sinclair, chairwoman of Highland council's planning and development committee, added: 'This is a tremendous and long-awaited success for the Lochaber area.'

'It is a good example of partners working together to achieve success.'

'The deal will enable the area to flourish with the prospect of a new much-needed hospital and additional facilities for the West Highland College.'

'I would like to add recognition for former council leader, Michael Foxley, who was a significant force behind this project and worked to get Scottish government support to make this happen.'

Lochaber area leader, Thomas MacLennan, welcomed the work to help secure a '21st century hospital' while his fellow Lochaber councillor, Allan Henderson, called freeing up land for affordable housing 'excellent tactical work'.

## Working together to attract teachers

WORK will continue to address a teacher shortage in the north following a cross-council meeting with the Scottish government.

Representatives from Highland council attended a teachers' summit in Aberdeen this week to create an action plan to recruit more staff into schools.

There are currently 53 teaching vacancies across the local authority area, including

five in Lochaber. Drew Millar, chairman of Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, welcomed the news that groups, including Western Isles, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Orkney and Shetland councils and Angela Constance, cabinet secretary for education, will meet regularly.

He said: 'We share the challenge of teacher recruitment across the north and

it makes good sense that we share the solutions.'

'I welcome the involvement of the cabinet secretary and the proposal to develop these potential ways forward into a plan of action.'

Mallaig, Inverlochy, Acharacle and Ardnamurchan primaries and Lochaber high are among the Highland schools with teaching vacancies.



DAY TO REMEMBER: Alice arrived at her 100th birthday dinner in a vintage Rolls Royce 21\_41alice02

## Alice rolls up to celebrate milestone 100th birthday

A CENTENARIAN from Fort William said she felt 'very blessed' so spend her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends.

Alice Good enjoyed a meal at the West End Hotel last Wednesday (September 30) to celebrate the milestone and arrived in style in a vintage Rolls Royce.

Born Alice Lawrie in Poolewe in 1915, Alice moved to Fort William aged 20, to live with her sister and worked in various jobs

around the town before meeting her husband, Bill Good.

Later, Alice lived in Inverlochy and had four children, 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

The sharp centenarian said: 'I've had a lovely day with family and friends. I'm very blessed and so grateful.'

Alice received a telegram from the Queen and flowers from Highland councillors, Brian Murphy and Thomas MacLennan.

## TIMESLINE

### Transport groups facing cash crisis

COMMUNITY transport groups in the Highlands could lose grant funding next year.

Highland council has said the grants of 22 voluntary organisations across the region will expire in March next year and groups must re-apply by December or risk losing funding.

The local authority currently spends £416,561 on grants for community transport schemes, but a spokesman said the process for new applications will be 'competitive'.

A new criteria will also be put to the council's community services meeting in November and applications must be received by December 18. Forms will be available from the council website from November 5.

### Hall campaigners' donation delight

A GENEROUS donation was given to Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) to help the campaign to build a new multi-use sports hall in Fort William.

The private contribution of £1,500 will be used to draw up tender documents for the proposed centre. LSA chairwoman, Jane Blanchard, said she was 'delighted' about the cash boost.

### Three arrested in club theft inquiry

THREE people have been arrested in connection with an alleged theft from Fort William shinty club. Following police investigations, the trio have been reported to the procurator fiscal. This comes after hundreds of bottles of wine, spirits, beer and cider were reported stolen from the An Aird clubhouse on Sunday, August 23. Inquiries concerning other people thought to be involved are ongoing.

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# Tough choices lie ahead for residents as council sets to slash budgets by £18M over two years

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'EVERY family in Argyll and Bute' will be hit hard as the local authority make more than £18 million savings in the next two years, MSPs Michael Russell and Jackie Baillie said this week.

The package of cuts, called 'Service Choices' are due to be discussed today, Thursday, at the policy and resources committee of Argyll and Bute council.

Leisure budgets, arts, mobile library, education are all on the list of more than £9 million of savings with a further £9 million to be made next year.

Service Choices meetings were chaired by council leader, councillor Dick Walsh, with a cohort of elected members including eight administration councillors from Conservative, Lib Dem and Independents and four opposition members - all from the SNP group.

Savings are having to be made to budgets, affecting everything from children's education to dog fouling, from swimming pools and events.

Faced with predicted cuts in funding from the Scottish government, and unable to increase council tax levels, the equivalent of 300 jobs will be axed from the 5000-strong workforce.

A further 125 employees in libraries, swimming pools, fitness centres and community halls would be transferred to a charitable leisure trust under the cost-cutting scheme.

Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'We would like to do all that our communities want their council to do for them, but drastically reduced funding means that this is just not possible.'

'We need to make choices about the work we do... we need to decide how we can make best use of the resources we have.'

Labour MSP Jackie Baillie, whose Dumfries constituency includes the Helensburgh and Lomond area, said children and young people would be unfairly affected.

'If these proposals are accepted, they would represent the deepest cuts to jobs and public services that this area has ever experi-



DRASTIC FUNDING CONSTRAINTS: council leader Dick Walsh

enced. No family or community in Helensburgh and Lomond will be spared from the effects of the job losses, increased charges and axed services.

'The report contains a wide range of unthinkable proposals that would shrink the scope of the council and change its role beyond recognition.'

“ We need to make choices about the work we can do ”

Dick Walsh  
Council leader



REJECT PLANS: Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell

result of the abject and complete failure of the present administration.

'Councillor Walsh was told two years ago that reconfiguration

of services was essential - he did nothing and now has led the long-suffering people to the very edge of disaster.

'There is a better way to proceed

“ They present a grim dystopian vision of the future ”

Michael Russell  
MSP

and the SNP will promote those new ideas widely and with vigour. However, the first thing we must do in Argyll and Bute is to reject these appalling, destructive and cruel plans in their entirety.'

The SNP group was asked about the details of their proposals, but these were not available at the time of going to press.

## The axeman cometh: proposed cuts to the budget

### EDUCATION

- Cut classroom assistants by 45 per cent
- Reduce level of support by £500,000 to early years providers and schools.
- PE budgets reduced by 50 per cent
- Wipe 50 per cent from adult learning service
- Reduce money for pupil hospital tuition
- Withdraw services for under-fives (non-statutory provision)
- Janitor cover reduced 20 per cent
- Reduce materials for education advisory staff by 60 per cent
- Increase music tuition costs by 50 per cent
- Remove 20 per cent of instrumental tutors
- Reduce clothing grants by 30 per cent
- Reduce clerical assistants by 20 per cent
- Primary and secondary school budget slashed by 20 per cent

### AMENITIES

- Car parking increased by 20 per cent
- Street cleaning cut by half
- Bins collected every three weeks
- Shut 43 public toilets
- Remove budget for physical footpath and signage works
- Remove local access forum budget
- Increase cremation and burial charges by 20 per cent
- Remove hanging baskets
- Replace bedding displays with grass
- Reduce grass cuts
- Reduce dog wardens and patrol staff
- No more free placement of banners for events and festivals
- Remove crossing patrol officers

### LEISURE

- Pass all leisure and arts staff and buildings to a charitable trust
- Shave 20 per cent from festivals budget

- Close Campbeltown museum
- Reduce arts development budget
- Cut mobile library service
- Remove subsidy to community swimming pools

### FRONT LINE SERVICES

- Postage savings of 20 per cent
- Remove Ttree service point arrangements,
- Lower bandwidth options into all council property
- Reduce front-line staffing

### CHARITY SUPPORT

- Remove direct budget for advice agencies
- Reduce debt advice to complex cases only
- Domestic abuse funding cut
- Reduce funding for rent deposit scheme

## Company stalwarts bow out in style



TWO long-serving members of MacLeod Construction were recently presented with cheques to mark their retirement from the Lochgilphead-based company. Ground worker, Vince Mellon, second left, and excavator operator, Do-ugie

Clark, second right, will both be greatly missed by the company having clocked up 73 years of dedicated service between them. They are pictured with company directors, Murdo MacLeod, left, and Kenny MacLeod, right.

# Television's favourite antiques experts come to Fort William

Two of Television's favourite antiques experts are to visit Fort William this October. The dealers, well known from their many appearances on daytime television, will be appearing at The Alexandra Hotel on Thursday 16th and Saturday 17th October. The dealers will be offering top prices for antiques, gold and silver and are inviting people to come along and meet them.

Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth regularly appear on television and are highly trusted and respected for their knowledge and expertise. With almost 60 years' experience of buying and selling antiques, gold and silver between them, Simon and Tim have joined forces to offer the public an opportunity to sell their heirlooms direct.

Simon Schneider said: "Tim and I receive so many enquiries from people asking us to value and buy their antiques, gold and silver that we set up a series of venues and frequently visit Scotland. We have met some very interesting people and have had a great response everywhere we've been. This will be the first time we have had an opportunity to visit Fort William and we are really looking forward to coming to this

beautiful area. We hope people will search their cupboards and bring along their unwanted antiques and forgotten treasures."

Tim Hogarth commented: "Although we're rivals on television Simon and I get on really well and the venues are great fun. Simon and I have our own specialities and together we cover all aspects of the antiques business. This means we can ensure we are able to offer the very best prices for those items we want to buy."

The dealers hope the venues will prove popular and promise no-one will have to wait long. Simon Schneider explained: "Tim and I aim to see everyone who wants to meet us as quickly as possible. We guarantee no queues and no appointments are necessary however we are always happy to do home visits if anyone is unable to come along during the day or has something too large to bring in, in which case please phone or email us to make an appointment."

Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth deal extensively in general antiques and are inviting people to bring along their antiques and forgotten treasures and take this opportunity to turn them into cash.



Simon Schneider



Tim Hogarth

Simon Schneider is very well known and respected for his knowledge of 20th Century Decorative Arts. He specialises in Art Nouveau and Art Deco but also deals extensively in Silver and Oriental antiques and has a passion for fine ceramics.

Simon said: "The market for early 20th Century ceramics is particularly strong at the moment so this is a good time to realise their value. We are always very keen to purchase Moorcroft, Clarice Cliff and Royal Worcester and the market for Oriental ceramics and antiques is very buoyant. I also hope we'll be able to buy some

quality antique silver items, especially Scottish Silver. Gold and silver remains very strong and I'm sure we'll be able to tempt the public with our prices!"

Tim Hogarth specialises in gold, silver and antique jewellery. He is an experienced dealer and an expert in valuing diamonds and precious stones. He also has an extensive knowledge and experience of dealing in gold and silver, medals and vintage wrist watches.

Tim said "I'm hoping we'll find some lovely antique jewellery and I'm keen to buy whatever the condition. Diamond jewel-

lery is particularly sought after at the moment and we we'll be offering top prices for quality examples. Good quality amber, banded agate and coral beads are also very wanted and we are always keen to purchase vintage wrist watches, especially Rolex, Cartier, Omega and Patek Philippe. We'll be offering top cash prices to anyone who wants a deal and I'm sure we will discover some interesting and valuable items."

We asked the dealers for their wish list of the items they would particularly like to purchase. They came up with the following, so go check your cupboards now!

- Gold and Silver
- Gold Jewellery and Pocket and Vintage Wrist Watches - in any condition
- Diamond Rings, Pendants, Earrings and Brooches etc.
- Silver Tea Sets, Trays, Caddies and Trophies
- Amber Beads and Coral Beads
- Medals
- Antique Scent Bottles and Snuff Boxes
- Oriental Ceramics and Lacquer Items
- Bronzes and Ivories
- Wemyss, Royal Worcester, Clarice Cliff, Shelley and Moorcroft
- Art Nouveau and Art Deco Items
- Lalique and Galle Glass
- Enamelled Boxes and Card Cases
- Victorian Paintings
- Unusual walking sticks
- High quality and unusual decorative items

The dealers will be appearing at:  
**The Alexandra Hotel**  
 The Parade  
 Fort William  
 PH33 6AZ  
 on  
**Friday 16th October**  
 between 10am and 6pm  
 and  
**Saturday 17th October**  
 from 10am to 4pm

For more information please contact:  
 Simon Schneider Telephone 07801 474331  
 Email [info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk](mailto:info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk)

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AND

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# New link road 'crucial' to keep traffic chaos at bay in future

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A LINK road between Fort William and Caol is 'absolutely essential' to cope with future developments and population rise in Lochaber.

A Highland council report shown at a development plan consultation last week showed at least 500 new homes will be needed in the area over the next 20 years and the number of people living in the area could go up by thousands.

But if projects in the pipeline,

including a new hospital, retail park and offices, go ahead the population could rocket even higher than expected.

This has sparked concerns that the town's 'one road in and one road out' infrastructure will not stand up to future pressures and traffic, increasing calls for a new road linking An Aird and the A830 at Caol to reduce traffic on the busy A82.

Brian Murphy, chairman of road improvement campaigners the A82 Partnership, said: 'I've been supportive of a link road

since the late 80s. I think another road is essential for the future development of Fort William. We all know how bad congestion can get on the A82, especially in the summer and there's no other road, there's no alternative.

'A link road is essential right now for all kinds of reasons, but given what has been said recently about planned future developments, it will become absolutely crucial. Having just one road is not an option.'

Worries were raised at the local authority's Highland-wide local development plan

meeting, held in Fort William last Wednesday.

John Gillespie, chairman of Caol community council, asked council officials: 'We have one road in and one road out. The more people we put in to the town the more the road will be used. Surely you should be looking at infrastructure? A link road is going to be crucial to ease the pressure of more people.'

Scott Dalgarno, Highland council's development plans manager, said all areas will be examined: 'There will be a separate infrastructure plan

that will look at how the area will cope with development. We will look at the possibility of new roads, housing, schools and anything else that might be needed to accommodate a rise in population.'

The Highland-wide local development plan is a review of the council's main planning policy, including new houses, businesses, wind farms and town centres.

Launching the consultation last week, councillor Audrey Sinclair, chairwoman of planning, development and infrastructure, said: 'These

consultations provide a real chance for people to have their say on the planning policies and housing issues that will affect our future in some way or another - our neighbourhood, our town centre and the natural environment around us.

'I would urge anyone with an interest in the future of their community and the Highlands to get involved in all the consultations.'

The review is open for public comments until December 18 and is available via consult.highland.gov.uk

## TIMESLINE

### Family 'desperate' to find hill walker

THE FAMILY of a missing hill walker have appealed for information as they desperately hope for his safe return to his wife and children.

Robin Garton, 69, from Wiltshire, who is believed to be in the Glencoe area, has been missing since Friday, September 25.

Mr Garton checked out of the Kings House Hotel in Glencoe at around 8am on the morning he was last seen. Officers traced Mr Garton's black Volkswagen Passat estate car to the Achnambeithach car park, off the A82 by Loch Achtriochtan.

It is believed Mr Garton may have had made plans to walk in the Coire Nam Beith or Bidean Nam Bian areas.

In an appeal to the public, Mr Garton's family said: 'We are extremely grateful to members of the emergency services and search and rescue personnel who have been helping in the search for Robin. We are desperate to find him. Somebody will have seen him on the morning of September 25 and we would appeal to anyone in the area that day to rack their brains.'

Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

### Pontoon planning application made

A PLANNING application has been lodged to install pontoons in Fort William.

Last week the Oban Times reported the town's marina and shoreline association had applied for funding to put a landing stage at the West End car park.

The group will not hear if it has received the grant until the end of this month, but has requested planning permission in preparation. Norrie MacLean of the association said: 'If we don't get the money this time we'll get it from somewhere else. We're very confident.'

### Man dies in fall from fishing boat

A BARRA man died after falling from a fishing boat south of the island.

Gerard Gillies, 42, died in hospital at 4.30pm on Sunday after he was rushed to Western Isles hospital by rescue teams.

Both Barra lifeboat and a coastguard rescue helicopter attended the scene shortly after the incident at 12.25pm.

Western Isles police confirmed Mr Gillies' next of kin had been informed and that there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

## Emergency meeting over council budget

AN EMERGENCY meeting will be held early next year amid uncertainties about Highland council's budget.

It is thought the local authority will have to plug a funding gap of £46.28 million over the next three years but councillors have warned there is still uncertainty over Scottish government policy on the council tax freeze and teacher numbers.

A spokeswoman for the council said it is unlikely they will know grant figures before January 18, leading to a special meeting on February 25 to finalise the budget for 2016/17. It is anticipated each Highland council service department will be asked to make savings of six per cent, but this could rise if the savings agreed in December last year are not met.

Councillor Bill Fernie, chairman of the resources committee, said: 'Colleagues and I have been meeting with service directors and budget holders over the last few weeks to scrutinise every opportunity to make savings. We have met with members from each of the political groups to discuss the situation, the continuing uncertainties and the impact of the vast amount of savings which need to be found. We will also be seeking the views of the public as savings plans become clearer. We will continue to work together to plan ahead, but we need to be clear we cannot make savings at this level and not impact on service delivery.'



COFFEE MORNING: pupils from Banavie 16\_41banavie01



FUNDRAISERS: pupils from Inverloch 21\_41inverloch01

## Class act as pupils raise £800 for charity

GIRLS and boys from Lochaber schools raised more than £800 for charity by hosting public events.

Primary seven pupils of Banavie primary school held a coffee morning in the school's gym hall on Thursday, October 1.

And primary 4/5 children hosted an art exhibition at Inverloch primary school on Wednesday, September 30, both were in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Banavie class teacher, Deirdre Beck, was on hand to help the children run the day smoothly.

She said: 'Pupils have done it once or twice in the past and we decided to do it again this year. It has gone really well.'

With help from Banavie teachers, the youngsters served up tea, coffee and cake to busy tables in the hall, where local people enjoyed a break and musical performances, raising £610.71.

The Inverloch fundraising art exhibition included work from each of the pupils and was followed by a coffee afternoon.

Pupils raised a total sum of £204.14.

## Crime rates and number of fires both drop

CRIME rates and fires in the Highlands and Islands have both fallen in the region, according to figures from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Police figures for the quarter April 1 until August 1 show the number of people detected speeding was 2,864 compared to 1,910 for the same period last year. But the number of people reported in relation to drug offences for the same period has increased from 68 to 94.

The latest statistics were presented to councillors of the local scrutiny board of the Highland Council last Wednesday.

On the same day at a meeting of the community safety, public engagement, and equalities committee at Highland council in Inverness, the SFRS reported reductions in the number of deliberate fires from 49 in 2014/15 compared to 46 in the first quarter of this year. It also said the number of reported house fires was down by 17 from 37 to just 20.

Group manager for Highland and Islands, John MacDonald, welcomed the SFRS reductions but insisted there is no room for complacency. He said: 'This all contributes to the overall objective of safer communities.'

Following the end of its latest recruitment drive, the SFRS also confirmed 71 applications for the retained duty system in the Highlands will be processed and suitable positions allocated.

## Major investment sees cycle route span entire Great Glen way

A CYCLE route stretching from Fort William to Inverness has been completed, following a £3 million investment.

New sections of the cycleway have been created linking existing paths to create a route spanning the entire Great Glen way.

This will provide an alternative to

the busy A82 trunk road for cyclists.

Scottish transport minister, Derek Mackay, said: 'The Great Glen is already a wonderful backdrop for cycling and this new cycleway will enhance that reputation further by providing an even better cycling experience from Fort William to Inverness.

'We want to see as many people as possible enjoying its mixture of stunning scenery, towpaths and forestry tracks.'

The work also marks the completion of the Caledonia Way, which stretches from Campbeltown to Inverness.

Isobel McCallum, Highland

council convenor, said: 'The opening of this new route through the Great Glen that takes cyclists off the busy A82 is therefore a welcome addition to the range of routes in the area which will clearly bring benefits to businesses along the route as well as giving a much better experience to our visitors.'

## Islanders take the lead to recruit nurse

RESIDENTS of a tiny island have taken it upon themselves to recruit a community nurse, after feeling that NHS Highland did not do enough.

Raasay has been left with no out of hours medical cover on the island for four months, the longest period since the 1800s, according to a community councillor.

A meeting with NHS Highland representatives and Raasay community council (RCC) was held on Monday, September 28 to discuss the issue.

The meeting, which saw 52 members of the almost 200-strong population community attend, left RCC feeling that there was 'no clear outcome to the meeting'.

Margaret McVicar, chairwoman of RCC, said: 'We were told at the meeting no-one wants to come and work on jobs like these on the smaller islands. We have found three people already and, as far as I know, they have contacted the NHS to show their interest.'

'One of them was a nurse on Skye and didn't even know that it was vacant. We were also told that there was no money left in the budget to bring in agency staff.'

The community council put out social media notices to generate interest saying the island is desperate for out of hours cover.

The campaign has now been backed by the islands MSP, Dave Thompson, and MP, Ian Blackford.

Mr Thompson said: 'I support wholeheartedly the Raasay community in their legitimate demand for their promised out of hours medical cover on the island.'

'My office has already discussed this with NHS Highland and I have written to the cabinet secretary for health twice.'

Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland deputy director of operations for north and west, said: 'We have agreed to work with the community on further advertising and also looking at options for the future.'

'As was agreed at the meeting on Raasay, NHS Highland will also look at securing agency cover as an interim measure. No appointment has been made as yet. NHS Highland will look for agency nurses, however the skills we will be looking for are quite specialist for covering unscheduled care. As a result, we're not sure what response we will get.'

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## Landowners get on board

A WILDLIFE project is expanding by teaming up with landowners. Conservation project, Wildcat Haven, has announced plans to develop protected Scottish wildcat reserves throughout the West Highlands, with crowd-funding supporting land purchases and the expansion of ongoing fieldwork.

Working with landowners and local communities, the project has delivered almost 500 square miles of threat-free safe haven so far; a desperately needed lifeline for the estimated 35 Scottish wildcats left in the world. For the last seven years, Wildcat Haven has worked to prevent Scottish wildcats from hybridising into the feral cat gene pool by neutering away feral cat populations.

Dr Paul O'Donoghue, chief scientific advisor of the project, said: 'Partnering with landowners is critical to creating a haven large enough to home a sustainable population of wildcats, but among these landscapes we need reserves where the wildcat is the absolute priority; areas that can never be developed, deforested or covered in windmills.'

## Better health and wellbeing

A NEW board has been set up to provide support for ill, older and disabled people.

The Western Isles health and social care integration board aims to improve health and wellbeing through services provided by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and NHS Western Isles. It is hoped bringing the two together will save money and help people better understand what services are available.

Dr Neil Galbraith, chairman of the new board, said: 'I look forward to the greater involvement of the wider community in ensuring health and social care in the Western Isles meets the aspirations of everyone seeking the best possible outcomes for those who need care and depend upon public services to treat them safely, compassionately and with dignity.'



## Mill workers reunite at anniversary dance

Former employees of the old pulp and paper mill in Fort William came from near and far for a reunion dance. The Nevis Centre event marked 10 years since the closure of the Wiggins Teape mill in 2005 and 50 years since it started production in 1965. The former workers, who had great fun catching-up with old friends, also enjoyed a buffet and music from Ballochmyle 21. f41reunion01

## West coast ferry plans condemned

PLANS to replace ferries on the west coast have been slammed by a community transport group, which says services will become slower and limited.

Transport Scotland unveiled the Vessel Replacement and Deployment Plan in a bid to 'meet increasing demands' from March next year. But Sleaf Transport Forum is calling for an urgent meeting with CalMac, which agreed the proposals, saying Lochaber, Skye and the Western Isles will all suffer.

A spokesman for the group said replacing the 'MV

Coruisk with the MV Lochinar for the Mallaig to Armadale (south Skye) service will see an increased journey time of 40 minutes and the 23-car capacity will not meet the expected demand for summer 2016. He added that the same ferry will also be running the Lochboisdale to Mallaig service and any delays or cancellations would then impact on the crossing to Skye.

The spokesman said: 'The Sleaf Transport Forum representing a range of bodies on Sleaf has expressed dismay at the proposals for significant amendments to ferry services

on the Mallaig to Armadale route with effect from March 2016.

'We are calling for an urgent meeting with CalMac management to review and revise the proposals. Given the expected dramatic rise in vehicle and passenger traffic, due to the introduction of the road equivalent tariff on the route, the proposals fall far short of what is required.'

'The proposed deployment of a two vessel service with significant differences in capacity, customer facilities, journey times and reliability is viewed as a backward step

for the communities of Skye and Lochaber.

'Among the concerns voiced in Sleaf is the withdrawal of the MV Coruisk, the vessel built specifically for the Armadale to Mallaig service, its replacement by a much smaller, slower vessel and a drastic reduction in capacity on the service on Sunday.'

The number of crossings on a Sunday will not change under the plans, but the smaller ferry will see 102 less spaces per day.

Derek Mackay, Scottish government minister for transport and islands, said:

'This plan, agreed between the Scottish government, CalMac Ferries Ltd and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd, outlines the measures we aim to take collectively to meet increasing demands on these lifeline services, as well as looking at how and when to introduce new vessels in place of some of the older ones.'

'It also looks at how we will manage increasing demand from the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) across the network, which gives island residents and visitors access to significantly reduced fares.'

## NHS Highland in pledge to review consent process

NHS HIGHLAND will review its consent process after it emerged a patient had a growth removed without his consent while in surgery.

The patient, known only as Mr C, complained to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's office that the board unreasonably failed to obtain his consent to remove polyps from his bowel lining and failed to advise him of the risk of perforation of the bowel in the process.

An investigation has led to NHS Highland issuing Mr C with an apology and the chief executive vowing to review the consent process.

Elaine Meade, chief executive, said: 'Clearly the issue of consent is really important and I hope the work we are undertaking will bring about

improvements and benefit for many patients.'

'A working group, which is chaired by the board's medical director, has been set up to review our consent forms and the information that is provided to patients when consent is being obtained.'

'We will also be establishing a clear process to ensure appropriate consent has been obtained including when a patient's care is transferred between consultants.'

'It is upsetting when our systems are not as focussed on the patients as they should be but we are determined to continue to improve. Getting feedback is really helpful and necessary to improve and I am grateful to the many people who do feedback on their experiences.'



BUDDING BIOLOGIST: Cally Ullman-Smith, front centre, has been nominated for a national award for his work monitoring newts in Loch Alsh

## Budding biologist nominated for award

A BUDDING biologist has been nominated for a national award for his research work.

Cally Ullman-Smith's work monitoring newts in rock pools at Loch Alsh has seen him shortlisted for the young biological surveyor of the year award by the National Museum Service of Scotland.

The 12-year-old Plockton high school student has also contributed to the new local biodiversity plan and has taken part in a workshop into the funding of Scottish marine projects.

## Youth groups share £10,000 cash boost

ELEVEN Lochaber youth groups have received a share of £10,000 from Highland council.

The organisations, ranging from sports to art and music, benefited from up to £2,500 each after a public vote.

Thomas MacLennan, Highland councillor and leader of Lochaber area committee, said: 'I'd like to thank all the groups who submitted bids and everyone who took part in the public vote. The people of Lochaber have truly embraced this opportunity to get involved and it has only cost a small amount of council officer time, meaning that all the money available can go straight

to the Lochaber community. The response from everyone involved has been so positive that my fellow councillors and I will be discussing how to move forward from here using this method of public participation budgeting,' he added.

Grants: Lochaber Rugby Club, £1,000; Mallaig youth football, £800; Lochaber Leisure Centre swim team, £2,500; Lochaber Women's Aid, £150; Kilmallie Shinty Club, £500; Lochaber Pipe Band, £1,000; Mallaig youth dance group £300; Fort William netball club, £540; Lochaber Camanachd association, £500; Room 13 Caol, £1,360; Mallaig youth activities £1,560.

## Team on hand with advice on new rights

THE BIGGEST consumer rights changes for a generation have been announced by Trading Standards.

The changes came into force last Thursday and Highland council's Trading Standards team is offering advice to small businesses across the region.

The new rights state there will be a 30-day limit for consumers to reject faulty goods and receive a refund; businesses will only have one attempt to repair or replace faulty goods; brand new provisions for digital content; bringing consumer law

up-to-date; and claims and promises made during discussions with consumers about services will be contractually binding on businesses.

Gordon Robb, Highland Trading Standards manager, said: 'It can be tricky for small businesses to know all the ins and outs of such laws and by assisting our local businesses where we can, we want to make sure they are able to maintain their reputation and give their customers a fair deal.'

See [www.highland.gov.uk/consumer-rights-act-2015](http://www.highland.gov.uk/consumer-rights-act-2015)



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## TIMESLINE

### Role of retained firefighters vital

HIGHLAND council has pledged to support the recruitment of retained firefighters.

The local authority's community planning partners (CPP), which include representatives from NHS, Police Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish government and High Life Highland, voted unanimously to promote the benefits of retained teams to employees of all organisations.

Margaret Davidson, Highland council leader and chairwoman of the CPP board, said she understands the 'vital role' of retained firefighters.

She added: 'We recognise the benefits in helping to fill these vacancies as it supports the sharing of transferable skills, making our communities and our organisations safer, stronger and more resilient. We want to encourage everyone to consider if they can contribute to their communities in this very worthwhile way.'

### Have your say on road closure plan

THE TRUNK road connecting Lochaber to Inverness could be closed for 12 nights for resurfacing.

BEAR Scotland has suggested closing the A82 between Invergarry and Invermoriston between 7am and 7pm from October 11 to 23 (excluding October 16 and 17). Campaign group the A82 Partnership has requested a later closure of 9pm.

To comment on the proposal go to email [NWConsultation@bearsotland.co.uk](mailto:NWConsultation@bearsotland.co.uk)

### Act on nuisance calls and texts

A HIGHLAND MSP has called on the Scottish government to tackle nuisance calls and texts.

David Stewart, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said: 'Nuisance calls and texts are a huge issue for people here in the Highlands and Islands, infringing on their privacy and making daily life a misery, particularly for older and more vulnerable members of the community. It's time to look at this issue affecting people right here in the Highlands and Islands and publish an action plan setting out exactly what can be done to tackle this.'

### Re-vamped Arisaig pitch back in play

ARISAIG playing field will be re-opened with a football game on Saturday.

The youngsters versus old crocks match will kick off at 1pm to officially open the pitch following a major upgrade by Arisaig community trust. Adventure play equipment and picnic tables will be installed next to the field.

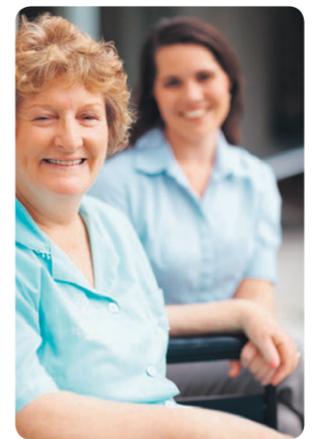
### Lochaber Women's Aid

At Lochaber Women's Aid our mission is to eliminate domestic abuse and to limit the impact of existing abuse in the Lochaber area. We aim to achieve this through providing a specialist support and advice service for those directly affected by domestic abuse and by raising awareness of the impact that domestic abuse has on our communities.

We provide practical support to women affected by Domestic Abuse anywhere in Lochaber. Our support sessions are provided at a location to suit you. We can provide information and advice to help you consider housing options, benefit entitlements and support you to access legal advice locally. If you need to flee domestic abuse we can also help you find a safe haven for you and your children.

Our Children's workers will help children and young people who have witnessed and been affected by domestic abuse make sense of and understand their feelings.

So, if you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse then contact us on 01397 705734. We will help, listen and guide you through the upset, confusion and anxiety caused by Domestic Abuse and support you to make decisions.



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### Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service

Volunteers needed in Oban Library for new Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service

Argyll and Bute Council is working with Macmillan Cancer Support, NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface to launch a new non-clinical information and support service at Oban Library. The new service is looking for male and female volunteers to help support people affected by cancer with weekly drop-in support sessions in the library.

The role is for two and a half hours a week on Wednesday afternoons in Oban Library, providing a safe and welcoming space for people to talk, to guide people to quality information and to sign post them on to specialist services. No experience is necessary, just a desire to help people affected by cancer. Full training, ongoing support, and expenses are given.

Volunteers recruited in the existing services in Argyll have often had personal experiences of cancer whether as a patient, carer or a medical professional. They get a lot of satisfaction from helping people going through a tough time.

Anyone wishing to find out more about volunteering with the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service in Oban should contact Chris Holden, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01586 555938 email macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN OBAN LIBRARY

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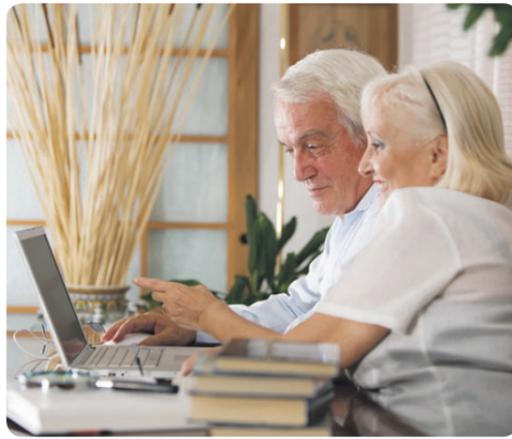
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# THE NITY

SOMETIMES people need extra help. The unexpected happens, or disability or illness strikes. And, as loved ones inevitably grow older, a bit of assistance is often needed. Asking for help is the first step, and easy to do with a wide selection of products and services available locally.

Seniors often need assistance with day-to-day chores, home maintenance or routines. They take medications on a schedule. Dementia is especially troubling to deal with. Even when adult children are nearby to provide assistance, busy lives make it nearly impossible to keep up. Trained professional services and home carers are available to do this- allowing the elderly to stay in their own homes and adult children to get the professional assistance they need in caring for their loved ones- whether on a semi-reg-

ular basis or 24 hours a day. Physically or mentally disabled children and adults can benefit from professional home care as well. Experienced carers cannot only assist at home; they can take clients on outings and help them pursue their interests, whether it's bird watching or music sessions.

Successful relationships are hard work. But sometimes even hard work isn't enough, when there are changes within the family, addiction issues, death or financial crisis. Counselling allows family members or couples to talk about their feelings and problems with a trained, neutral professional in a confidential environment. Counsellors can help people deal with negative thoughts and situations and help heal family rifts, so there is no need to suffer.

The statistics on domestic violence are sobering. A

domestic violence incident is recorded every 10 minutes in Scotland. At least one in five women in Scotland will experience domestic abuse, and one in three teenage girls suffer an unwanted sexual act. These things are nothing to be ashamed about or keep hidden. Local organisations are there to listen and provide solutions, whether a victim needs to get safely out of a situation immediately or counselling for emotional trauma.

There doesn't have to be an emergency situation for a person to reach out. Clinical depression is a medical condition, not just feeling blue, and can be treated as such. Or sometimes life gets overwhelming and people just need someone to talk with. Whatever the case, suffering in silence is not the answer. One phone call can be the first step to a happy, healthy life.

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# Arena

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

## Smile - you're on camera - and you could be a winner too

THE opening of the Royal National Mòd in Oban, tomorrow, Friday, will start a festival equalling any in Gaelic culture.

At the forefront of the coverage will be the Oban Times, reporting from all the events.

The exciting news this year is that the newspaper has gone digital.

From Facebook to photos there will be up to the minute news on all the happenings of the Mòd.

Photographs will be online and available to order in the hours after they have been taken. They can be viewed at obantimes.co.uk/mod - where an archive of photographs can be viewed alongside all the photographs taken at the event.

There will also be a photo booth in Oban's Phoenix Cinema at the top of George Street, where the Oban Times will also have a freebie stall to celebrate the

Royal National Mòd 2015 in the town.

There will also be three competitions running at the same time - the first, take a selfie with a member of Oban Times staff and post it online on Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #otmod.

The second is the photo booth, based in the Phoenix Cinema and travelling around the town with cub reporter,



Niamh Adams McGilp.

The third is a short video clip of no more than 30 seconds summing up the spirit of the Royal National Mòd in Oban.

Winners of both photo competitions, and the video short will appear in the Oban Times of Thursday, October 22.

The video will be played at the start of every screening until January in the Phoenix cinema.

## On tune and in form - new march leads the way

SONG for the Mòd, A Tribute to Robin Banks, will be played for the first time at the opening ceremony of the national festival of Gaelic tomorrow, Friday.

Composed by Ian MacLean, an Oban resident, the tune was the winning composition for the Oban committee's tune for the Mòd.

Ian was an acquaintance of former townsman, Robin Banks, a local councillor and solicitor. He was a well-known face at the Mòd alongside his wife, Ishbel.

Ian, 72, said: 'Robin would have been at the heart of the Mòd.'

'He was on the organisation committee in the town for many years and was also a member of An Comunn Gaidhealach (the organisers of the Royal National Mòd).'

'The song is a two-four time march, and reminds me of Robin - his kilt swinging with his special Mòd socks

marching along George Street between competitions.'

Finlay Wells, who recorded the song as part of the competition prize, said: 'Our Oban-based company Nutshell Music is delighted to have been asked to record and produce 'A tribute to Robin Banks' performed and written by Iain Maclean.'

'Robin and Ishbel used to babysit me and my sister when we were children, so it felt very appropriate to be recording a piece of music written in his honour.'

Iain recorded the tune accompanied by his granddaughter, Clare Jordan, in one take.

'I then overdubbed a guitar part. 'This Friday we will play the piece live at the opening Mòd concert which will be a real treat.'

It is understood the tune will later be available on a music download site.

SONG FOR THE MòD: Tuning up for the Royal National Mòd are Duncan N Macdonald, Finlay Wells of Nutshell Music, composer Ian MacLean, Moira Dunlop and Sandy Dunlop of the organising committee 26\_141mod1



## Caledonian MacBrayne will be on hand to listen to its community



As proud headline sponsors of the Royal National Mòd, Caledonian MacBrayne is, once more, excited to be at the heart of the event.

The company, operator of the UK's largest ferry network, has played a major role at the Mòd for many years and this legacy is now woven into the fabric of the event - from the award of a number of CalMac trophies - one dating back to 1951 - for various category

winners, through to a number of receptions throughout the competition.

In addition to CalMac's usual support, the company will also hold its Travel and Tourism Conference on October 13 at Oban's Phoenix Cinema, with Simon Calder - senior travel editor for The Independent and familiar travel broadcaster - and the Scottish Tourism Alliance's chief executive, Marc Crothall.

The conference is now in its

second year and brings some of Scotland and the UK's top tourism influencers and organisations together to specifically concentrate on tourism challenges and opportunities faced by Scotland's west coast.

Combining the conference with the Mòd this year is an opportunity for delegates and speakers alike to enjoy some of the spectacle of the event, while also experiencing the major tourism effect a large scale event

can have. A superb reminder of yesteryear is Lawrence MacDuff's amazing MacBrayne bus - a lovingly and immaculately restored coach previously owned by David MacBrayne - is open for visitors.

The bus will be parked each day from 9am-1pm opposite the Corran Halls and Lawrence will be delighted to welcome all those interested on board to meet managers from Caledonian MacBrayne.

## 'Mouthies', Germa

A DONALD Black concert report in the Oban Times' Glasgow Letter has brought back memories for a Tیره man.

Alistair MacNeill was part of a group's trip to Germany in the summer to present digital slide shows of Scottish Scenery, Songs, Music and Stories.

Mr MacNeill said: 'We were based in the town of Klingenthal in what was formerly East Germany and near the Czech Republic border.'

'At one time this whole valley was involved in the production of accordions and mouth-organs.'

'Our host, a retired accordion maker and player in the town's accordion orchestra, arranged for us to visit the local mouth-organ factory where we were shown round by the manager - a young man who spoke excellent English, although he apologised for his American accent!'

He continued: 'Before the Second World

War, much of the mouth-organ production was a cottage-based industry where people would collect the materials from the factory, assemble them at home, then return the completed instruments.'

'After the war, the State took over the organisation, production and marketing.'

'Later, with the fall of Communism, the industry disintegrated and only one company survived by introducing young and forward looking management.'

'Today, instead of many being employed in the mouth-organ/accordion industry, there is only this small factory employing 20 people making mouth-organs.'

'However they have captured a niche market because their instruments are made by hand at every stage of production, and customers can have an instrument



## Charity's movies galore

MEMORIES galore is one of the highlights of the Royal National Mòd, meeting old friends, and reminiscing about competitions won and lost and perfect performances over the years.

Alzheimer Scotland is hosting a Movies Galore night at Oban Golf Club on Thursday October 15 at 7.30pm which they hope will bring back

lots of memories too. Entry is by donation is open to everyone.

Also watch out for the Memory Bus through out Mòd week opposite the Corran Halls, George Street, Breadalbane Street, and St Square. For more information contact Pagan on 01631 570614.

## LIFE lines

### If you only ever read one book...

This year's Mòd Fringe programme is inspired by Neil Munro, successful writer and famous son of Inveraray. Munro is best remembered for his Para Handy tales, but he also wrote serious fiction and poetry; and worked as a journalist and editor on a number of Scottish newspapers. Munro is one brightly-coloured tile in the extraordinary mosaic of Argyll literary characters and associations: from the godly illuminations and human rights codes of St Columba and Adomnán, through translations of prayer instruction into Gaelic by John Carswell and books of the bible by John Smith, to the modern works of Kenneth MacLeod and Iain Crichton Smith. Argyll has produced or inspired great heroes and heroines of literature. Think of Kenneth Grahame, John MacDougall Hay and George Campbell Hay; Naomi Campbell, George Orwell, Angus MacVicar,

Lorn McIntyre, Marion Campbell, Alan Warner, Marian Pallister, Norman Bissell...

The late best-selling novelist, Iain Banks, fictionalised a number of Argyll locations in his work and, in a way, each writer or character has helped put some of these places on Scotland's literary map. The enduring success of book festivals in other parts of Scotland and the British Isles demonstrates the public's appetite for reading - for entertainment, enlightenment and education - and Argyll continues to influence and inspire people from all backgrounds to express themselves through poetry, prose, drama and engaging works of non-fiction.

There is much to celebrate, and they say there is a book in every one of us. I believe it.

Johnston Adams

## Mary's meals



## Mary's Mòd window

LOOKING GOOD: A shop window dressing competition was won by Mary's Meals. The picture shows the local organising committee of the Royal National Mòd and volunteers from the popular Oban charity shop.

The window was described as 'a sight to behold' by the judging committee. Second place went to Scottish Island Jewellers and ice-cream shop Pokey Hat. 26\_141marysmeals1

## Rockfield huts open to town

THE Huts at the Rockfield Centre will be buzzing with activity during the Royal National Mòd in Oban.

The huts will be open on Monday and Tuesday from 10am to 4pm, offering activity sessions for youngsters and as well as an art competition.

Pictures entered in the colouring competition will be put on display on the window and each day's winner will be given vouchers for Hannah's, the newsagents and sweetie shop in Stevenson Street op-

posite the Rockfield Centre.

The latter half of Mòd will see a preview exhibit of The Rockfield Cent oral history project that been led by Cori Princell.

Memories Matter is a lecture of oral history fit the decade following the with some excellent mate from former Rockfield pills.

The preview exhibition will be open from 4pm until 8 on Thursday 15 and from 10am until 2pm on Friday



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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
POST-MEDIEVAL RURAL LAND USE IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS:  
Eve Boyle  
Saturday 17 October  
Port Appin Hall, 2.30pm  
ALL WELCOME!  
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

SATURDAY 10th and SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER 11-5pm  
End of Season PLANT SALE  
ARDMADDY CASTLE GARDENS  
BY Oban, PA34 4QY  
12 miles south of Oban  
B844 to Seil Island, signed left  
'Armdaddy' before Atlantic Bridge

Connell Sewing Club  
Resumes  
Thursday 22nd October  
Connell Village Hall  
7pm - 9pm  
£20 for 25 weeks  
Old & New Members Welcome  
All levels catered for  
For more details contact  
01631 710569/01631 710401

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club  
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray  
Wednesday 14th October  
At 8.00pm  
Guest Artists  
From Edinburgh  
Matthew MacLennan Trio  
Supporting players most welcome  
Admission £4.00

CELTIC PRAISE  
Sunday 11th October, 8.00pm, Corran Halls, Oban  
An exciting evening of the best contemporary and traditional praise, in music and song, in both Gaelic and English, by a variety of musicians and singers, including a Praise Band, Choirs and Soloists - not to be missed!  
THIS IS A DONATION EVENT  
Event organised by  
A Christian initiative  
for Oban's young people

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## Celtic broadcasters call for ideas to discover a new original lifestyle format

BBC ALBA, SC4 and TG4 are calling for fresh and distinctive ideas for a new lifestyle programme format, which can work for viewers across the three Celtic nations.

The Welsh, Irish and Scottish broadcasters are uniting to create an aspirational and entertaining programme or series format, with wide appeal, which can be easily adapted for audiences across the three nations and beyond. Working together they will help develop the format with a view to offer it for use on the wider market.

Programme makers are invited to submit proposals for programmes which are brave and bold and that a peak-time audience can truly engage with. The ideas should also touch the emotions in some way, be it through laughter, tears or surprise.

S4C's commissioner, Elen Rhys, explains: 'I'm very excited at the prospect of this new collaboration and am thrilled to be working creatively with colleagues at BBC ALBA and TG4. Lifestyle programmes play a key role as part of a vibrant and appealing entertainment TV schedule, and as a genre it is one of the main areas which S4C aims to build on.'

'This is a scheme which will benefit audiences across the three nations, as we bring fresh new content to the screen. It is also a golden opportunity for programme

makers to develop their ideas into flexible and adaptable formats with the potential to grow and grow.'

BBC ALBA's editor, Margaret Cameron said: 'We really hope programme makers in each of the countries come forward with ideas that challenge and excite us. We're ambitious for our sector and hope they will be equally ambitious in their pitches.'

TG4's commissioning editor, Máire Ní Chonláin, added: 'The Celts are a creative and imaginative race of people and, with this union of Welsh, Scots and Irish broadcasters, we look forward to finding smash-hit entertaining ideas that will not only work on our channels but could in the future travel the world.'

S4C, BBC ALBA and TG4 are inviting programme makers to submit ideas by midday on beFriday, 30 October, 2015, by emailing celticformats@s4c.cymru.

The submissions should include a logline, format treatment, indication of proposed talent and of how the development funds would be used to produce a worthwhile pilot which can be used as a basis for a returnable series.

One idea will be selected to receive the £15,000 development funding to create a pilot for delivery in early 2016.

For more information see mgalba.com

## ny and memories

made to their own specification for the type of music they play. Many mouth-organs are made in China, but they are regarded as toys rather than true musical instruments.'

Mr MacNeill, who now lives in North Berwick, added: 'When I mentioned to the manager that the only person I knew of who played the mouth-organ on the concert platform in Scotland was a chap called Donald Black, he said, 'I know Donald

very well. I see him each year at the convention in Bristol.

'So for me the word "mouthie" now links Klingenthal with Oban.

'As a youngster in the 1950s coming to Oban as a member of the Treen Schools Athletics Team to compete in the County Sports, meant going back home with a new "mouthie" bought in one of the local shops.'



## Gaelic music festivals show remarkable increase

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IT HAS been a successful year for Gaelic music festivals, according to a report by Fèisean nan Gàidheal just days before this year's Royal National Mòd.

The report, presented at the group's annual general meet-

ing in Benbecula this week, showed 61,000 people were in some way involved with a Fèis event in 2014-15.

More than 5,000 young people took part in 44 Fèisean across Scotland and more than 8,000 school pupils took part

in fringe activities including youth music initiatives and Gaelic language and drama workshops.

The organisation also provided grants of £279,000 to local Fèis groups, including the Fèis na h-Apaine in Appin.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal chairman, Duncan MacQuarrie MBE, praised the work of volunteers in supporting the organisation's wide range of activities.

He said: '2014 was a special year in Scotland with the

Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in the second Year of Homecoming. Fèisean nan Gàidheal helped to support both initiatives which afforded young Fèis participants the chance to take part in a wide range of supporting events.'

'We will also have special Scottish films screenings from late night until early morning.'

She added: 'The cinema has always had great support from the Gaelic community and we hope this continues during the Royal National Mòd.

'We will be launching our membership scheme which means extra treats for those people who support the cinema - including some off-season special discounts and privileged booking status for first nights and live theatre performances.

'The cinema is the first in Scotland to pay the living wage to our small team of excellent workers. We hope lots of people will come along and support us during the Mòd.'

The cinema will be selling soup and cakes every day during the Mòd and offers free wifi and great tea and coffee for every customer.

## Phoenix Nights to raise a tune and cash

PHOENIX nights are a laid-back Scottish treat for visitors to the Royal National Mòd.

Held in the cinema at George Street, the community-owned venue is offering an open stage for anyone who would like to come along to sing and play while raising cash for the important venue.

Cinema manager, Jennie Larney, said: 'We have loads going on during the Royal National Mòd and we want to make it a great place for people to come along and enjoy themselves.'

'For Scottish hospitality we will be asking for a donation to enter the cinema once our screenings have finished for the day.

'Some bands who want wider recognition have already agreed to take part and other established musicians have agreed to come along and give us a tune.'

## Entertainment Guide

### Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run  
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

09 OCTOBER 2015 - 15 OCTOBER 2015

**AMERICAN ULTRA (15)**  
Fri: 18:45; Sat: 15:30; Sun: 15:45, 19:30

**INSIDE OUT (U)**  
Sat: 11:00, 12:30; Sun: 11:00

**LEGEND (18)**  
Fri, Sun: 21:00; Sat: 20:45

**MOD FRINGE**  
Wed: 17:00

**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: HAMLET (12A)**  
Thu: 19:00

**PHOENIX NIGHTS - OPEN STAGE**  
Thu: 23:00 Highland hospitality, open stage and specially selected Scottish films (and Friday)

**PHOENIX CLUB**  
Mon: 18:00 All Scottish entertainment. Entry by donation.

**RICKI AND THE FLASH (12A)**  
Fri: 16:30; Sat, Sun: 13:15

**STRANGE MAGIC (U)**  
Sat: 15:00; Sun: 11:00

**SUFFRAGETTE (12A)**  
Mon: 16:15; Tue: 20:00

**THE MARTIAN (12A)**  
Fri: 19:15; Sat: 17:45, 21:15; Sun: 13:30, 18:00; Mon: 19:30; Tue, Wed: 20:00

**THE MARTIAN 3D (12A)**  
Fri: 16:15; Sat: 18:15; Sun: 16:30

**WIZARD OF OZ (U)**  
Sat: 10:00

**COMING SOON**

**BACK TO THE FUTURE TRIPLE BILL (PG)**  
21/10/2015 Classic (1985). Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) and Doctor Emmet Brown (Christopher Lloyd) travel through time in a converted DeLorean!

**ENO: THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (12A)**  
19/10/2015 The Barber of Seville will have you smiling from the moment it begins. When grumpy Bartolo stands between his beautiful young ward Rosina and her lover Count Almaviva, there's only one person to call on: local barber and man-with-a-plan Figaro. But with Rosina kept under lock and key, can Figaro fix it for them? It could be a close shave. Set in an elegant vision of 18th-century Seville, Jonathan Miller's much-loved production is as side-splittingly funny as ever. For this revival, the talented Christopher Allen will conduct Rossini's sparkling score, packed full of wit and playful tunes. A superb cast includes ENO favourite Andrew Shore (The Pirates of Penzance, The Mastersingers of Nuremberg) in one of his signature roles as Dr Bartolo, former ENO Harewood Artist Kathryn Rudge as Rosina, and rising baritone Morgan Pease as the barber Figaro.

**ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY: HENRY V (12A)**  
21/10/2015 Henry V is dead and Hal is King. With England in a state of unrest, he must leave his rebellious youth behind, striving to gain the respect of his nobility and people.

**AMERICAN ULTRA - 116MINS**  
AMERICAN ULTRA is a US action comedy in which a small-town stoner discovers he is actually a deadly government assassin.

**INSIDE OUT - 118MINS**  
After a girl moves to a new home, her emotions are plunged into chaos as they compete for control of her mind.

**LEGEND - 151MINS**  
The film tells the story of the identical twin gangsters Reggie and Ronnie Kray, two of the most notorious criminals in British history, and their organised crime empire in the East End of London during the 1960s.

**NT LIVE: HAMLET - 200MINS**  
Academy Award® nominee Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's Sherlock, The Limitation Game, Frankenstein at the National Theatre) takes on the title role of Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lindsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, National Theatre Live will broadcast this eagerly awaited production live to cinemas.

As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralysed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state.

Ricki and the Flash - 122mins - A musician who gave up everything for her dream of rock-and-roll stardom returns home, looking to make things right with her family.

**STRANGE MAGIC - 119MINS**  
A fairy tale of goblins, fairies and imps meeting for the first time and the consequent confusions and conflicts the culture clash causes. A madcap fairy tale musical inspired by 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' Popular songs from the past six decades help tell the tale of a colorful cast of goblins, elves, fairies and imps, and their hilarious misadventures sparked by the battle over a powerful potion.

**SUFFRAGETTE - 126MINS**  
A drama that tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes, they were working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing. Radicalized and turning to violence as the only route to change, they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality - their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives. Maud was one such foot soldier. The story of her fight for dignity is as gripping and visceral as any thriller, it is also heart-breaking and inspirational.

**THE MARTIAN - 161MINS**  
During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, he must draw on his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

**WIZARD OF OZ (KIDS CLUB) - 103MINS**  
Children's Classic (1939): Dorothy Gale is swept away to a magical land in a tornado and embarks on a quest to see the Wizard who can help her return home. Kids 4+ - adults free.

**MOD FRINGE - WEDNESDAY 6.30 FOR 7 PM**  
Come along for slides of old Oban accompanied by traditional music. Entry by charitable donation.

**PHOENIX NIGHTS OPEN STAGE (MOD EVENT) 11**  
Come along with your instruments to our Open Stage Night. Entry and hospitality by donation.

**PHOENIX CLUB (MOD EVENT)**  
All Scottish entertainment. Entry by donation.

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For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

**THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS**

**MONDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McCullie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle

**TUESDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

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

**THURSDAY:**  
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's 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 Lavin

**SATURDAY:**  
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

**SUNDAY:**  
0900 Sunday Morning with 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

**In next week's Oban Times Children's competition**

**Win an iPad Mini!**

The Oban Times will be asking children up to the age of 15 to name the fantastic ship that is planned for the new play park at Atlantis Leisure.

Courtesy of Scottish Sea Farms, who are donating £20,000 to this fantastic facility, the child with the winning ship name will receive an iPad Mini and their name on the ship's plaque.

**Don't miss The Oban Times, October 15 for full details on how to enter**

OBAN COMMUNITY PLAYPARK

**MOZART'S Così fan tutte**

Take a trip on the rocky road to love

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The Corran Halls, Oban  
Tickets: £14, £5 (u26s)  
Tel: 01631 567 333

Reserved seating  
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scottishopera.org.uk

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The Oban Times  
A WAY HIGHLAND TIMES



**ALMOST HALF** of all UK households own a pet. No wonder, as there are so many benefits to having a furry friend. Research has shown that living with animals can help lower blood pressure, lessen anxiety and boost immunity. Further, research shows that children that grow up with a pet can develop better social skills, increase their attention span and foster a deep respect for all living creatures.

Organisations such as Argyll Animal Aid rescue animals and adopt them out. For over 20 years, volunteers for Argyll Animal Aid have worked tirelessly to find forever homes for thousands of dogs and cats that might otherwise suffer from cruelty, neglect or abandonment. Many people look to buy expensive breeds, some of which may come from illegal puppy farms, or mills, where they may not receive good care or treatment. However, mixed breeds or pre-owned animals are often just as good looking, loyal and intelligent, if not more so, and can make the best pets. Often a pet from a shelter has been spayed and neutered, so the new owner can save money from the start. They are often housetrained already as well, a definite plus. Older pets that have possibly been given up through no fault of their own can be wonderful companions. Pets have so much to give - love, warmth and faithfulness. Featured here are just some of the many lovely animals waiting patiently for a forever home.

**What are you waiting for?**

**We have a new website [www.argyllanimalaid.org.uk](http://www.argyllanimalaid.org.uk) and of course our facebook page. Keep in touch with us and if you can, please offer one of our cats or dogs a chance.**



**The Purrrfect Home For A Cat!**  
Some Things To Consider Before Rehoming:

**Commitment**  
Getting a cat settle in a new home takes love, time and patience.

**Holidays**  
Even though they are independent animals, when you go away, cats still need looking after.

**Comfort**  
Cats need a comfortable environment to live in, so ensure they've got everything they need.

**Time**  
Cats need to be cared for every single day - not just when you feel like it or have time.

**Money**  
Food, vets bills and equipment can be expensive overtime, so be prepared for this during the life of our animal.

**Responsibility**  
Ensure your cat is neutered as this will not only prevent unwanted kittens, but can also help prevent illness and some unwanted behaviour.

For more information on rehoming please visit: [www.rspca.org.uk/rehoming](http://www.rspca.org.uk/rehoming)

<p><b>Cuan</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Scottish Sea Farms Ltd</b> South Shian in Benderloch Connel <b>01631 574000</b></p>	<p><b>Riley</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Image</b> 5 Airds Place Oban <b>01631 566322</b></p>	<p><b>Mr Burns</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Jewson Ltd</b> Sinclair Dr Oban <b>01631 562208</b></p>	<p><b>Kumho</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Kerries Tyres</b> Quarry Rd Oban <b>01631 570000</b></p>
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**Give A Dog A Home!**  
Some Things To Consider Before Rehoming:

**Commitment**  
Getting a dog settled in a new home takes love, time and patience.

**Exercise**  
Dogs need regular exercise to stay happy and healthy.

**Comfort**  
Dogs need a comfortable environment with somewhere quite to rest.

**Time**  
Dogs need your companionship and care every single day.

**Money**  
Food, vets bills and equipment can be expensive over time, so be prepared for this during the life of our animal.

**Responsibility**  
Be responsible, keep your dog on a lead when necessary and clear up mess.

For more information on rehoming please visit: [www.rspca.org.uk/rehoming](http://www.rspca.org.uk/rehoming)

**[www.argyllanimalaid.org.uk](http://www.argyllanimalaid.org.uk)**  
**[info@argyllanimalaid.org.uk](mailto:info@argyllanimalaid.org.uk)**  
**tel jean on 01631 566406**  
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**Lochandubh Boarding Kennels & Cattery,**  
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editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

## Mull 'mumprenuer' Sarah plans to make health and safety arena less daunting

Becoming a new mum has opened up a whole new business opportunity for Sarah Fraser.

In this era of 'mumprenuers', Sarah established Beinn Mhor Consultants, an Argyll-based Health, Safety, Quality & Environmental Consultants providing external HSQE management advice, practical support and training guidance.

Although based on the Isle of Mull, Beinn Mhor offers aid to businesses in Oban and the wider Argyll, Morven, Lochaber and Highland areas.

It works on a bespoke one-to-one basis with clients, allowing them to meet expectations and industry specific objectives. These are tailored to provide specific Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental solutions.

Said Sarah: 'Becoming a mum has allowed me to re-evaluate my goals in life. When it came to my career, like many new mums I was faced with the difficult choice of returning to work after having my first child. However, I used this crossroads in my life to fulfil my ambition of setting up my own Health and Safety consultancy firm.'

'I have had vast experience over many industry areas and have a great knowledge of businesses in the area. I hope to be able to impart my knowledge to businesses and provide a service accessible to all in the area who are falling below their health and safety requirements,' she added.

Beinn Mhor specialise in the management of HSQE; from providing clients with initial risk assessments, method statements and safety manuals to fully integrated management systems.

Businesses are required by law to meet basic health and safety standards; larger businesses may have procedures in place, but due to ever-changing health and safety legislation, it is imperative that businesses are proactive in keeping their records and systems updated.

Beinn Mhor will offer support to all businesses in the wider Argyll area in meeting their health and safety requirements where similar services have been lacking in latter years. They will also provide industry specific cost effective and flexible solutions to meet each businesses specific health and safety related requirements.

Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental systems are not stand-alone disciplines; Beinn Mhor believes that these systems are integral to any business operation and the successful integration into the working business environment will only aid in overall business performance.

Sarah has a passion for Health and Safety and years of experience in geotechnical engineering, civil engineering and construction.

She said: 'I am eager to work alongside businesses and come up with a cost effective plan to make the health and safety arena less daunting.'

## I felt it was the right time to set up on my own says Margaret

HISTORY OF THE REGION AND THE LANDSCAPE OF MOINE MHOR ARE HER DESIGN INFLUENCES

FORMER lecture in fine art has set up her own business selling hand-made jewellery, inspired by the physical landscape and cultural history of Argyll.

Margaret Ker set up Moine Mhor Jewellery, based near Lochgilphead, earlier this year with support from Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway service. Margaret, who graduated from the Glasgow School of Art, designs and creates silver rings, ear-rings, bracelets and necklaces, as well as mosaic work.

Despite being a new business, Margaret has already received a number of commissions for rings and mosaics and has been asked by two galleries to supply them with work.

Margaret said: 'My silver jewellery and mosaic work are distinctive, handmade and created with local materials.'

'I've always been involved in art and jewellery making and I felt now was the right time to set up my own business. As an artist and designer, I want to provide a bespoke service for clients who are looking for unique and special pieces, as well as building up a stock of new work which can be sold online.'

'My inspiration is mainly drawn from two sources; the landscape of Moine Mhor and the serpentine looping of the River Add and the history of the region from the Stone Age to the Iron Age through to the present day.'

Margaret was one of the winners of a Business Gateway competition that saw her sell her



ARTIST AT WORK: Margaret creates a silver ring in her studio

products at the Best of the West festival last month. With plans to take on more commissions and create bespoke mosaics, Margaret is excited about the future. She added: 'Business Gate-

way's workshops were well organised and the activities were relevant and useful. The marketing course helped me to focus in terms of my business management and it was great

to meet and share ideas with other people from a range of businesses.'

'The Best of the West festival was a fantastic opportunity to showcase my work and pro-

**“**The festival was a fantastic opportunity to showcase my work**”**

Margaret Ker



SOUND ADVICE: Ann Scott

## Controlling and properly managing finances is an essential discipline

At Business Gateway, Argyll and Bute, the team of advisers are there to help with a range of issues.

Here adviser, Ann Scott, shares her top tips on how to manage your finances.

'Controlling and properly managing your finances is an essential business discipline that will ultimately support your long-term growth and development,' explained Ann.

'You may have turned your hobby or passion into a business which is great, but you also need to earn money.'

'This should never be forgotten so don't be shy when discussing prices and payment terms, preferably in advance.'

'Nothing kills your cash flow quicker than not getting round to invoicing.'

'Payments made for work carried out is the lifeblood of your business and late invoices can cause delays and increased bank charges so it is very important to make sure you invoice on time, every time.'

Ann continued: 'A mistake that many people make is confusing turnover with profit.'

'Separating business and personal finances is crucial, so you're never tempted to think you're richer than you are.'

'By creating different pots you'll find this easier to manage and will keep things in perspective.'

'Ultimately, being financially stable involves a number of elements.'

'It means keeping accurate financial records which is not only important for the overall management of your business, but is key to submitting annual accounts.'

'It's also good to remember that while an up-to-date balance sheet has to be submitted to Companies House, HMRC and shareholders, it can also be used as a tool to help you analyse and improve your business,' she added.

If you would like more information, visit [www.bgateway.com/local-offices/argyll-and-bute](http://www.bgateway.com/local-offices/argyll-and-bute)



GEM OF A SHOP: Shirley and Richard Home of Scottish Islands Jewellery with a display of their exclusive Scottish Island range

## Isles are an inspiration

Scottish Islands Jewellery in Oban celebrates the Royal National Mòd with their exclusive collection of Hebrides-inspired items and, just in time for the holidays, they have a full stock of Softech fashion watches and their popular Tree of Life range.

Owners, Shirley Lloyd Home and Richard Home, were placed second in the Mòd window dressing competition, following their first place show in the Highland and Island Dance Festival window competition.

The display features the Scottish Island range, available in both silver and gold, artfully representing the various isles in pendants, cufflinks, earrings, charms and pin badges - all of which make wonderful Mòd souvenirs.

In addition to the unique island range, they offer a full selection of jewellery and ac-

**“**We can do custom pieces as well as remodel items**”**

Shirley Lloyd Home

cessories. 'We have everything from traditional Celtic items to contemporary designs, such as our 'Sparkly Seas' collection,' Shirley said, referring to a stunning set of necklaces, bracelets and earrings that

evoke the luminous waters of the west coast.

Scottish Islands Jewellery also repairs jewellery, from precious heirlooms to new pieces. Shirley has been designing and creating jewellery for 20 years, having graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee.

'We can do custom pieces as well as remodel items,' Shirley said. 'We have just finished remodelling a wedding ring that belonged to a couple's grandmother.'

'We can rework old rings into pendants retaining the original patterns and engraving. If you have inherited a ring that doesn't fit, we can make it fit.'

Scottish Islands Jewellery is located at 23 Argyll Square, Oban. Shop online at [scottishislandjewellery.co.uk](http://scottishislandjewellery.co.uk) or ring 01631 570005.

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Sarah A Fraser PG Dip BSc Hons Grad IOSH  
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# West Coast **MOTORING** TIMES

DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

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# West Coast **PROPERTY** GUIDE

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## Chancellor hits Private Rented Sector with landlord tax relief changes

Further to my article a few months ago, there is now clarification on the full extent of the changes. The proposal was announced in the Chancellor's Summer Budget on 8 July 2015 and it will restrict relief for finance costs on residential properties owned by individual landlords to the basic rate of income tax. Currently, just like any other business, landlords are able to offset all their finance interest (mortgage and loan interest) against their rental income, before calculating their rental profits and therefore their tax liability.

The government proposes to break this normal taxation practice and require landlords to pay tax on part of their costs. The measure will be introduced gradually from 6 April 2017 and is 'tapered' over 4 years. By the year 2021, it will still be possible to get a deduction for finance interest, but the amount will be capped at 20%. Many landlord associations are unhappy with the proposed changes, stating that no other business is taxed on interest on loans taken out to buy assets that generate taxable income. Additionally, the Chancellor

has proposed to remove the 10% wear and tear allowance on rental income for landlords who provide furnished properties; instead allowing all landlords (including those of unfurnished and part furnished properties) to deduct the actual capital cost of replacing furniture, furnishings, appliances and kitchenware. These changes come as a shock to many, given that the private rented sector has been providing much needed homes to meet the increasing demand for housing. A healthy supply of rental properties keeps rents

down and tax relief on mortgage interest payments is a key way for the government to incentivise investment. At the end of 2014, the Council of Mortgage Lenders reported that there were around 1.6m buy to let mortgages in the UK, with an aggregate balance of £188bn. The concern for the private rented sector is that landlords will either increase rents to cover their additional costs or worst still, withdraw from the sector by selling off their portfolios to reduce finance costs. This would produce a disastrous reduction

in supply – again resulting in higher rents. The private rented sector has provided housing for thousands of tenants with 21% of all households in the UK renting privately. With the UK still suffering from a housing crisis, any reduction in supply in the private rented sector will only exacerbate the problem. Secondly, the effect on the housing market generally should not be ignored; with 18% of new home loans being buy to let, these property sales are contributing to the improving housing market – something the government has been trying to

stimulate in recent years. Many landlord associations are calling on landlords to contact their local MPs to oppose the changes, highlighting the impact on housing supply and unintended consequences for tenants. I am sure many landlords will be watching with interest to see how the government negotiates this tricky issue over the coming months. In the meantime, if you are concerned about the changes and would like impartial advice on managing your rental properties, please contact me on 01631 569 466. Nicola MacPhail – Manager, West Property.



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# Farming

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## Support arrangements crucial to sector's future - NFUS

AROUND 80 hill farmers and crofters from across Scotland, along with movers and shakers from the industry, came together for a national hill farming conference in Oban last week.

Jointly organised by NFU Scotland, Argyll and the Isles Agricultural Forum and SRUC, supported by Argyll and Bute Council, Cairngorms National Park and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the aim of the event was to highlight some of the challenges and opportunities with hill farming, whilst recognising the benefits active hill

farming can deliver. The programme included a farm visit to the SRUC Hill and Mountain Research Centre, near Crianlarich, where delegates were able to see the latest use of technology. Delegates then went on to Dalmally where they were able to see how new farm woodland schemes have greatly helped Sybil and George MacPherson manage their extensive sheep flock on the hills above Loch Awe.

Day two of the conference was held at the Scottish Marine Institute, near Oban. Delegates heard from a number of key speakers,

including Jonnie Hall, director of policy at NFU Scotland. Mr Hall said: 'If individual hill farm businesses take their opportunities, and the Scottish government commits to supporting the true worth of active hill farming, then there will be a very bright future. 'You can't put a value on the hugely important contribution that hill farming in Scotland makes to food production, communities, local economies, tourism, biodiversity and landscapes, yet it remains a vulnerable sector still

reliant on support. Hill farmers, often working in remote areas, face an array of rising costs that are never likely to be met by returns from the market place.' He added: 'While that merits support in itself, it is important that we remember that many of the genuine benefits from active hill farming don't have a market value. 'Support, in a variety of guises, remains vital. But as support systems change, that presents renewed challenges for the future viability of hill farming.'

'Changes to direct support arrangements for 2015 onwards are revolution, not evolution. The shift to area-based payments made it essential that we looked carefully at what we've got and make that work by targeting activity where we can avoid overcompensation and land abandonment.'

The other guest speakers during the morning session were inspirational and intriguing. Chloe Palmer, from Yorkshire, contrasted Canada with France and the significance they place on their food producers

and local processing. She used Switzerland as another example of a country where the agricultural sector made sure the public understood its story and contribution to a much loved and valued landscape.

Delegates also heard from David Cooper from Tardoes Farm near Muirkirk. A new entrant to farming at the age of 17, David outlined his gradual expansion, his use of particular native breeds and a hard-headed approach, all of which have helped him achieve remarkable results.

## QMS appoints new head of industry development

SCOTLAND'S red meat promotion agency, Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), has appointed Douglas Bell as its new head of industry development.

Mr Bell, who takes over the reins from Johnny Mackey, is currently head of the agricultural policy unit at SAC Consulting, part of SRUC, Scotland's rural college.

An agriculture graduate of Edinburgh University, Mr Bell has 30 years experience of delivering high level management advice through consultancy and project design.

Mr Bell, who will start his new role with QMS at the end of October, is also involved in running the family farm near Carnwath in Lanarkshire.

Uel Morton, QMS chief executive, said: 'Doug brings a wealth of experience, as well as core skills, to the role and we look forward to him joining our staff team in the coming weeks.'

'Our industry development activities are an important area of our workload at QMS and we are very encouraged by the strong interest from farmers in grassroots activities aimed at improving the profitability, sustainability and confidence of the Scottish red meat industry.'



Douglas Bell

## Cattle society charity funds

THE Luing Society raised an impressive £2,000 at its annual open day at Culmally Farm, Golspie, back in July. The money

raised was split between the Highland Hospice in Inverness and MacMillan Nurses, also based out of Inverness.

The charities chosen by the society's host family, Angus and Evelyn McCall, and their son, Ewan.



Delegates survey new farm woodland schemes at Brackley Farm, Dalmally, courtesy of Sybil and George MacPherson. a41conference01no

### Market reports

#### ISLAY

More than 5,000 sheep go under Islay hammer

UNITED Auctions sold 5,763 lambs and sheep at their annual early October sale at Islay Auction Mart last Friday.

In keeping with current trends, lambs close to the finishing stage were slower to sell whilst store lambs were in keen demand. Cast ewes sold at extreme rates, while all classes of breeding sheep were in keen demand, especially quality noted lots.

Lambs sold to average £51.74 per head or 143.7 pence per kilo as against

£52.24 and 150.19 at the corresponding sale last year.

At the show of rams, judging was in the capable hands of Hamish MacTaggart, Kintra Farm. His awards were as follows:  
Blackface: 1, Elliot Bowman; 2 and 3, Duncan Currie.  
Crossing Rams: 1, Rop MacDougall (Texel); 2, Isobel McMillan (Suffolk); 3, Tony Rozga (Texel).  
Champion: Rop MacDougall; Reserve Elliot Bowman.

**Principal lots and prices**  
Top prices per head

**Lambs**  
SUFF: £61.50 - Octofad : £60.00 - Carrabus : £58.50 - Octofad : £58.00 - Claggan : £56.50 - Octofad, Craigfad

and Balmartin : £55.50 - Octofad, Starchmill and Craigfad : £55.00 - Kintra, Octofad and Duich.  
BELTx: £60.50 - Coille : £55.50 - Ardlussa Estate.  
TEX: £66.00 - Carrabus : £62.50 - Gartloist : £61.50 - Carrabus : £60.00 - Tallant : £59.00 - Mulindry and Carn : £57.00 & £56.50 - Ardbeg : £56.50 - Carrabus : £55.50 - Starchmill and Gartness : £55.00 - Ardbeg and 7 Claddach.  
CHEVx: £55.50 - Stanalane : £54.50 - Coillabus.  
CROSS: £58.50 & £55.00 - Octofad.

MULE: £55.00 - Starchmill : £54.50 - Claggan.  
ZwaX: £40.00 - Torrabus.  
BF: £54.50 - RSPB Oransay : £51.00 - Ceannacroic :

£50.50 - Duich : £48.50 & £48.00 - Mansefield.

**Lambs per kilo**  
SUFF: 164p - Coille: 162p - Kintra: 158p - Gleneggadale Lotts.  
BELTx: 166p - Blackrock.  
TEX: 171p and 167p - Claddach: 169p & 161p - 4 Church Way: 165p - Coille: 160p - Gartness.  
CHEVx: 162p - Kilbride and Tormisdale Croft.  
CROSS: 160p - Woodend.  
MULE: 160p - Ardnave  
BF: 149p - Nol Foreland: 148p - Gleneggadale Lotts: 148p - Scarrabus: 146p - Conisby: 144p - Kinnabus: 142p - Ardnave  
JACOBx: 153p - Ardlussa

#### OBAN

**Texel tup lambs top Oban Cally sale**

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd sold 3,460 store lambs and feeding ewes at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday, September 29.

The top price of the day went to A MacColl, Fanmore for two Texel tup lambs, selling at £82 and purchased by A MacNeill, Tiraghoil, Bunnassan.

In the feeding lamb section, top price went to I Campbell and Son, Strongorm and Frackersaig Farms, Isle of Lismore, both for Suffolk lambs at £56.

#### Leading prices

Suff lambs: £50.50 SgrìobRuadh, Isle of Mull; £50 Balnagown Croft, Isle of Lismore; £49.50 Poltalloch Farms; £49.50 Ashfield; £48 Achna-Bheinn; £48 Balure, Isle of Lismore.  
Tex lambs: £55 and £51, 3 Ballygrundle, Isle of Lismore; £53 Aird; £48 Achna-Bheinn; £48 Kinlochlaich £48 Ardiona, Isle of Iona.

- Kelsay : £65.00 - Lossit : £60.00 - No 1 Foreland and Kilchiaran.

**Rams**  
SUFF: £600 - Eorrabus.  
Blue Leicester: £550 - Coille and Island: £480 & £400(3) - Island: £400 - Coille.  
TEX: £650 - Kirkby.  
BF: £500 and £480 - Ballachlaven: £420 - 6 Church Way.

#### OBAN

**Texel tup lambs top Oban Cally sale**

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd sold 3,460 store lambs and feeding ewes at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday, September 29.

The top price of the day went to A MacColl, Fanmore for two Texel tup lambs, selling at £82 and purchased by A MacNeill, Tiraghoil, Bunnassan.

In the feeding lamb section, top price went to I Campbell and Son, Strongorm and Frackersaig Farms, Isle of Lismore, both for Suffolk lambs at £56.

#### Leading prices

Suff lambs: £50.50 SgrìobRuadh, Isle of Mull; £50 Balnagown Croft, Isle of Lismore; £49.50 Poltalloch Farms; £49.50 Ashfield; £48 Achna-Bheinn; £48 Balure, Isle of Lismore.  
Tex lambs: £55 and £51, 3 Ballygrundle, Isle of Lismore; £53 Aird; £48 Achna-Bheinn; £48 Kinlochlaich £48 Ardiona, Isle of Iona.

Chev lambs: £49 Aird; £48, 7 Calgary Croft, Isle of Mull; £46 Quinish Estate, Isle of Mull; £45 Strongorm; £44 No.4 holding, Salen; £41 7 CalgaryCroft, Isle of Mull.  
BF lambs: £43 Turnault; £40 Achnabreac; £37 Gorsteneorn; £36.50 Ardfenaig, Bunnassan; £36 Ashfield.  
Cross lambs: £49 Ardiona, Isle of Iona; £46 & £44 Calich; £44 Strongorm; £43 Achna-Bheinn.  
Mule lambs: £48 Frackersaig, Isle of Lismore; £43.50 Ashfield.  
Zwartble lambs: £38 Bal-liemore, Isle of Kerrera:  
A large show of 1,128 feeding ewes were keenly bid on, meeting a similar trade to last week.

The top price went to N Boase, Ardlarach for a pair of Texels, purchased by D Hatton, Bank Park at £62.

#### Leading prices

Cross ewes: £55 Frackersaig, Isle of Lismore; £52 Homesteads; £50 Barguillan Farms and no.4 Holding, Salen.  
Texel ewes: £62 Ardlarach; £60 Fanmore, Isle of Mull; £55 lochdar, Isle of Mull; £54 Barguillan Farms; £52 Barranrioch; £50 Mid, Isle of Lismore.  
Chev ewes: £48 Tirfuir, Isle of Lismore; £38 Croig, Isle of Mull; £37 Treshnish, Isle of Mull; £34 Strongorm.  
Suff ewes: £52 lochdar, Isle of Mull.  
BF ewes: £40 Ensay, Isle of Mull and lochdar, Isle of Mull; £38, 2 Pottie, Isle of Mull; £36 Turnault; £36 Homesteads.

## HAVE YOU NOMINATED YET?

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# west coast recruitment

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The Oban Times is inviting applications for a senior reporter.

As the position will be based in Oban, knowledge of the area would be an advantage.

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

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We want to hear from you if you have the appropriate experience and qualifications:

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Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day year-round, has a staff of nearly 200 people, and is unique in both its physical characteristics and its potential as a world centre of excellence.

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There's the real opportunity to develop your career, plus excellent benefits including pension and online discounts on a range of corporate products.

To apply, please email your CV quoting Ref 6689 to [hr.deptuk@aggregate.com](mailto:hr.deptuk@aggregate.com)

## Freelance / Consultancy Project Organiser/ Design Team Co ordination

Oban Communities Trust has reached an exciting time in the development of The Rockfield Centre and now requires further expertise. This post requires a specialist with experience in project development and design team procurement processes. The contracted post is offered on a short term freelance consultancy basis over a period of 5 months (44 days) at a day rate of £350.

Applicants are invited to forward covering letter and their CV to [info@obancommunitiestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@obancommunitiestrust.org.uk)

Deadline for applications 29th October 2015 Interviews will be held on Friday 6th November 2015 Job description can be accessed on our website

<http://www.obancommunitiestrust.org.uk/work-with-us/> or telephone 07762756072 for more information



**69%** of the business community read the regional press



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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Sous Chef to Join Team at Award Winning Hotel

Permanent appointment, £24k plus annual bonus and share of tips. Live in accommodation available.

Please email CV to [reception@lochmelfort.co.uk](mailto:reception@lochmelfort.co.uk) or call Mike Knowles (Head Chef) 01852 200233

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Assistant Farm Manager Loch Etive, Near Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland and Ireland.

We have 5 sites located within Loch Etive, near Taynuilt and are looking to recruit an Assistant Farm Manager to help strengthen and develop the team already in place.

You will have responsibility for various aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Previous aquaculture experience and a proven track record is essential. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

This is a full time position, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days including weekend cover on a rota basis. You would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business.

Salary: circa £26k plus additional payment for weekends worked.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:-

Jane McCusker, HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008 or E-mail: [jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk)

For an informal discussion about the role please contact Lewis Campbell, Farm Manager on 07827 300099.

Closing date for applications: 26 October 2015.



REQUIRE QUANTITY SURVEYOR / ESTIMATOR FOR PROJECTS THROUGHOUT ARGYLL & THE ISLANDS (Partially qualified candidate may be considered) ALSO

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## Management Accountant

Attractive salary Fixed Term Appointment - up to 18 mths

SAMS is looking for a Qualified Accountant to be involved in the running of the management accounting functions across SAMS' activities.

The post will be full time and will sit within the Financial Support Services department and duties will include coordination of the annual budget planning process, quarterly forecasting, establishing monthly reporting, variance analysis and annual statutory accounts. You will also line manage staff.

The ideal candidate will have a proven record of preparing management accounts on a timely basis and contribute to new ideas and improvements to processes.

Candidates must display excellent interpersonal skills, a positive attitude and be a team player. This is a wide and varied role with the opportunity to become actively involved in financial management at SAMS.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk). Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Management Accountant (Job Ref. D03/15.DB), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

Closing date: 23rd October 2015

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



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Argyll & Bute Third Sector Interface require an efficient and organised Administrator to work at their Head Office in Oban

Must be experienced in admin roles and responsibilities and able to work co-operatively within the team. Our current Administrator is retiring and we are seeking someone as special to take on this role, working closely with our Finance Officer and the CEO.

Hours: 20 per week. Salary £11,617.

Applications from [kathleen@argylltsi.org.uk](mailto:kathleen@argylltsi.org.uk)

Closing date 5pm 14 / 10 / 15.

Interviews will be 22nd October.

For informal discussion telephone 01631 564839. Argyll & Bute TSI Scottish Charity SC029947 & Co no SC277345



# public notices

**CROFTING COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA  
CROITEARACHD  
DECROFTING  
APPLICATIONS**

I M Fyfe  
3 Stronaba, Kilmonivaig  
0.769 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.59425

R J Cameron  
7 Upper Inveroy, Kilmonivaig  
0.3 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.59213

I M Larg  
1 Caoles, Tiree  
0.194 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.59222

M R MacEachen  
1 Toigal, Arisaig & Moidart  
0.085 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.60581

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.  
Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**First Registration of a Croft**  
Mrs Shona MacDonald has registered their croft 2 Bohuntin, Kilmonivaig, 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 26/06/2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1550.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
Single Private Mooring,  
Rubha Charsalaich, Loch Etive**

Notice is hereby given that Mr I.G. Whittaker has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of single private mooring at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Rubha Charsalaich Loch Etive	56°27.768' N	05° 18.482' W

(WGS84)  
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Public Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **05700**  
**Mr I.G. Whittaker**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
Single Point swinging mooring - Heather Island,  
Sound of Kerrera, Oban**

Notice is hereby given that Mr Currie has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of single point mooring at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Heather Island, Sound of Kerrera	56°24.432' N	05°30.510' W

(WGS84)  
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Public Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **MCMS/05691**  
**Mr Currie**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
Re-Positioning of Marine Farm, Shuna Island, Loch Linnhe**

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Sea Farms has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of re-positioning a marine farm at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Shuna Island,	56° 35.678' N	05° 22.916' W
Loch Linnhe	56° 35.697' N	05° 22.879' W
Mooring Area	56° 35.657' N	05° 22.642' W
	56° 35.421' N	05° 22.771' W
	56° 35.464' N	05° 23.029' W

(WGS84)  
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Port Appin Post Office.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **05653**  
**Scottish Sea Farms**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at THE SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>  
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/02214/FUL	Former Fort William Secondary School, Achintore Road, Fort William	Renovation of listed building, extension to create a civic hub with service point, registry, council chambers, committee rooms & office space, demolition of school canteen hut & gym & formation of a new access & road to proposed car parking - submission of amended plans
15/02215/LBC	Former Fort William Secondary School, Achintore Road, Fort William	Renovate B listed building, erection of extension to create a service point, registry, council chambers, committee rooms & office space, demolition of the existing school canteen hut & gym & formation of a new access & road to proposed car parking - submission of amended plans
15/03447/FUL	West Highland Hotel, Mallaig	Alterations and extension
15/03563/FUL	Site South of Tigh Aran, Spean Bridge	Formation of 8 serviced house plots
15/03619/FUL	The Square, Isle of Canna	Installation of 30kW bank of solar photo voltaic panels. Erection of 9 x 9m shed housing invertors and batteries. Excavation and installation of underground cable connecting to existing generator room
15/03630/S42	South Side of Alcan Site Entrance, North Road, Fort William	Section 42 application to amend condition of 14/02865/FUL
15/03675/FUL	West End Car Park, Achintore Road, Fort William	Install 2 pontoons and an access bridge
15/03693/FUL	Land 350m NE of Lower Glenfintaig Farmhouse, Spean Bridge	Replacement of 1 no. existing 15m monopole with 1 no. new 15m monopole along with 2 no. new antennas and relocation of 1 no. 600mm dish antenna, removal of 1 no. equipment cabinet, installation of 2 no. equipment cabinets, plus minor ancillary works

Time period for comments is 14 days. Application 15/02215/LBC is 21 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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**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**PLANNING**  
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERTISEMENT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02437/PP	Alterations and change of use from dwellinghouse to veterinary surgery	Kenoreef Kenoyay Isle of Tiree PA77 6JU	Tiree Area Office
15/02622/PP	Erection of access gateway to serve floating pontoon, installation of fuel tank, provision of recycling facilities, formation of car parking area and associated works	Land North of Ulva Ferry Pier Ulva Ferry Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Arns Isle of Mull
15/02623/PP	Formation of new vehicular access and associated works	Tigh Na Mara Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Connel
15/02711/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 12/00599/PP - Formation of access, car park, provision of passing places on site access, erection of storage building, polytunnels and ancillary structures, (to facilitate the formation of an allotment scheme)	Community Allotments Land North East of Castle Croft Tobarney Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QA	Tobarney Area Office

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.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES (LOCHAVULLIN ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015**

On Monday 5th October 2015, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle (with the exception of vehicles in relation to the works or emergency services), on that length of Lochavullin Road, Oban which extends from its junction with Glershellach Road, in an easterly thence southerly direction for a distance of 50 metres or thereby.  
This closure is required to permit essential railway bridge maintenance works to be carried out and will be effective when indicated by signs overnight between 2030 and 0600 hours from Saturday 17th October to Friday 23rd October 2015 or until such time as the works are complete, whichever is the earlier.  
Alternative routes will be signed in an appropriate manner.  
**Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD**

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES ARGYLL AND BUTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN: SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE**

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA): ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT  
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 18 (1) (C) OF THE PLANNING ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006 AND UNDER SECTION 16 (2) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

Argyll and Bute Council has revised the Environmental Report (Strategic Environmental Assessment) that accompanies the adopted Local Development Plan, to include an annex relating to draft Supplementary Guidance.  
The Environmental Report together with the draft Supplementary Guidance can be viewed at <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp>  
The relevant documents are issued for consultation for a period of 28 days until the 29th October 2015.  
The documents will also be available to view in the Council Offices at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.  
Please note responses must be received before 5pm on the 29th October 2015. Responses should be sent to Sheila McKenzie, Development and Infrastructure, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD or by emailing [ldp@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
If you require further information please telephone Sheila McKenzie on 01546 604158 or email [ldp@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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www.mkmacleod.co.uk

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**BIRTHS**

**BUTLER - DOCHERTY** - Steven and Karen are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their third son, Lewis Robert, born on August 28, 2015. A little brother for Daniel and Craig. Special thanks to Oban Maternity and Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.

**MARRIAGES**

**McLENNAN - LEADBETTER** - On September 9, 2015 in Mauritius, Alison to Alex. Present address - 3 Pentland Ave, Penicuik, EH26 0DL

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**McLENNAN - CAMPBELL** - On October 9, 1965, Kenny McLennan was married to Kathleen Campbell by Rev. I. U. MacDonald in Bridge of Orchy Church. Present address: 1 Scott Cottages, Bridge of Orchy.

**MACKECHNIE - MACLEOD** - At St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on October 14, 1965, Roderick Leslie MacKechnie to Mary Margaret MacLeod. Congratulations and lots of love from the family.

**MACLEAN - MACMILLAN** - On October 14, 1965 in Oban Old Parish Church by Rev William MacDonald, Flora MacLean to Malcolm MacMillan. Present address: Glenora, Ardconnell Road, Oban.

**DEATHS**

**BLACK** - Suddenly, but peacefully, on October 2, 2015, in his 83rd year, Allan, loving husband to Anne, devoted brother, stepfather and grampa. Sadly missed by all. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glenruitten Road, Oban, on Friday, October 9, 2015 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfirth Cemetery. Family flowers only. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (known as ABCD).

**BLACKADDER** - Marta (née Davis) on October 6, 2015, at Craignure Hospital, Mull. Beloved wife of Bruce and dearly loved Mum of Alistair, Neil and daughter-in-law Trina. A loving grandma to Findlay and Ruairidh. "Sleep my beloved, in the calm of all calms".

**KIRSOP** - Peacefully after a short illness, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on October 1, 2015, with her parents at her side, Joanna, much loved daughter of Eddie and Sheena, loving sister to Thomas and fun loving aunt of Reece and Ryan.

**MACLEOD** - At Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness, Sheena Stewart (née Ross), beloved wife of James E.S. Macleod, mother of Flora and Morag and grandmother of Tom, Pawel, Bella, Lucy, Marcus and Rory. Deeply mourned. Funeral at St John's Cathedral, Oban on Monday, October 19 at 10 am thereafter to Cardross Crematorium at 3.15 pm. Friends and relations are welcome to attend at the Cathedral or at the Crematorium or at both. Family flowers only, please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for St John's Cathedral, Oban.

**MUNN** - Peacefully at Tigh a Rudha, Tیره on October 4 2015, Angus Munn, aged 88 years, (former Chief Inspector, Argyll/Strathclyde Police) much loved husband of Nella, beloved father of Janice and father-in-law of Donnie. Gad ionndrainn gu brath.

**ROBERTSON** - After a short illness, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on October 6, 2015, aged 71 years, Ian Robertson, beloved husband of the late Norma, much loved dad of Alan and Lorna and father-in-law to Michael and devoted grandad to Anna. Sadly missed by all who knew him.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**AUSTIN** - Kathleen. The family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, mass cards and donations following the loss of our lovely mum. Heartfelt thanks to the wonderful staff at Mossparc, doctors at Glen Mor, Father Roddy and Sister Diane of St. John's Church, Jamie and Mike McFall for funeral arrangements, MacDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers and Glen Nevis Restaurant for the reception. £300 was donated for the Highland Hospice.

**CAMPBELL** - (née Boyle). Peter, Michelle and Peter (Snr) and grandson Stephen wish to thank all the relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of mum. Many thanks to Father James McNeil for the requiem mass and to D and A Munn for their kind care and the funeral arrangements, and the Rowantree Hotel for their excellent catering. Would also like to thank all the people who attended the church and graveside and also thank those who donated to the ABCD charity, we raised £368.00.

**CROARKIN** - The family of the late Michael would like to thank most sincerely relatives, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming support and many kindnesses, meals, flowers and cards over recent months. They wish to offer their heartfelt gratitude to Gaynor Wotherspoon and her team of District Nurses, also Marie Curie Nurses and Care+ staff for their outstanding professionalism and dedicated care at all times. Sincere thanks to Rt. Rev. Mgr. James Canon MacNeil for his many visits, spiritual support and a beautiful requiem mass. Thanks also to Mary Catherine for a beautiful Gaelic hymn. Thanks to staff of Hamish Hoey and Son funeral directors, for professional services and the Royal Hotel for excellent catering. It was very comforting to see so many people at the funeral and interment paying their respects to Michael. The retiral collection has raised over £900 for Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan Cancer Support.

**GROSS** - Rhoda and Family would like to thank all friends and family for their kind expressions of sympathy following the very sad loss of Jimmy. Very special thanks to Gaynor and her team for their care of Jimmy and the family over his last few weeks. Many thanks to the Rev. Dugald

Cameron for his comforting service and to D&A Munn for their efficient arrangements. Grateful thanks for the very kind donations at the service totalling £742.78 which will be split between Marie Curie and Macmillan.

**PITMAN** - We, the family of David Pitman, would like to thank the people of Mull and beyond who, in the last few weeks, have shared with us their affectionate memories of him, or who joined us at Kilmore Church, Dervaig, on September 24, at a service to celebrate his life. We were particularly grateful, at this emotional time, for the loving kindness shown by the Rev. Johnny Paton, John Morrison, Colin Morrison, Tracy Mayo and Brenda Galbraith.

**SPENCE** - Frances (née Dailly) - The family of Frances would like to thank friends who were in attendance at the funeral, those who sent their kind thoughts, Father Paul, Deacon Tony and Father Barrie, the medical staff at Aberdeen Royal and Dr Grays Hospital, Elgin, Mike McFall Funeral Directors for their excellent care and McDonald Brothers for the beautiful flowers. The donation raised £335 for the charity ICUsteps.

**MEMORIAMS**

**MACLEOD** - Treasured memories of my beloved parents, Archie, died October 7, 2000 and Rita, died May 10, 2005.

Always remembered.  
- Sandra, Denis and family

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of my dear husband Donald, our father, father-in-law, grandpa and great-grandpa, who died October 5, 2014.  
Loved, missed and remembered always.  
- Inserted by Norah and all the family.

**MCTAGGART** - In loving memory of a dear husband and father Ian who died October 10, 1995. Softly the leaves of memory fall,  
Gently we treasure and gather them all,  
And seen and heard you are always here  
Still loved, still missed and very dear  
- your loving wife Hilda, son Ian William and daughter Gwen.

**MILLS** - Precious memories of Billy, a loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa who passed away on October 6, 2008. You always has a smile to share  
A laugh, a joke, and a time to care  
A wonderful nature, warm and true  
Are the many memories I have of you.  
- Your loving wife Helen xxx  
- Your presence we miss  
Your memory we treasure  
Loving you always  
Forgetting you never  
- Love Violet, Helen, Gordon, Billy, Gordon Jnr and Paul xx

**ROSS** - In loving memory of my wife Sandra who passed away October 8, 2014. Sadly missed.  
- Jim

**Obituary - JOAN SMITH 1937 - 2015**

JOAN was born in Glasgow, the youngest of the four children of Isaac and Mary Macdonald. The family home, that she shared with her sisters Chrissie and Margaret and her brother Donnie, was in Partick, one of the city's foremost Gaelic ghettos, but the family roots were deeply embedded in the Ness area of the island of Lewis. So, like most Glasgow Gaels, Joan grew up with a bi-focal view of life. There was daily life in the city, but always in the background there was the magnetic pull of the more northern landscapes, and the northern culture, that urban Gaels still called 'home'.

Following her schooling at Hyndland Secondary, Joan found employment with the engineering firm of Barr & Stroud, working on secret projects for the Ministry of Defence. The war years of her early childhood had by then given way to the post-war period of recovery and reconstruction, and Glasgow's Gaelic community was swollen and invigorated, both by an influx of returning service-men and women, and a new surge of younger people from the north coming to the city to work or to study. The many Highland associations in Glasgow maintained a vibrant social life, with their ceildhs and dances, and at the same time the city's Highland churches were thronged with people, many of them young. In the MacDonalds' case, their own church base, at Gardner Street, was just a matter of yards from their door. Here a ministry of evangelical earnestness and great pastoral warmth had been maintained since 1924 by the Rev. Kenneth Gillies, who remained there as minister until his death at the age of 89 in 1976. Stirrings of religious revival in Lewis in the early 1950s, as well as the Billy Graham Glasgow Crusade of 1955, had had their own quickening effect, so that the late 1950s saw quite a number of the younger people at Gardner Street making their own commitment to Christian discipleship at that time. Joan was one of these, and she embarked on her life of Christian service, teaching in the Sunday School, singing in the choir, playing the organ for the Wednesday mid-week meeting, and going with the Youth Fellowship to hold Sunday afternoon services at a geriatric hospital in the city's east end.

And in the middle of all this, along came Angus. He, too, had recently made his Christian commitment, and was already conscious of a call to Christian ministry. He was about to begin his studies in Divinity at Aberdeen by the time he and Joan were married in 1962, and so began a partnership in service for Christ that was to last for more than half a century. On completion of his studies, Angus was ordained and inducted to Benbecula, a traditional island parish recently invaded by the modern world, with the coming of military rocketry and a substantial influx of military personnel. In the midst of all this cultural mix and collision, Joan was lady of the manse, and the mother of a growing family with the arrival of William, Cameron and Alasdair. Contact with the Army opened the way for a major change in all of their lives when Angus was presented with the opportunity to join the full-time team of Army chaplains, to bring the challenge and the comforts of the Gospel to service men and women in their demanding, and frequently dangerous, calling. He and Joan jointly made the courageous decision to go for it, and after 7 years in Benbecula, they moved to Germany, where Angus was posted to be with the Queen's Own Highlanders. There Joan had to adjust to a pattern of life completely different from that of the island manse. It was in Germany that Jonathan arrived to complete the quartet of sons, and Joan gave herself with great dedication to the role of mother and homemaker. Angus recalls that, with each Army removal, when their possessions arrived in storage boxes, Joan would have most of these opened and emptied by the time he came home in the evening. He also stressed what a wonderful mother she was, and continued to be, to the four boys.

The few years in Germany were followed by subsequent postings, usually of a few years each, to various locations in Britain - at Bridge of Don, Aberdeen; at Chelsea Barracks with the Scots Guards; at Aldershot Garrison and St. Andrew's Garrison Church; and in the final few years, from 1987-91 as Senior Chaplain for Scotland, based at Craigiehall near Cramond.



SADLY MISSED: Joan Smith

During Angus's time with the Scots Guards, there were periods when Joan had to share the anxiety of many Army wives, with a husband absent in a zone of danger - first, when Angus did a tour of duty in Northern Island, and then, more worryingly still, when he accompanied the British task force during the Falklands conflict of 1982. While they lived in the London area, Joan was able to enjoy the company and support of two Glasgow friends from school days - Chrissie Mackay and Anne MacLeod. Their regular meetings were a source of great strength to her at this time. When Angus's army service came to an end in 1991, he and Joan embarked on the final phase of his ministry - the 15 years he spent as Chaplain to the Oil Industry. The chaplaincy was based in Aberdeen, and he and Joan lived in Lumphanan out in the country to the west of the city. The boys were by now maturing into manhood, and while life on the domestic front was perhaps a little less demanding than it had been, Joan, who had already confronted and overcome breast cancer when she was in her 40s, and the children still young, had to face the testing challenge of further episodes of ill health. These continued to dog her during the retirement years in Edinburgh, though that period was also brightened with the birth of grandchildren, and

the proximity of one of these at Dalgetty Bay afforded frequent opportunities for refreshing visits across the Forth. Joan continued to live positively and courageously, until, ten days ago, she succumbed to a heart attack, and her earthly sojourn was completed. Reflecting on her life, a verse from the prophet Isaiah springs to mind as a fitting motto for it all - the verse that says, 'In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength'. Joan was essentially a quiet, unostentatious person, finding pleasure in her quiet moments in reading, or in favourite radio and television programmes. At the same time, in the way she valiantly soldiered at Angus's side, as wife and mother, and sharer of their common service for Christ, she proved herself to be a person of great inner strength, a strength deriving, ultimately, from her confident trust in her God. As Angus and the boys reflect gratefully on all that she was to them, in her love and her loyalty, her gentleness and her kindness, we can join them in thanking God for her, and we can pray that, when in coming days the awareness of her being no longer with them will be painfully real, they can draw inspiration and comfort from all their good memories of the past, and reach out in faith to the glorious future that is yet to come.

Bill Harvey

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**Thought for the week**

**LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**  
Some of you may be familiar with the name Catherine Marshall. She was a wonderful Christian author who wrote such classics as Christy, which became a television series. There was an occasion in her life when she felt as if the flame of God's love had gone out. It started with the sudden death of her infant grandchild. She called it the dark

night of the soul. In her journal she described it this way: "Inside I am dry and lonely, unable to accomplish anything, really, just going through the motions of life, barely able to do that. It is more than a dry period. I've been through those before and did not lose the Presence. This is darkness. Deadness. Awful in the way it numbs you, makes you cold and indifferent. You do the very things, say the very

word, you know you should not. Frightening!" But she did not give up. She kept praying. She kept doing everything she could to stir up the fire. Eventually in her journal she wrote the following: "A feeling rises up inside me that little trickles of praise are now running together, merging, beginning to form a small river of praise. It began mechanically, yet now has increasingly the feel of spontaneous emotion. Slowly but

surely my mind is being cleansed. Rich, beautiful, positive words are taking over, chasing away the negative ones. I am being filled with Your light. Lord Jesus, how radiant and glorious is the light of Yours!... Suddenly I felt the living presence of Jesus. What joy to have this again in my life!" That light can shine in the darkest places when you invite Jesus into your life.

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**CLARKE - ROBERTSON**  
On October 3, 2015 at Atholl Palace, the wedding of Rowan, daughter of Sarah and Bill Clarke of Kilchrenan and Robert, son of Margaret and Bobby Robertson of Glasgow took place. A joyful celebration for all the family and friends.

**Kirsty MacLean**  
Recently graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with a BA 2:1 honours degree in Festival and Events with Human Resource Management. Kirsty was educated at Park Primary and Oban High School. Kirsty is the eldest daughter of David and Karen MacLean, Oban.

# Lorne come out on top in a forgettable encounter

**Oban Lorne** 19  
**Kilmarnock** 10  
**BT West Division One**

OBAN Lorne welcomed Kilmarnock RFC to Glencruitten on Saturday with the hosts looking to bounce back to winning ways after the previous week's loss at Glasgow Accies.

Coach, Corrie Louw, fielded arguably Oban's strongest line-up of the season and welcomed back Cammy and Struan Smith into the squad along with scrum half Dan Fox.

Both teams made an uneventful start to the game in front of a large home crowd, thanks to the sponsors' lunch prior to the match.

Oban took the lead after 15 minutes. Craig Wright slotted over a straight-forward penalty to give a 3-0 lead to the hosts.

The Green Machine were struggling to get any rhythm to a game that stuttered between scrums, lineout and a high penalty rate at the breakdown from both sides.

Oban scored the first try of the game mid-way into the half. A powerful rolling maul in the 22 gave Oban the platform to attack close to the tryline. Scrum half, Dan Fox, managed to dive over from close range to give Oban a 5-0 lead. Craig Wright's conversion narrowly missed.

The home side started to dominate the game as the half wore on, with an improving lineout and some tactical kicks from Dave McCabe to give Oban territorial advantage. Kilmarnock hit back with a penalty to reduce the score to 5-3. Oban winger, Plato Moisiadis, was taken off shortly after with a nasty-looking knee injury. The Greek International winger, who has missed out this season so far due to injury, will be hoping this latest setback will not keep him off the pitch for too long. Moisiadis was replaced by last week's man of the match, Rufus Stones.

Craig Wright scored Oban's second try of the afternoon shortly before the break. A break from the 22 by the Oban forwards allowed Wright to pick the ball up from the back of the resulting ruck and touch down over the line to give Oban a 12-3 lead at the interval.

Those on the touchline who were hoping for the game to burst into life were left disappointed as again, a scrappy start to the half was made by both sides. Oban were beginning to dominate most areas of play, but were being let down by an inconsistent scrum

and some frustrating handling errors.

Oban scored their third try of the day midway into the half. They broke free from within their own half through Craig Wright to give the forwards the platform to attack in the 22. After some dangerous moves close to the line, Oban player/coach Corrie Louw passed an inside ball to powerful winger, Callum MacLachlan, who bulldozed through the defence for Oban's third try of the day. A successful conversion took the score to 19-3.

As Oban looked to race clear on the scoreboard, Kilmarnock hit back with a try to give a nervy last 15 minutes to the game. Both teams toiled to create any scoring chances in the closing stages as a forgettable game ended 19-10 to Oban Lorne.

The win lifts Oban to fifth place in the league with a game in hand against some of the clubs above them. Oban have a week off from playing this Saturday before a long trip to take on Annan RFC in the semi-final of the BT West Shield on Saturday, October 17. Oban's next home game is against Lenzie RFC on Saturday October 24.

Argyll & Bute P-P Hyndland For the second time this season, an Argyll & Bute game has been called off due to the opposition not being able to field a team. Hyndland RFC frustratingly called off late on Friday afternoon as they could only raise nine players for the trip to Oban.

As with the postponed fixture v Cowal earlier in September, Argyll had a full squad of players available along with a sponsors' lunch and launch of new playing strips organised for the game.

This leaves the Argyll team having played only one league fixture this season despite the season starting over a month ago. Argyll & Bute have no game until Saturday, October 24, when they take on Glasgow East in Oban.

Lorne Ladies 85  
Watsonians 12  
BT National League Div 1

Another dry but chilly day saw a 12-woman strong Green Army jog out with their heads held high to take on the 16-woman strong squad of Watsonians, from Edinburgh, a team Lorn lost to at the close of last season.

The girls started strongly with a huge opening hit from returning player, Alanna MacKenzie, followed by a storming run up the



Callum MacLachlan dives over for Oban Lorne's third try against Kilmarnock. Photo: Stephen Lawson

right wing by Fiona Steele, also on her unexpected but greatly received comeback from retirement (once again)! Prop Laura MacCormick crashed through the defence to place the ball over the line, bringing the score to 5-0 in the opening minutes of the game.

The Green Army maintained the majority of possession, and following some scrappy play in the midfield, were rewarded by try number two, with second row, Veronica Speirs, making great progress up the pitch, followed by a great individual sprint by stand off Emma Roxburgh to score under the posts (10-0).

Latecomer, Roxy Goddard, joined the girls on the wing to bring the numbers to 13-a-side, shortly followed by some great running by front row, Mhairi Cruickshanks, from inside Oban's own half through two tackles (15-0).

Watsonians were not giving up without a fight and began driving the girls in green back into their

own 22, with some great steals from rucks, but a sloppy pass allowed Goddard to intercept and centre Sheila McGregor to score (20-0 after just 18 minutes).

Good play by Oban, especially using the unmarked wings of the pitch to their advantage, strong rucking and scrums by the forwards and good hands by the backs were the nature of the first half, and after an unfortunate dropped ball over the try line, a big team drive and good offloads allowed Goddard to score in the left hand corner, converted by MacCormick (27-0).

The girls have been working on using 'tip ons' to move the ball quickly across the park, allowing Roxburgh to make a great break.

Following a strong tackle in the middle of the park, McGregor demonstrated a brilliant pick up and offloaded to Steele on the wing who used two huge hand offs to score under the posts (34-0, 28 mins). This was followed by another try by Goddard, demonstrating her great dummies and

clever footwork (41-0, 35 mins). Once more, a huge hand off by Steele brought another try under the posts in quick succession and yet another successful conversion by MacCormick (48-0), whilst two more quick tries brought the score to 58-0 by half-time.

Watsonians were clearly given a rousing half-time team talk and started the second half extremely strongly, bringing a new level of physicality to the game and, after a momentary loss of concentration, Oban found themselves conceding a try. This was countered by two tries in quick succession by Goddard to give her a hat-trick, with more impressively creative footwork and dummies (70-5, 60 mins).

Goddard ran over the line once again but generously offloaded to allow fullback Kirsty Smith a try, followed by another great break by Steele to bring in her hat-trick, earning her woman of the match (80-5). In the closing few minutes of the game, two penalties against Oban allowed Watsonians the space and momentum to run in a try (80-12), but it was too little too late for the Edinburgh side, and a final try by Campbell brought the match to a close, with a convincing win for the Green Army (85-12).

The girls have a Sunday off next weekend to recuperate before their cup match on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, as yet not confirmed to be at home or away.

Oban High U16s 68  
Ardrossan 12  
West T4 Conference

Oban's U16 team recorded an impressive 68-12 win over Ardrossan in the West T4 Conference on Sunday. The Oban side are currently unbeaten in the setup with two wins from two. The next game for the U16's is away to league leaders Birkmyre on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

Oban High impress in West School Conference

Oban High hosted Dalziel High School at Glencruitten on Wednesday last week in the second round of T4 School fixtures. Matches were played at S1, S2 & S3/4 with impressive wins for all Oban teams. This was the second round of fixtures for Oban High since the competition started with three further fixture meetings planned before the end of November.

The new T4 School setup introduced by Scottish Rugby is aimed to give players more opportunity for School v School games.

## MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

MMA (BJJ)

Oban MMA has changed its name to Oban BJJ (Brazilian Jiu Jitsu). This has been a natural progression for the club as we have prioritised in BJJ for a few years now. Tuesday will still be a mixed martial arts class but all other classes will concentrate on BJJ.

Last Saturday saw the Organisation's head instructor, Marcos Nardini, up doing a seminar covering side control position to submissions. These once a month seminars have quickly become very popular and not to be missed.

BJJ is a martial art, combat sport and a self defence system that focuses on grappling and especially ground fighting. Brazilian jiu-jitsu was formed from Kodokan Judo ground fighting fundamentals. Brazilian jiu jitsu eventually came to be its own art through the experiments, practices, and adaptation of judo through Carlos and Hélio Gracie, who passed their knowledge on to their extended family.

For club info contact: coogiepots@gmail.com

Shukokai Karate

Argyll Martial Arts club in Inveraray have launched a new 'in club' training programme leading up to a qualification of Junior Instructor.

At present six students, all brown and black belts have signed up for it and are progressing through the modules. The modules include Basic Class Structure, Physical Fitness Theory, Karate Terminology and the Psychological Side of Martial Arts. The club have also introduced a new award scheme for 'student of the month'.



WELL DONE: Douglas Cameron with his student of the month certificate at gained from Shokokai Karate club

September's winners were Douglas Cameron and Anook Clarke.

Training will continue through the October holidays as usual in Inveraray but will stop in Oban due to the school gym being closed.

For club info contact: kenni.gray@btinternet.com

Kyokushinkai Karate

With only just over a week to go to the British Open Knockdown Championships, the hard preparation work has been done.

The fighters now only work on keeping up their fitness levels and work on fighting movement, no contact training is allowed at this stage in case of injury before the event. The Scottish contingent will be travelling down on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> for the weigh-in, with the tournament starting the following morning. Competitors are transported from the official hotel by specially laid on buses to the venue.

After this event, preparation will start for the Scottish Open, which is held in Glasgow on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.

For club info contact: iain@ikku.co.uk

Kickboxing

Senshi Do Kick Boxing held a grading on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September with the following junior students passing and gaining the following grades:

9<sup>th</sup> Kyu Yellow Belt; Hazel McGhee.

8<sup>th</sup> Kyu Orange Belt; Ayden McKenna, Aiden Denholme & Innes McKinley.

7<sup>th</sup> Kyu Green Belt; Tyler Graham & David Gowdie.

6<sup>th</sup> Kyu Blue belt; Conner MacLean.

4<sup>th</sup> Kyu Red belt; Phoebe Duffy & Jodie Duffy.

A massive congratulations to Billie Bratton on gaining his Junior Black belt.

From Sharon Dickison's Women Only Class the following ladies passed:

6<sup>th</sup> Kyu Blue Belt; Ann-Marie Cameron (double grading), Sandie Duffy, Kim Duffy & Kerrie Galbraith.

3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu Brown Belt; Iva Bursikova.

A lot of the junior students are training for the tournament in Lochgilphead on the 1st November and the seniors are beginning their training for the Scottish Open in Glasgow on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016.

Classes continue as usual; Wednesdays juniors 6:30pm, seniors 7:30pm and Sundays 11am for juniors, 12pm for seniors, 2pm Sharon's Women Only class.

For club info contact: shihanwill@gmail.com



TOP SAILORS: Winners of the Oban Wee Peaks Race 2015

## Finlo Cottier wins Oban Wee Peaks Race

THE Oban Wee Peaks Race is fast becoming established as a popular event and 'must-do' area event.

Run by Oban Sailing Club this is a unique adventure event, involving racing by dinghy or kayak/canoe to various points round Oban Bay and the Sound of Kerrera and involving three hill runs to the tops of the highest hills around Oban.

Now in its third year and modelled on the Scottish Islands Peaks Race, the race is open to dinghy sailors, kayakers or canoeists of all ages either singly or in pairs.

This year, an entry of 15 in seven sailing dinghies and three sea kayaks took to the water with a strong south easterly breeze

helping everyone quickly reach the beach at the War Memorial. The 2.8 km run up the 128m hill north of Dunollie was completed by the fastest competitors in 15 minutes.

Heading to Kerrera, the run was 3.4km to the 114m summit of Barr Dubh - the northern most high point of the island and initially over some challenging moorland. Dinghy sailor, Finlo Cottier, was in the lead at the summit of Barr Dubh, but two junior competitors Jonathan Head (15) and Alistair Murphy (17) running as a pair were potential challengers.

Kayaker, Adam Richards, was third to make the Kerrera summit, but in the lead at this point in the kayak class. Positions were all to play for as the participants

hit the water again and sailed/kayaked south round Heather Island over to Kilbowie. The final run was 2.7km to the top of Druim Mor (137m) and back.

The race across the water back to the finish line of the Sailing Club was led by Adam Richards who took first place in the kayak class with a time of 1:52:26.

Excellent

Finlo Cottier won the trophy for first place in the Dinghy Class with a time of 1:53:52. Jonathan Head and Alasdair Murphy were second in the Dinghy Class with a time of 1:57:08. Their excellent performance meant they took the trophy for the fastest Juniors.

Nine year-old Ewan Dowd's amazing sailing and running efforts along with father, Chris,

Sailing

won them third place in the dinghy class with a time of 2:07:49.

In the Kayak Class, Lucy Shearer, took second (2:31:53) and Iain Campbell third place (2:38:58).

Oban Sailing Club aims to run this event again next year. Commodore John Peden who developed the idea said: 'This is a fantastic event which is not only challenging but great fun. Since it's open to everyone, we would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in taking part next year, whether dinghy sailor, canoeist or kayaker. We look forward to seeing some new faces as well as the regulars who have made this event such a success.'

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

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The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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# Kyles slip-up gives Newtonmore the advantage

## Marine Harvest Premiership

**NEWTONMORE** consolidated their place at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership with an impressive 4-1 away win against Camanachd Cup holders, Lovat. A hat-trick from Glen MacKintosh and a goal from Cameron Binnie saw the Badenoch side go 4-0 in front before Greg Matheson scored a consolation goal for Lovat. With four games remaining, Newtonmore have a four point lead over second place, Kyles Athletic, who dropped a home point against Glenurquhart last weekend. Newtonmore take on Fort William at the Eilan on Saturday. Throw-up at 2.30pm.

**INVERARAY** plunged deeper into relegation trouble when they lost 2-1 at home to Kingussie. David Robertson was on target for the Royal Burgh side. This defeat leaves Aray bottom of the table, four points behind Oban Camanachd, but the Oban side have three games in hand and a much better goal difference. Inveraray play host to Kinlochshiel on Saturday in their second last game of the season.

**OBAN CAMANACHD** made the long trip to take on Kinlochshiel

last Saturday but returned home on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline. Malcolm Clark scored the goal for the red and blacks. The Oban side sit second bottom of the premiership, four points behind Kingussie, but have four games in hand over their Badenoch rivals. Camanachd have five games left, four of which are at home. The Oban side play host to Glenurquhart at Mossfield on Saturday. As well as a league fixture, the teams will also play for the Mòd Cup.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** missed the opportunity to keep the pressure on league leaders, Newtonmore, after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Glenurquhart at Tighnabruich last weekend. Robbie MacLeod opened the scoring for Kyles in the 35th minute, but Fraser Heath equalised two minutes into time added on by the referee. Kyles will be looking for revenge for their defeat in the Camanachd Cup final when they travel to take on Lovat this Saturday.

**FORT WILLIAM** had no game last weekend and will play their last game of the season on Saturday when they travel to play league leaders Newtonmore at the Eilan on Saturday. Throw up is 2.30pm with referee Evan MacRae in charge.

## Shinty

**KINGUSSIE** eased the threat of relegation slightly on Saturday when they travelled to the Winterton to take on Inveraray. Goals from James Hutchison and Bob MacGregor gave them a narrow 2-1 win. The men from Badenoch are third bottom of the premiership, but have a four point advantage over Oban Camanachd although the Oban side have four games in hand. Kingussie have still to travel to take on the Oban side and the result of this game could go a long way to see who would take on Kilmallie in the play-offs. Kingussie have no game on Saturday.

**GLENURQUHART** travelled to Tighnabruich last Saturday and a goal in the 92nd minute from Fraser Heath gave them a share of the points in a 1-1 draw against Kyles Athletic. The men from Drumnadrochit look as though they will finish in third place in the Premiership. They make the journey to Mossfield on Saturday when they play Oban Camanachd in their last game of the season.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** had an impressive 4-1 home win over Oban Camanachd last Saturday thanks to goals from Finlay MacRae, Keith MacRae, Fraser MacVicar and John MacRae. The Balmacara side travel to play Inveraray in their last league fixture of the season on Saturday.

**LOCHABER** had no game last weekend and are free again this Saturday. They only have one game left against Oban Camanachd which will take place in Oban on Saturday, October 17.

**LOVAT** have hit a poor run of form since winning the Camanachd Cup. Last Saturday, they found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline against Newtonmore. The premiership leaders were 4-0 in the lead but a Greg Anderson consolation goal in the 83rd minute made the final score 4-1. Lovat play host to their Camanachd Cup opponents, Kyles Athletic, this Saturday.

## South Division One

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** moved two points clear at the top in South Division One with a 3-1 home win over Kyles Athletic. On target for the red and blacks were Michael MacQueen (2) and Brian MacCallum. This Saturday, Lochside take on Oban Celtic in



EYES ON THE BALL: Newtonmore's Jamie Robinson gets between Lovat's Callum Cruden and Danny Kelly Photo: Neil Paterson

a local derby at Ganavan where an exciting match is anticipated.

**BUTE** travelled to take on Taynuilt last weekend and recorded an impressive 7-1 win. Goalscorers were James Craig and three goals apiece from Robert Walker and Duncan Davidson gave them a comfortable victory. Bute play host to Glenorchy on Saturday. The islanders are two points behind league leaders, Lochside Rovers, but have a game in hand.

**KILMORY** travelled to take on Glenorchy at the Mart Park, Dalmally, last Saturday but returned home on the wrong end of a 4-0 scoreline. The Mid Argyll side remain bottom of the league and play their final game on Saturday at home to Kyles Athletic.

**OBAN CELTIC** recorded a 3-1 win away at Inveraray last Saturday. Celtic's goalscorers again the Royal Burgh side were Daniel Madej, Kenny Wotherspoon and Calum Fox. This Saturday, the green and whites host Oban rivals and league leaders, Lochside Rovers, at Ganavan. A win for Celtic would set up a thrilling end to the season.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** travelled to Mossfield last Saturday, but ended up losing 3-1 to league leaders, Lochside Rovers. On target for the Tighnabruich side was Brandon Wilson. Kyles play away to Kilmory on Saturday.

**TAYNUILT** had no answer to high scoring Bute last weekend losing 7-1 at home in their last league game of the season. Taynuilt's consolation goal was scored by Stuart Scott.



TUSSLE: Iain Greenhouse, Inverness, left, in a tussle for the ball with Skye's Iain MacLennan. Skye won the North Division Two league title thanks to a 3-1 win. Photo: Donald Cameron

**INVERARAY** lost at home to Oban Celtic last Saturday in their final league fixture. Ross Anderson netted for Aray.

**GLENORCHY** recorded a convincing 4-0 win over bottom side, Kilmory, last weekend thanks to goals from James Livingston (2), Andrew Smith and Keiran Galacher. The Dalmally side travel to play second in the table Bute at the Meadows on Saturday.

**STRACHUR** had no game on Saturday and have no game this weekend. The men from Strachur have two away games left against Lochide Rovers and Bute

## South Division Two

**OBAN LORN** played their last

game of the season when they hosted Ballachulish last Saturday but lost 2-0. On target for Balla were Malcolm Watson and Pat Carr.

## North Division Two

**SKYE CAMANACHD** second team emulated their first team by winning the North Division Two league title after a 3-1 away win at Inverness. On target for the islanders were Angie 'Borve' MacDonald (2) and John Angus MacInnes. This Saturday Skye host Boleskine

**GLENGARRY** took on Kilmallie away from home last weekend but lost 3-1. On the scoresheet for the Invergarry side was Andrew Gilchrist. Glengarry travel to play Inverness on Saturday.



TWO-GOAL HERO: Michael MacQueen in action for Lochside Rovers in their 3-1 win over Kyles Athletic. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

# Ladies hold open greensome at Taynuilt golf club

Scratch: 1 Mary Phillips and Donna Campbell (Isle of Seil GC) 82; 2 Fiona McGlynn and Carol MacLarty (Taynuilt GC) 85; 3 Janet Buchanan (Dalmally GC) and Liz Skinner (Cardross GC) 88.  
Handicap: 1 Kay Dowling and Jean Faichney (Killin GC) 63 (25); 2 Mary Moffett and Jill Lotherian (St Fillans GC) 66 (26); 3 Janet Buchanan (Dalmally

## Golf

GC) and Liz Skinner (Cardross GC) 88.  
Longest drive 1st/10th - Joyce Burnett (St Fillans GC).  
Nearest the pin 3rd/12th - Sheena Chisholm (Killin GC).  
Nearest the pin 6th/15th - Lily MacKay (Dalmally GC).  
The event was sponsored by Taynuilt Hotel.



SILVERWARE: Prizewinners at the Taynuilt ladies greensome

# Athletic unlucky to exit Scottish Cup

OBAN Athletic travelled to Scotstoun Stadium on Saturday to play on their 4G pitch in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

Their opponents were SAFL Premier Division One league leaders, Drumchapel Amateur Colts.

The Oban team travelled with only twelve players after three players pulled out on the Friday night, so Athletic knew they were in for a tough game.

The match started with Drumchapel passing the ball out from the back and playing good passing football, but were coming up against a solid Athletic defence of Craig Campbell, Stephen Kelly and Craig Livingston who were winning every tackle and everything in the air.

The midfield of Stephan Campbell, Sean Ford and Paul Carmichael were winning the second ball and were keeping the possession to frustrate Drumchapel in the midfield.

Ruiiri McLennan and Bailey Taylor were making good runs down the wings to keep the pressure on the Colts defence.

The visitors started to come into the game with a Kris Gilles shot going wide of the post and another shot from Alan Buchanan sailing over the bar.

On the 20 minute mark, a good run from Paul Carmichael and an inch-perfect pass through the defence found Kris Gilles in space and Kris made no mistake from 18 yards to open the scoring.

Good play from Sean Ford and Stephan Campbell set up Paul Carmichael who beat two defenders before going through on the keeper but his shot went agonizingly wide of the post.

The rest of the half was played out in the middle of the park with few goalscoring chances being made.

The second half started with the home side playing at a higher pace and using the ball better.

Athletic were struggling to get out of their own half and, for the first time, Daniel Cassels was called in to action making two saves within a couple of minutes.

Good play from Alan Buchanan and Paul Carmichael sent Kris Gilles through for a one on one with the goalkeeper, but the Athletic striker shot straight at goalkeeper Scott Urquhart.

Colts made three substitutions replacing two midfield players and a forward and this changed the game due to the fresh legs coming on and a more direct approach.

A long ball in the 70th minute was headed out from the back by Craig Campbell to the right winger who cut inside Ruiiri McLennan. Craig Campbell won a crunching tackle on the right side of the eighteen yard box but the referee judged it to be a foul much to the amazement of the Athletic players.

Robert Bell stepped up and fired the free kick into the top right hand corner of the net leaving Daniel Cassels with no chance.

The game again was getting bogged down in the midfield area with few chances being created.

Alan Buchanan, who had a great game up front for Athletic had to leave the field with an ankle injury and was replaced by Scot McLaughlin.

On 86 minutes, another high ball into the box was won by Craig Campbell on the edge of the six yard box. Unfortunately, his header landed at the feet of Fraser Wilcox who hit the ball off Stephan Campbell. The ricochet fell kindly to the unmarked Ross Hamlyn six yards out and he had the easiest task to tap the ball past the despairing dive of Daniel Cassels to send the home team into a frenzy.

In the last few minutes, Athletic

## Football

pushed everyone up front. Gilles, Carmichael and Campbell had half chances but couldn't find the net and a relieved Drumchapel were delighted to get away with a hard-fought 2-1 win.

A disappointed Athletic manager said after the game: 'That was a great team effort against a very good footballing team. We had a few good chances to score but paid the price for not taking them'.

Next Saturday Athletic take on Cardross in a League Cup group game. Referee will be Peter Laing with the match being played at Glen 2 with a 2.30pm kick off after the Mòd Cup final between Saints and Glasgow Island.

Athletic training takes place at the high school astro pitch at 8pm on Thursday night. A full turnout of players is requested.

# Rugby legends pay a surprise visit to Mull rugby club

RUGBY Legends, Kelly Brown and Neil de Kock, travelled to the Isle of Mull for a training session with Mull RFC to help support the growth of the game at a grassroots level.

Former Scotland forward Brown, drove his Saracens teammate de Kock from Glasgow to Oban before boarding a ferry to Mull. Making their way through the picturesque landscape, the two former rugby internationals arrived at Mull RFC and surprised the players during their weekly training session.

Thirty-three year old Brown commented: 'It has been a fantastic start to Rugby World Cup 2015. I have really enjoyed travelling to the Isle of Mull with Neil as this is a great way of even the most remote clubs sharing the global stage and telling their story to the world.'

Given its 20 year heritage in

rugby around the world from grassroots to elite, Land Rover is using its position as a proud worldwide partner of Rugby World Cup 2015 to shine a spotlight on grassroots rugby. Land Rover's #WeDealInReal cam-

paign champions and celebrates the people that are the heart and soul of the game, by putting local clubs on the global stage.

Mull RFC are one of eleven clubs from around the world who feature in the #WeDealInReal



RUGBY LEGENDS: Scotland's Kelly Brown and South Africa's Neil de Kock surprise members of Mull rugby club at a grassroots coaching session

## Fixtures

**Saturday October 10**  
**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Newtonmore v Fort William  
Evan MacRae  
Inveraray v Kinlochshiel  
Innes Wood  
Lovat v Kyles Athletic  
Deek Cameron  
Oban Caman v Glenurquhart  
Lachie Woods - 3pm

**Marine Harvest North Division One**  
Strathglass v Newtonmore  
Calum Girvan

**Marine Harvest South Division One**  
Oban Celtic v Lochside Rovers  
Robert Baxter  
Bute v Glenorchy  
Alan Harrison  
Kilmory v Kyles Athletic  
Duncan Kelly

**Marine Harvest North Division Two**  
Kilmallie v Lochaber  
John Matheson  
Skye v Boleskine  
John Angus Gillies  
Inverness v Glengarry  
Martin MacLean

**Marine Harvest South Division Two**  
Aberdour v Bute  
Referee tbc

## Results

**Saturday October 3**  
**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Inveraray 1 - 2 Kingussie  
Kyles Ath 1 - 1 Glenurquhart  
Kinlochshiel 4 - 1 Oban Cam  
Lovat 1 - 4 Newtonmore

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Glasgow MA 2 - 1 Caberfeidh

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Newtonmore 4 - 4 Fort William

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Bute 7 - 1 Taynuilt  
Lochside Rov 3 - 1 Kyles Ath  
Inveraray 1 - 3 Oban Celtic  
Glenorchy 4 - 0 Kilmory

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Inverness 1 - 3 Skye  
Kilmallie 3 - 1 Glengarry  
Lochaber 7 - 1 Aberdeen Uni

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute 5 - 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Oban Lorn 0 - 2 Ballachulish

**Youth Fixtures**  
**Saturday October 3**  
**Marine Harvest Under 14**  
**League Division 1**  
Kingussie v Fort William  
Beaully v Skye

**League Division 2**  
Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh  
Glenurquhart v Inverness

## Oban Camanachd under 17s reach London Shield final

OBAN Camanachd under 17s reached the final of the London Shield after a superb 2-0 win over Beaully at Spean Bridge last Sunday.

Fifteen-year-old Lewis Buchanan got both goals for the Oban side in an entertaining match.

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## Rugby

campaign with their story being showcased in Land Rover's manifesto film and TV indents around Rugby World Cup 2015 coverage.

## Saints go one over the eight as they march on in Scottish Cup

**Oban Saints** 9  
**Millbeg Villa** 4  
**Scottish Cup - 2nd round**

SAINTS booked their place in the Scottish Amateur Cup third round draw with a comfortable 9-1 second round win over Millbeg Villa at Glencruitten last Saturday.

The visitors from Glasgow's East end put up a spirited resistance in the first half, but were totally overwhelmed by a rampant Saints second half performance and, but for some terrific saves from Millbeg keeper David Hosie, the winning margin would have been even wider.

Villa keeper, David Hosie, produced the first of a string of excellent saves in the fourth minute tipping a Lewis Cameron shot round the post after some neat interplay on the edge of the Villa box from Donald Campbell and Dean Smith.

Saints skipper for the day, Donald Campbell, celebrated his call up to the full Scottish Amateur International squad for the game against East of Scotland on Sunday with an excellent performance driving forward from

midfield at every opportunity. Saints finally made the breakthrough when Donald Campbell fed Craig MacEwan cutting in from the left. Craig showed good strength to hold off the challenge of Villa right back, Forde McGhee, before slotting a low right foot shot into the bottom corner.

Saints extended their advantage four minutes later when a cut back from Donald Campbell picked out Myles McAuley on the edge of the box. The Saints midfielder, eager to make it two goals in two games after his rare strike against Alba Thistle, fired in a cracking drive which the massed ranks of the Villa defence blocked behind for a corner.

Lewis Cameron flighted over the flag kick from the right which the Villa defence could only clear as far as Donald Campbell lurking on the edge of the box who curled a delightful low shot which David Hosie, at full stretch, got his fingertips to but couldn't prevent the ball from nestling in the bottom corner of the net.

Saints had the ball in the net again in the 36th minute when Lewis Cameron headed a David



HEAD BOY: Craig MacEwan (No 8) heads home one of his five goals against Millbeg Villa at Glencruitten last Saturday.

McArthur cross high into the net, but referee, Kevin Nolan, who handled a sporting contest well throughout, ruled that Lewis had strayed offside.

Saints started the second half as they had begun the first with a Dean Smith shot from the edge of the box bringing out another fine save from David Hosie.

Saints suffered an unexpected set back in the 50th minute with

some sloppy defending gifting Villa a foothold in the game.

A sliced clearance from Jamie Graham gave Villa a throw-in on their left level with the 18 yard line. The long throw looped over the Saints defence and found Andrew Collins who stole in to prod the ball past the unprotected Thomas McCulloch.

The threat to Saints led was to prove very short lived as they countered almost immediately after the restart. Scott Maitland made an overlapping run up the left wing winning a corner kick when his attempted cross was blocked behind. Lewis Cameron sent over a perfect delivery which Craig MacEwan rose above his marker to nod into the net and restore Saints two goal advantage.

Saints put the tie beyond any doubt with a further two goals from Donald Campbell and Dean Smith to round off a devastating four minute spell which completely knocked the stuffing out of the visitors.

Saints were playing some terrific football at this stage and had the beleaguered visitors chasing shadows as they fought hard to keep the rampant Saints attack at bay.

Saints Manager, Alex Craik,

made his first changes just after the hour mark bringing on Martin Bonar and Keith Millar to replace David McArthur and Paul Kerr.

Saints failure to capitalise on free kicks in dangerous areas continued when Lewis Cameron fired a 25 yard free kick into the Villa wall after Donald Campbell had been tripped when trying to force his way through on goal.

That was to prove the last involvement for Lewis as he and Dean Smith made way for Ross Maitland and Allan MacKay.

**Flicked pass**  
Saints sixth goal came with 16 minutes remaining when Donald Campbell found Craig MacEwan racing through the inside left channel with a delightful flicked pass which Craig controlled with ease and buried in the bottom corner of the net.

Saints seventh goal owed much to the powerful midfield running of Dene Cassells who had come on for the inspirational Donnie Campbell. Dene raced forward in the 85th minute firing a ferocious drive on target which the Villa keeper could only parry into the path of the on-rushing Craig MacEwan who eagerly gobbled up the chance for his fourth

### Football

goal of the match. One minute later, Dene was at it again only this time keeper Hosie managed to hold Dene's shot for another terrific save. The Villa defence had completely lost their shape by now and were left appealing in vain for offside as Ross Maitland made an excellent run cutting in from the right before unselfishly setting up Allan MacKay for a simple tap-in at the back post.

The Villa offside trap was again sprung in the final minute by the unlikely sight of Allan MacKay racing through the middle to get on the end of a Dene Cassells pass. Allan skilfully rounded the keeper and, with goal at his mercy, unselfishly squared the ball to Craig MacEwan giving his strike partner the simplest of tap-ins for his fifth and Saints ninth and final goal of the game.

Alex Craik was delighted with his team's performance. He said: 'We played some great football today. Millbeg defended well, but once we got going and started passing it about there was only going to be one winner. We are now looking forward to the draw for the third round.'



KITTED OUT: Some of the Oban Saints squad and management team pictured before last Saturday's match against Millbeg Villa wearing their new tracksuits and polo shirts kindly supplied by club sponsor, D & K Lafferty Contractors

## Schools Camanachd Association AGM

THE Schools Camanachd Association AGM took place at The Alexandra Hotel in Fort William recently.

The meeting heard reports about the season's schools competitions and was heartened by the increase in entries to the national primary school cups the MacKay and Tulloch. The Donella Crawford girls cup also had a healthy entry this year as did the Wade Cup u16 tournament held at the Dell. It was noted that work needed to be done to boost entries to the other secondary school competitions. The MacPherson and MacBean Cups.

After the financial report had been heard and before the election of office bearers, the president, Mr Donnie Maclean, and secretary, Mrs Linda Bell, gave notice of their intention to stand down.

Mr Maclean has given many years of support to the SCA and Mrs Bell has been a long-serving and extremely hard-working secretary since the mid 1990s.

The meeting thanked both for their years of hard work and also

### School shinty

past president, Mr Graham Bell, who has also been a long-serving office bearer and supporter of the SCA.

As there were no nominations for the positions of office bearers it was decided that the Schools Camanachd Association would, for the foreseeable future, be held in abeyance and the running of all the SCA competitions would be taken on by the Camanachd Association's Development Team.

Camanachd Association President, Jim Barr, said: 'On behalf of the whole shinty community I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Bell and Mr Maclean for their years of dedication to schools shinty.'

'The Camanachd Association's development team are totally committed to preserving and developing the schools competitions and our four full-time development officers will be actively involved in promoting and organising all the 2015/16 schools competitions.'

## Locals show their support for young Oban golfer

MORE than 40 teams competed in a golf scramble last Sunday, which raised £3,504. This will help young Oban golfer, Robert MacIntyre, with his travel expenses. He is currently on a golf scholarship in America.

Robert's dad, Dougie MacIntyre, said that the fundraiser could potentially allow Robert to attend up to five additional tournaments next year.

The teams, which were made up of three or four people, made their way on to the course at different intervals throughout the day, with the first team heading out at 7.30am and the last not getting out until late afternoon.

A scramble is when each player hits a shot and from there the best shot is determined, everyone then takes a turn from the superior position. This process is repeated until the ball is potted.

It was the Oban Athletic team, which consisted of Craig Campbell, Paul Carmichael, Fraser MacFarlane and Sean Dunstaff, who were awarded the first place trophy and a 14-year-old Oban malt whiskey.

Prizes were also awarded for the runners-up and for the best woman's team.

### Golf

Oban Saints player, Ross Maitland, was the talk of the tournament after he managed to secure a hole in one at the 15th.

Robert's dad Dougie said: 'I think the tournament was excellent, we didn't really know an awful lot about it until Gareth Evens came to us and said he wanted to do something to raise some money for Bob's travelling expenses. We sit down with Bob at the start of the season and organise a schedule for what we can afford and that's what he plays in.'

'This will allow him to play possibly another four or five tournaments during the summer when he's home and, not only that, it will allow him to play in bigger tournaments.'

Event organiser, Gareth Evens, said: 'I'd like to thank James Forgive, John MacEachen, Neil Armour and Karen MacIntyre.'

'Without them, the staff at the clubhouse and all the local business and organisations who donated, the fundraiser wouldn't have been possible.'

'All in all it was a great day and hopefully we can do it again.'



A delighted Ross Maitland celebrates after his hole-in-one at the 15th. Inset: Robert MacIntyre pictured with the Scottish Amateur championship trophy he won recently

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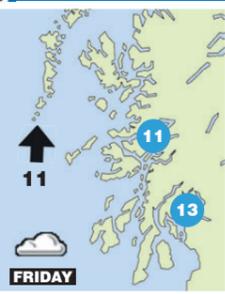
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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Sunny intervals on Sunday  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.



**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 8 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrihaig	Mallaig
Thur	03.20 3.0 08.39 1.6 15.26 3.2 21.53 1.6		-5.35	+0.25
Fri	03.48 3.2 09.35 1.4 15.45 3.5 22.29 1.4		-5.30	+0.55
Sat	04.13 3.4 10.17 1.2 16.16 3.7 23.00 1.3		-0.47	+0.16
Sun	04.43 3.7 10.53 1.1 16.48 3.9 23.29 1.1		2.00	+5.30
Mon	05.15 3.9 11.27 1.0 17.21 4.0 23.57 1.0			
Tues	05.47 4.0 11.59 0.9 17.53 4.1 ** ** *			
Wed	00.26 1.0 06.16 4.0 12.31 1.0 18.23 4.1			

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate

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mòd an Òbain 2015



# Team work secures £2m site for new replacement town hospital

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

LAND has been secured for a new hospital in Fort William, following the sale of Tesco's site.

Highland council has bought the £2 million shovel-ready ground on the Blar Mor, next to the medical centre and new ambulance and police stations, to replace the 50-year-old Belford hospital in the town centre. This follows Tesco's announcement last year that it would not be building a supermarket after years of delays.

Once funding is in place, NHS Highland will buy the site from the local authority and, when the new hospital is built, sell the current Belford Road building to Highland council.

This will be combined with the neighbouring Fort William RC school (St Mary's) to be turned into affordable housing.

A 2.5 acre site adjacent to the proposed hospital could also be used to build a new science and technology centre under plans by West Highland College UHI.

This will be the first facility for science, technology, engineering, maths and digital technologies (STEMD) in the West Highlands.

Dr Michael Foxley, NHS Highland board member and



ON THE MOVE: a £2 million site has been bought for a replacement Belford Hospital 16\_f41bford01

chairman of UHI's further education regional board, said a new hospital and learning centre will 'rise like a phoenix' after Tesco's disappointment: 'As the instigator of the plan, this is a great result for team work by the public bodies.'

'I am absolutely delighted that the bid for the Tesco site on the Blar Mor by Highland council was successful. This is a great result for team work and genuine community planning.'

'I know that Lochaber wanted a major supermarket to be built for much-needed competition, but when Tesco abandoned their plans I wrote to their chief executive explaining that

Tesco could leave a legacy with very considerable local benefits if they sold the site for these transformational developments. This they have done.'

The project, which has had support from the Scottish government, will still leave space for another development, with the possibility of a medical research site for Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

John Hutchison, chairman of West Highland College's board of management, said: 'This is a long hoped for opportunity for West Highland College UHI to develop its capacity for technical education.'

'We are delighted to be working with all major community

planning partners and we are grateful to the Scottish Funding Council for supporting our project, which is a regional priority for the University of the Highlands and Islands.

'We are now moving to secure the significant funding required to build the centre which will contribute to strengthening the local economy through training a skilled workforce.'

Audrey Sinclair, chairwoman of Highland council's planning and development committee, added: 'This is a tremendous and long-awaited success for the Lochaber area.'

'It is a good example of partners working together to achieve success.'

'The deal will enable the area to flourish with the prospect of a new much-needed hospital and additional facilities for the West Highland College.'

'I would like to add recognition for former council leader, Michael Foxley, who was a significant force behind this project and worked to get Scottish government support to make this happen.'

Lochaber area leader, Thomas MacLennan, welcomed the work to help secure a '21st century hospital' while his fellow Lochaber councillor, Allan Henderson, called freeing up land for affordable housing 'excellent tactical work'.



DAY TO REMEMBER: Alice arrived at her 100th birthday dinner in a vintage Rolls Royce 21\_f41alice02

### Alice rolls up to celebrate milestone 100th birthday

A CENTENARIAN from Fort William said she felt 'very blessed' so spend her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends.

Alice Good enjoyed a meal at the West End Hotel last Wednesday (September 30) to celebrate the milestone and arrived in style in a vintage Rolls Royce.

Born Alice Lawrie in Poolewe in 1915, Alice moved to Fort William aged 20, to live with her sister and worked in various jobs

around the town before meeting her husband, Bill Good.

Later, Alice lived in Inverloch and had four children, 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

The sharp centenarian said: 'I've had a lovely day with family and friends. I'm very blessed and so grateful.'

Alice received a telegram from the Queen and flowers from Highland councillors, Brian Murphy and Thomas MacLennan.

## Working together to attract teachers

WORK will continue to address a teacher shortage in the north following a cross-council meeting with the Scottish government.

Representatives from Highland council attended a teachers' summit in Aberdeen this week to create an action plan to recruit more staff into schools.

There are currently 53 teaching vacancies across the local authority area, including

five in Lochaber. Drew Millar, chairman of Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, welcomed the news that groups, including Western Isles, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Orkney and Shetland councils and Angela Constance, cabinet secretary for education, will meet regularly.

He said: 'We share the challenge of teacher recruitment across the north and

it makes good sense that we share the solutions.'

'I welcome the involvement of the cabinet secretary and the proposal to develop these potential ways forward into a plan of action.'

Mallaig, Inverloch, Acharacle and Ardnarmachan primaries and Lochaber high are among the Highland schools with teaching vacancies.

## MSP calls for constituency to be reduced in size

LOCHABER'S Scottish parliament constituency should be reduced to only include areas in the West Highlands, the current MSP for the area has suggested.

Dave Thompson made a speech in parliament on Tuesday calling for his area of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch to be cut to Skye, Lochalsh and Lochaber, to allow politicians to focus on the coastal challenges these communities face.

This would see the central Highland area of Badenoch removed from the constituency.

The MSP, who will retire ahead of next year's Scottish government election, also believes the West Highlands and Islands should have its own council.

He said: 'Skye, Lochalsh and Lochaber has islands and remote mainland communities akin to islands and suffers from all the problems of

connectivity that the three main island groups do. I have concluded that there is an immensely strong case for the West Highlands and Islands, from Uig in Skye to Glencoe in Lochaber, to have its own local authority and its own Scottish parliamentary constituency.'

Mr Thompson said his SNP colleague, Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, has pledged his support to the campaign.

## Sports association appeals for support to secure hall

SPORTS groups, health clubs and businesses in Lochaber have been asked to e-mail Highland council pledging their support for a new indoor, multi-use sports facility in Fort William.

The local authority is due to decide

at the end of this month whether to pay £600,000 towards the facility - if not, it is unlikely Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) will find the funding for the build.

Jane Blanchard, chairwoman of LSA, has called on all groups who could

benefit from the hall to send an email saying how a new facility would benefit their organisation. Emails can be sent to jane@lochabersportsassociation.org to be presented to Highland council and must be received by Friday morning.

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# New link road 'crucial' to keep traffic chaos at bay in future

EMMA CRICHTON  
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A LINK road between Fort William and Caol is 'absolutely essential' to cope with future developments and population rise in Lochaber.

A Highland council report shown at a development plan consultation last week showed at least 500 new homes will be needed in the area over the next 20 years and the number of people living in the area could go up by thousands.

But if projects in the pipeline,

including a new hospital, retail park and offices, go ahead the population could rocket even higher than expected.

This has sparked concerns that the town's 'one road in and one road out' infrastructure will not stand up to future pressures and traffic, increasing calls for a new road linking An Aird and the A830 at Caol to reduce traffic on the busy A82.

Brian Murphy, chairman of road improvement campaigners the A82 Partnership, said: 'I've been supportive of a link road

since the late 80s. I think another road is essential for the future development of Fort William. We all know how bad congestion can get on the A82, especially in the summer and there's no other road, there's no alternative.

'A link road is essential right now for all kinds of reasons, but given what has been said recently about planned future developments, it will become absolutely crucial. Having just one road is not an option.'

Worries were raised at the local authority's Highland-wide local development plan

meeting, held in Fort William last Wednesday.

John Gillespie, chairman of Caol community council, asked council officials: 'We have one road in and one road out. The more people we put in to the town the more the road will be used. Surely you should be looking at infrastructure? A link road is going to be crucial to ease the pressure of more people.'

Scott Dalgarno, Highland council's development plans manager, said all areas will be examined: 'There will be a separate infrastructure plan

that will look at how the area will cope with development. We will look at the possibility of new roads, housing, schools and anything else that might be needed to accommodate a rise in population.'

The Highland-wide local development plan is a review of the council's main planning policy, including new houses, businesses, wind farms and town centres.

Launching the consultation last week, councillor Audrey Sinclair, chairwoman of planning, development and infrastructure, said: 'These

consultations provide a real chance for people to have their say on the planning policies and housing issues that will affect our future in some way or another - our neighbourhood, our town centre and the natural environment around us.

'I would urge anyone with an interest in the future of their community and the Highlands to get involved in all the consultations.'

The review is open for public comments until December 18 and is available via consult.highland.gov.uk

## TIMESLINE

### Family 'desperate' to find hill walker

THE FAMILY of a missing hill walker have appealed for information as they desperately hope for his safe return to his wife and children.

Robin Garton, 69, from Wiltshire, who is believed to be in the Glencoe area, has been missing since Friday, September 25.

Mr Garton checked out of the Kings House Hotel in Glencoe at around 8am on the morning he was last seen. Officers traced Mr Garton's black Volkswagen Passat estate car to the Achnambeithach car park, off the A82 by Loch Achtriochtan.

It is believed Mr Garton may have had made plans to walk in the Coire Nam Beith or Bidean Nam Bian areas.

In an appeal to the public, Mr Garton's family said: 'We are extremely grateful to members of the emergency services and search and rescue personnel who have been helping in the search for Robin. We are desperate to find him. Somebody will have seen him on the morning of September 25 and we would appeal to anyone in the area that day to rack their brains.'

Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

### Pontoon planning application made

A PLANNING application has been lodged to install pontoons in Fort William.

Last week the Oban Times reported the town's marina and shoreline association had applied for funding to put a landing stage at the West End car park.

The group will not hear if it has received the grant until the end of this month, but has requested planning permission in preparation. Norrie MacLean of the association said: 'If we don't get the money this time we'll get it from somewhere else. We're very confident.'

### Man dies in fall from fishing boat

A BARRA man died after falling from a fishing boat south of the island.

Gerard Gillies, 42, died in hospital at 4.30pm on Sunday after he was rushed to Western Isles hospital by rescue teams.

Both Barra lifeboat and a coastguard rescue helicopter attended the scene shortly after the incident at 12.25pm.

Western Isles police confirmed Mr Gillies' next of kin had been informed and that there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

## Emergency meeting over council budget

AN EMERGENCY meeting will be held early next year amid uncertainties about Highland council's budget.

It is thought the local authority will have to plug a funding gap of £46.28 million over the next three years but councillors have warned there is still uncertainty over Scottish government policy on the council tax freeze and teacher numbers.

A spokeswoman for the council said it is unlikely they will know grant figures before January 18, leading to a special meeting on February 25 to finalise the budget for 2016/17. It is anticipated each Highland council service department will be asked to make savings of six per cent, but this could rise if the savings agreed in December last year are not met.

Councillor Bill Fernie, chairman of the resources committee, said: 'Colleagues and I have been meeting with service directors and budget holders over the last few weeks to scrutinise every opportunity to make savings. We have met with members from each of the political groups to discuss the situation, the continuing uncertainties and the impact of the vast amount of savings which need to be found. We will also be seeking the views of the public as savings plans become clearer. We will continue to work together to plan ahead, but we need to be clear we cannot make savings at this level and not impact on service delivery.'



COFFEE MORNING: pupils from Banavie 16\_41banavie01



FUNDRAISERS: pupils from Inverloch 21\_41inverloch01

## Class act as pupils raise £800 for charity

GIRLS and boys from Lochaber schools raised more than £800 for charity by hosting public events.

Primary seven pupils of Banavie primary school held a coffee morning in the school's gym hall on Thursday, October 1.

And primary 4/5 children hosted an art exhibition at Inverloch primary school on Wednesday, September 30, both were in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Banavie class teacher, Deirdre Beck, was on hand to help the children run the day smoothly.

She said: 'Pupils have done it once or twice in the past and we decided to do it again this year. It has gone really well.'

With help from Banavie teachers, the youngsters served up tea, coffee and cake to busy tables in the hall, where local people enjoyed a break and musical performances, raising £610.71.

The Inverloch fundraising art exhibition included work from each of the pupils and was followed by a coffee afternoon.

Pupils raised a total sum of £204.14.

## Crime rates and number of fires both drop

CRIME rates and fires in the Highlands and Islands have both fallen in the region, according to figures from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Police figures for the quarter April 1 until August 1 show the number of people detected speeding was 2,864 compared to 1,910 for the same period last year. But the number of people reported in relation to drug offences for the same period has increased from 68 to 94.

The latest statistics were presented to councillors of the local scrutiny board of the Highland Council last Wednesday.

On the same day at a meeting of the community safety, public engagement, and equalities committee at Highland council in Inverness, the SFRS reported reductions in the number of deliberate fires from 49 in 2014/15 compared to 46 in the first quarter of this year. It also said the number of reported house fires was down by 17 from 37 to just 20.

Group manager for Highland and Islands, John MacDonald, welcomed the SFRS reductions but insisted there is no room for complacency. He said: 'This all contributes to the overall objective of safer communities.'

Following the end of its latest recruitment drive, the SFRS also confirmed 71 applications for the retained duty system in the Highlands will be processed and suitable positions allocated.

## Major investment sees cycle route span entire Great Glen way

A CYCLE route stretching from Fort William to Inverness has been completed, following a £3 million investment.

New sections of the cycleway have been created linking existing paths to create a route spanning the entire Great Glen way.

This will provide an alternative to

the busy A82 trunk road for cyclists.

Scottish transport minister, Derek Mackay, said: 'The Great Glen is already a wonderful backdrop for cycling and this new cycleway will enhance that reputation further by providing an even better cycling experience from Fort William to Inverness.

'We want to see as many people as possible enjoying its mixture of stunning scenery, towpaths and forestry tracks.'

The work also marks the completion of the Caledonia Way, which stretches from Campbeltown to Inverness.

Isobel McCallum, Highland

council convenor, said: 'The opening of this new route through the Great Glen that takes cyclists off the busy A82 is therefore a welcome addition to the range of routes in the area which will clearly bring benefits to businesses along the route as well as giving a much better experience to our visitors.'

## Islanders take the lead to recruit nurse

RESIDENTS of a tiny island have taken it upon themselves to recruit a community nurse, after feeling that NHS Highland did not do enough.

Raasay has been left with no out of hours medical cover on the island for four months, the longest period since the 1800s, according to a community councillor.

A meeting with NHS Highland representatives and Raasay community council (RCC) was held on Monday, September 28 to discuss the issue.

The meeting, which saw 52 members of the almost 200-strong population community attend, left RCC feeling that there was 'no clear outcome to the meeting'.

Margaret McVicar, chairwoman of RCC, said: 'We were told at the meeting no-one wants to come and work on jobs like these on the smaller islands. We have found three people already and, as far as I know, they have contacted the NHS to show their interest.'

'One of them was a nurse on Skye and didn't even know that it was vacant. We were also told that there was no money left in the budget to bring in agency staff.'

The community council put out social media notices to generate interest saying the island is desperate for out of hours cover.

The campaign has now been backed by the islands MSP, Dave Thompson, and MP, Ian Blackford.

Mr Thompson said: 'I support wholeheartedly the Raasay community in their legitimate demand for their promised out of hours medical cover on the island.'

'My office has already discussed this with NHS Highland and I have written to the cabinet secretary for health twice.'

Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland deputy director of operations for north and west, said: 'We have agreed to work with the community on further advertising and also looking at options for the future.'

'As was agreed at the meeting on Raasay, NHS Highland will also look at securing agency cover as an interim measure. No appointment has been made as yet. NHS Highland will look for agency nurses, however the skills we will be looking for are quite specialist for covering unscheduled care. As a result, we're not sure what response we will get.'

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Fillet of Haddock in Crispy Batter, Chips & Tartar Sauce	£10.50
Locally Smoked Salmon with a Crusty Brown Roll	£7.50 £11.50
Steamed Loch Melfort Mussels, Garlic & Thyme (Subject to Availability)	£7.00 £12.00
Vegetarian Risotto with a sprinkling of Shony Seaweed	£7.00 £12.00
Tagliatelle Pomodoro	£12.50
Hot Arbroath Smokie with Salad Leaves & Chips	£13.00
Risotto of West Coast Crab, Cream Cheese & Chives	£9.50 £14.00
Chubbie's Hand Made Sausages & Mash With Onion Gravy	£14.00
Pan Seared Loch Fyne Scallops, Roast Bacon, Tomatoes, Organic Salad	£9.50 £16.00
Whole roasted Sea Bass, Sautéed Green Vegetables	£19.50
Whole Loch Crinan Jumbo Prawns, Organic Salad & Garlic Aioli (Subject to Availability)	£11.00 £19.50
Pan Seared Scottish Sirloln Steak, Tomatoes & Chips	£20.00
Side Orders: Baker's Basket Roll Selection £2.50 Organic Salad £1.50 Chips - £2.00	

Dessert of the Day £4.50 Selection of Ice Cream £4.50  
Scottish Farmhouse Cheddar or Blue Cheese, Fruit of the season & Oatcakes £7.00  
Selection of Caffia Coffee, Indian or China Tea - £2.50

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SECRET MEETING TO 'AMALGAMATE' HOSPITAL BEDS

# Fears rise as another ward closes in town

LOUISE GLEN  
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SECRET PLANS to amalgamate another ward at Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital have come under attack from patients, community activists and politicians.

For the second time in as many years, beds are under threat at the general hospital. And staff claimed the ward closure will lead to job losses.

The lack of permanent consultants has seen confidence in the future of the medical facility diminish in the local community.

Oban community council has become increasingly concerned over the years about the gradual depletion of resources at the hospital.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said this week: 'We have been asking questions regarding the hospital at every community council. We are not convinced that patients' needs - particularly children's needs, are being put first.'

'For some time now, we have

been increasingly frustrated at any communication with the hospital.

'In September, we invited a member of the health board to come along, but no-one came.

'If staff concerns about this amalgamation are true, it means we have fewer beds for local patients.

'We have been concerned for some time with the building of a new hospital in Fort William and how this would impact on the Oban hospital, although we have always been told that it would not affect us here. This is a very worrying situation and for it to have been done in secret does not bode well for the people of Oban and surrounding area.

'The health board must be reminded that we are a statutory consultee that should be informed of changes to our community hospital, before it's a done deal.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said he was also in the dark about changes to the hospital, but had heard from staff that changes were afoot.

He said: 'I am concerned to hear of the ward amalgamation which has not been discussed with the local community, as far as I know, nor has notice of it been given to local MSPs or the MP. There is no point in NHS Highland talking about the need for consultation and community participation, if it plays fast and loose with local facilities without any local involvement at all.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland confirmed the news: 'The shifting of the balance of care from a hospital environment into the community has resulted in more and more patients being cared for in their own home environment rather than having to be cared for in a hospital.'

'We therefore have a responsibility to our patients and the public generally to ensure that our limited resources are directed to where they are most needed and, in many cases, this will be in the community.'

'We have also been examining the patient flows within the hospital in order to reduce the length of time that patients wait to be assessed within A&E.'

'Our proposal is to have one medical unit within the hospital which will retain all functions that exist at present.'

'In addition, a four-bedded medical assessment unit would be developed where patients can be cared for whilst awaiting diagnostics and admission, transfer or discharge. This will ensure that we continue to provide a wide range of health and social care services in the most appropriate setting.'



CRITICAL: Lorn and the Islands hospital in Oban

THAT'S MY GIRL: proud owner Victoria Miller with Nakura, the 11-year-old basenji who beat cancer to make it to Crufts

## From cancer to Crufts

TAYNUILT show dog, Nakura, defied the odds when she bounced back from liver cancer to walk away with a top prize at Crufts, writes Emma Crichton.

Victoria Miller, owner of the 11-year-old basenji, feared the worst when a tumour was discovered last year, but the prize pooch went on to win best veteran bitch at the world-famous dog show in March this year, just six months after an operation to remove the growth.

Nakura has now fully recovered from the painful tumour, which had grown so large that it had begun to drain the blood supply from her stomach and was eating away at her abdomen.

Victoria said: 'She's a great wee dog and I just can't imagine life without her. We're just so relieved.' Nakura may be close to retiring from shows, but Victoria said the dog won't be relaxing yet as her three sons and five grandchildren all live at the same house in the village.

'I think I'll take her out of shows soon, but I've been saying that for years. She's got life in her yet and she has the other dogs to keep her going.'

TIMESLINE

### NHS can claw back £5M, says director

NHS HIGHLAND is at risk of running over its budget target by £5 million for 2015-16.

However, finance director Nick Kenton will tell today's health board meeting that he believes break-even can be achieved, and he sets out a contingency plan to cover the potential overspend.

But he warned there would be no room for any overspend or changes.

### Island councillors is common sense

DEDICATED councillors for the islands is a 'distinct possibility' after Holyrood minister Derek Mackay announced new proposals for islands' representation.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon from Mull welcomed the news. She said: 'This is about time. Mull is the third largest island and yet it has no dedicated representation.'

'Finally we are seeing common sense.'

### Tough choices lie ahead for Argyll

PARKING charges, burial costs and the price of council services are all set to rise under 'Service Choices' proposals at Argyll and Bute council.

More than 140 proposals will be put to councillors today, Thursday, before going out to public consultation. Turn to page seven for full story.

### Public opening of high-profile space

A GRAND opening of a high-profile public space in Oban was due to take place yesterday, Wednesday.

The Stafford Street pedestrianisation precinct has been open since July this year.



# Tough choices lie ahead for residents as council sets to slash budgets by £18M over two years

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'EVERY family in Argyll and Bute' will be hit hard as the local authority make more than £18 million savings in the next two years, MSPs Michael Russell and Jackie Baillie said this week.

The package of cuts, called 'Service Choices' are due to be discussed today, Thursday, at the policy and resources committee of Argyll and Bute council.

Leisure budgets, arts, mobile library, education are all on the list of more than £9 million of savings with a further £9 million to be made next year.

Service Choices meetings were chaired by council leader, councillor Dick Walsh, with a cohort of elected members including eight administration councillors from Conservative, Lib Dem and Independents and four opposition members - all from the SNP group.

Savings are having to be made to budgets, affecting everything from children's education to dog fouling, from swimming pools and events.

Faced with predicted cuts in funding from the Scottish government, and unable to increase council tax levels, the equivalent of 300 jobs will be axed from the 5000-strong workforce.

A further 125 employees in libraries, swimming pools, fitness centres and community halls would be transferred to a charitable leisure trust under the cost-cutting scheme.

Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'We would like to do all that our communities want their council to do for them, but drastically reduced funding means that this is just not possible.'

'We need to make choices about the work we do... we need to decide how we can make best use of the resources we have.'

Labour MSP Jackie Baillie, whose Dumbarton constituency includes the Helensburgh and Lomond area, said children and young people would be unfairly affected.

'If these proposals are accepted, they would represent the deepest cuts to jobs and public services that this area has ever experi-



DRASTIC FUNDING CONSTRAINTS: council leader Dick Walsh

enced. No family or community in Helensburgh and Lomond will be spared from the effects of the job losses, increased charges and axed services.

'The report contains a wide range of unthinkable proposals that would shrink the scope of the council and change its role beyond recognition.'

“ We need to make choices about the work we can do ”

Dick Walsh  
Council leader



REJECT PLANS: Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell

result of the abject and complete failure of the present administration.

'Councillor Walsh was told two years ago that reconfiguration

“ They present a grim dystopian vision of the future ”

Michael Russell  
MSP

and the SNP will promote those new ideas widely and with vigour. However, the first thing we must do in Argyll and Bute is to reject these appalling, destructive and cruel plans in their entirety.'

The SNP group was asked about the details of their proposals, but these were not available at the time of going to press.

## The axeman cometh: proposed cuts to the budget

EDUCATION

- Cut classroom assistants by 45 per cent
- Reduce level of support by £500,000 to early years providers and schools.
- PE budgets reduced by 50 per cent
- Wipe 50 per cent from adult learning service
- Reduce money for pupil hospital tuition
- Withdraw services for under-fives (non-statutory provision)
- Janitor cover reduced 20 per cent
- Reduce materials for education advisory staff by 60 per cent
- Increase music tuition costs by 50 per cent
- Remove 20 per cent of instrumental tutors
- Reduce clothing grants by 30 per cent
- Reduce clerical assistants by 20 per cent
- Primary and secondary school budget slashed by 20 per cent

AMENITIES

- Car parking increased by 20 per cent
- Street cleaning cut by half
- Bins collected every three weeks
- Shut 43 public toilets
- Remove budget for physical footpath and signage works
- Remove local access forum budget
- Increase cremation and burial charges by 20 per cent
- Remove hanging baskets
- Replace bedding displays with grass
- Reduce grass cuts
- Reduce dog wardens and patrol staff
- No more free placement of banners for events and festivals
- Remove crossing patrol officers

LEISURE

- Pass all leisure and arts staff and buildings to a charitable trust
- Shave 20 per cent from festivals budget

- Close Campbeltown museum
- Reduce arts development budget
- Cut mobile library service
- Remove subsidy to community swimming pools

FRONT LINE SERVICES

- Postage savings of 20 per cent
- Remove Tiree service point arrangements,
- Lower bandwidth options into all council property
- Reduce front-line staffing

CHARITY SUPPORT

- Remove direct budget for advice agencies
- Reduce debt advice to complex cases only
- Domestic abuse funding cut
- Reduce funding for rent deposit scheme

## Company stalwarts bow out in style



TWO long-serving members of MacLeod Construction were recently presented with cheques to mark their retirement from the Lochgilphead-based company. Ground worker, Vince Mellon, second left, and excavator operator, Do-ugie

Clark, second right, will both be greatly missed by the company having clocked up 73 years of dedicated service between them. They are pictured with company directors, Murdo MacLeod, left, and Kenny MacLeod, right.

# It doesn't sit easily with the inn

'IF THE COUNCIL WANTS TO PROMOTE CAFE CULTURE, WHY STOP ITS PROGRESS IN AN EXCITING AREA OF THE TOWN?'

LOUISE GLEN  
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THE taste of cafe society has turned sour for a Mull entrepreneur who has claimed the council has reneged on his plans to bring continental-style outdoor cuisine to a prestigious Oban seafront development.

Investor in the Oban Inn in Stafford Street, Calum Maclachlainn, said he was told he could have 50 pavement seats outside his premises at Stafford Street.

The £350,000 Stafford Street pedestrian precinct was heralded a site for developing 'cafe culture' in the town, but Calum Maclachlainn claimed the local authority has gone back on its word.

Mr Maclachlainn runs a multi-million pound business investment and procurement scheme throughout Scotland, including a number of interests in Mull and Oban, and employs more than 400 people.

He said this week: 'I want to invest in Oban. Over the past few years we have seen the town extend its year - thanks to the incredible work of people like Alan MacLeod (who recently died) and his son Callum, Paul Sloan, who is a co-director of the business and many others who



SEATING ROW: Calum Maclachlainn of the Oban Inn in Stafford Street says he was told he could have 50 outside seats in the new £350,000 pedestrian precinct

are running superb restaurants for both visitors and residents.

'Most restaurants now offer superb food. Oban is becoming renowned for that high quality of offer.'

'We have been interested in taking forward the Oban Inn for more than two years, and have

worked with its guarantors over that time.

'We had an agreement with the local authority that would have made the business work and provided jobs for more than 20 people.'

'This was to have a licensed outdoor seating area, something

you would find in most areas of Europe.'

'Without this the Oban Inn is no longer a viable proposition. But the council has reneged on that promise and it leaves the business plan in tatters.'

He added: 'If the council wants to promote cafe culture - as it



INVESTOR: Calum Maclachlainn

says in all its business promotion documents, then why stop its progress in one of the most exciting areas of the town? We work with six different councils across Scotland, but Argyll and Bute is the most difficult.

'I have been trying to get a meeting to resolve this, but all they have done is to invite me to an opening ceremony. It doesn't make any sense.'

However, Councillor Ellen Morton, policy lead for infrastructure, said the council had made strenuous efforts to accommodate Mr Maclachlainn's business plan.

She said: 'The regeneration of Stafford Street is about creating a great new public space for residents and visitors, and it's already proving to be popular and well used.'

'We worked very hard to combine the wishes of the Oban Inn with the interests of other businesses on Stafford Street and members of the public.'

'Following extensive consultation with businesses along Stafford Street, we found a way to offer the Oban Inn a pavement cafe licence in principle which would allow it 32 outside seats, only eight less than it had originally requested, with the public seating remaining.'

'We had not entered into any contract for use of the public seating, but given the effort made to realise this opportunity for outdoor dining, it is very disappointing that the Oban Inn will not now take advantage of the offer of 32 outside seats.'

'There is tremendous potential here for local businesses to use the flexible space provided by the council.'

## TIMESLINE



PRIZE GUYS: hotel general manager David Lapsley and John McNulty

### Coveted accolades for a local hotel

TAYNUILT Hotel's chef tasted success with a first AA Rosette after its grading for having a 'passionate, enthusiastic and friendly team.'

John McNulty, who hails from nearby Tayvallich, bought the hotel in December 2012 after working in various restaurants in England and the Kilberry Inn seafood restaurant between Lochgilphead and Tarbert.

The Taynuilt Hotel has also received a Taste Our Best award from VisitScotland and been included in the Michelin Guide.

### Young people win a host of awards

THE achievements of Argyll and Bute's young people have been recognised at a prestigious ceremony in Oban.

Eight prizes were handed out at the town's Phoenix Cinema, picked by a panel of judges from hundreds of nominations.

Three Oban youths won awards: Billy Pearson, 18, for unsung hero, Fraser Campbell, 12, for entrepreneur and Abigail Evans, 19, for sport.

The Weekenders, a musical band based in the town, also won the health and wellbeing award.

Not to be outdone, islanders held their own on the night as Pippa Garrard, 25, from Mull won the environmental award and Shannon Maclean, also of Mull, was first in the arts category.

Bute's Thomas Howat and David McLaughlin won the volunteering award and citizenship award respectively.

### Exchange visit by Irish musicians

AN evening of Gaelic music and song was held in the Royal Hotel, Oban on September 30 from young musicians, An Crann Og from Donegal in Ireland.

The musicians visited the town on an exchange trip to Scotland. The event was arranged and hosted by Furan Gaelic Centre and members of the Oban Gaelic community. The group also visited Glasgow.

## Government's new analysis of wild salmon should ring alarm bells

WILD salmon populations have fallen below 'safe' conservation limits in all rivers in the Scottish West Highland salmon-farming zone.

Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland (S&TCS) has called upon the Scottish government to place an immediate moratorium on further expansion of salmon farming in light of Marine Scotland's new analysis.

The Scottish government's newly-published classification of the country's salmon rivers puts all the rivers in the West Highlands and Inner Hebrides in the worst-performing category, with wild salmon stocks not reaching what are known as 'conservation limits' - a measure of the overall health of the population.

Andrew Graham-Stewart, Director of S&TCS, said: 'This new analysis by Marine Scotland should ring alarm bells. The fact that no single river within salmon farming's heartland of the West Highlands and Inner Hebrides has a sufficient stock of wild salmon for any exploitation to be sustainable, cannot be a coincidence.'

# Legendary correspondent 'Mr Scalpay' was a renowned Gaelic poet and Bard of the Mòd

HE BROUGHT us stories from the edge of the world in his 20-year-plus stint as a district correspondent for the *Oban Times*.

Donald R Morrison, a fluent Gaelic speaker, better known as 'The Scalpay man, died aged 95 in a nursing home in Harris last Friday (October 2).

Donald Morrison brought the readers of the newspaper many memorable stories of life through his special lens illustrating a bygone era.

Weekly, he would send a handwritten note in his scratchy writing to the newspaper offices, whereupon junior reporters for more than two decades would write them up for the next edition.

The number of tourists on Scalpay, the building of the bridge, the herring running in the seas, yachts in the bay, whether the sheep were on the hill or in the field - 'Mr Scalpay' was first with the community news from the island.

Former news editor, Euan Paterson, marked Mr Morrison's death saying there would never be a reporter like him again.



STORYTELLER: Donald R Morrison, known as 'The Scalpay man'

Euan, who worked with him for many years, said: 'One of my first jobs as a reporter was to type up notes from Mr Morrison.'

'He was a diligent correspondent and would send news often, sometimes three times a week.'

He was keen to get news from Scalpay out to the world via the newspaper.

'For a man who wrote so eloquently - he was a man of very few words on the telephone.'

'He would phone and ask for

envelopes and notepads and pens. We sent them to him and he sent his news back to us.'

'One of my favourite stories was the argument between two islanders over the age of one of them. One islander said that he would be 80 on his birthday - while the octogenarian disagreed.'

Euan continued: 'Anyway the upshot was that no-one would be able to find out as, at that time, births were not registered on the island.'

A humble man, it was not for many years that Euan found out that Mr Morrison was in fact a renowned Gaelic poet.

'In one report he said three important things happened in 1953 'Edmund Hillary climbed Mount Everest, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned and I was named the Bard of the Royal National Mòd.'

'It is sad to think that it is the end of an era. He continues to be one of the reasons that people like the Oban Times.'

While Mr Morrison had no family of his own, and never married he benefited from working in the family woollen and knitting business as well as

helping out in the family shop. It is understood that he was born on the island into a large family.

Niece, Christina Macinnes, who now lives in Inverness said: 'He was a confirmed bachelor and was well looked after later by his three nieces and the wonderful staff in Harris House residential care.'

'He was affectionately known locally as Dolly.'

'He was born on Guy Fawkes night 1919. He was quite private about his writing. He would write in private and it wasn't until it was published we would know about it.'

'He lived with us, in the old style with him at one end of the house and us at the other. There was a living area in the middle where we all would spend time together.'

While he was very private at home, Mr Morrison would meet his other 'bachelor friends on a Saturday night in the shop - where they would share a few stories.'

His funeral service was held in the Free Church Continuing in Scalpay at noon on Tuesday.

## Stop the unfair postcode penalty, says MSP

'ABSURD' postage costs, including a £50 surcharge to deliver an item worth less than £2, have been discussed by a Highlands and Islands MSP, writes Steven Rae.

John Finnie urged the Scottish government to end the unfair surcharges during a parliamentary debate on

September 24. Suggestions to alleviate the charges included implementing legislation whereby consumers could choose delivery specifically by Royal Mail.

Mr Finnie said: 'With around half of online retailers charging often extortionate delivery surcharges, and

some refusing to deliver to parts of the Highlands and Islands altogether, consumers are paying an unfair postcode penalty.'

'Citizens Advice Scotland has reported absurd delivery charges, like £40 to deliver a £6 roll of parcel tape, and £50 on a bakery tool costing just £1.15.'

The Scottish government's Transport and islands minister, Derek Mackay, said, in part of his response: 'I am particularly interested in the legislative aspect of being able to choose the provider - that is, to choose Royal Mail.'

'That is a very helpful suggestion,' he added.

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## Kerrera's new berthing boost

THE island of Kerrera is all set to benefit from almost £2million to upgrade to its ferry berthing facilities.

A sum of £1.7 million will be invested in the construction of a new breakwater and extension of the slipway.

The project also includes an extension to the Gallanach slipway at the mainland end of the crossing.

The move comes after years of discussions between islanders and land owners with the Scottish government.

Transport minister, Derek Mackay MSP said: 'I'm delighted to announce this improvement programme for Kerrera, which will bring real benefits to the community who depend on the ferry service.'

'By building a new breakwater and extending the slipways, we will improve ferry resilience and lessen the impact of poor weather conditions.'

'It will also mean that current tidal restrictions on vehicle-carrying services will be lifted, allowing a better

flow of vessels between the two ends of the route.'

'This investment is further proof of the Scottish government's commitment to providing the best possible ferry services for the communities that rely on them and ensuring that our islands remain an attractive and accessible destination for visitors.'

The works, which will be delivered by Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), will commence on January 4 2016 and will be completed by the summer of 2016.

Ruairidh Campbell, project manager at CMAL, said: 'CMAL is delighted to be managing the delivery of this marine investment on Kerrera as part of our ongoing commitment to develop and maintain our port and harbour infrastructure.'

'We are looking forward to working with the contractor and strengthening our relationship with the ferry operators and local community.'

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## Cruachan: a compelling story

THE bunting will be out and flags will be fluttering as Cruachan hydro power station celebrates a remarkable 50 years.

The power station on the banks of Loch Awe has been hailed

worldwide as marvel of engineering.

Four thousand men worked to create the power station, known as the 'hollow mountain', which was opened by The Queen on October 15, 1965.

To mark this special occasion, the Oban Times in conjunction with Scottish Power, is producing a special anniversary supplement in next week's edition (Oct 15) to record this remarkable story.

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## Fort William second string pick up the silverware

'We've had a tremendous season and Newtonmore pushed us right to the end'

FORT William's second team lifted the North Division One trophy after winning the league following a 4-4 draw away to Newtonmore

The team have had a great season, winning 13 of their 16 league games.

Fort went 1-0 down in the 3rd minute to a Drew MacDonald goal.

But the Lochaber side rallied and took a 3-1 lead thanks to goals from Brian Simpson and

a double from Duncan Rodger. Newtonmore reduced the leeway through Iain Robinson, but Calum Brown restored Fort's two goal cushion on the hour mark.

Calum Stewart and Struan Kish netted for Newtonmore to make the final score 4-4 which was enough to see the Lochaber lads lift the league title.

Fort William lost the services of wing back, Donald Walker, in the second half with an ankle injury. Co-manager Lachie MacDon-

### Shinty

ald said: 'The injury was a worry for us, because he was playing really well. We had to win or draw to win the league, so it was nail-biting towards the end.'

'Newtonmore only had to score one goal and it would have been out of our hands. We've had a tremendous season and Newtonmore pushed us right to the end. Now we look forward to what next season will bring,' he added.



CHAMPIONS: Fort William with the North Division One championship trophy



## Welfare league hands out the awards

TWO Lochaber footballers were presented with awards for their performances throughout the local Welfare League this year.

Scott MacLean (left) received a trophy for player of the year with Nevis Range and Martin Monroe (right) was awarded the trophy for top goal scorer with Caol

### Squash

United, by sponsor representative and referee, David Corrihan, of Marine Harvest.

The event took place on Friday evening at Fort William's Railway Club. 16\_f41welfare01

## Two late goals deny Fort victory at Fraserburgh

Claggan park side draw Cove in Scottish Cup

Fraserburgh	2
Fort William	1
Highland League	

DESPITE a determined effort, Fort William lost out 2-1 away to Fraserburgh at the weekend.

Things looked rosy for the Lochaber side as they found themselves 1-0 up in the 75th minute thanks to a goal from John McLeod, his ninth of the season. But a quick turn around in fortune from Fraserburgh in the second half saw Willie West

net a double resulting in Fort William lose by the odd goal in three.

### Free kick

Director, David Macdonald, said: 'I think we were the better team in the first half. We got off to a good start with an early free kick from John McLeod, but we couldn't hold on and lost a very close game.'

The Fort were drawn at home against fellow Highland league side, Cove Rangers, in the next round of the Scottish Cup.

On the choice of opponent

MacDonald said: 'It's a bit disappointing when we are playing them anyway. We were meant to be playing them on the same date, but the league game has been postponed to allow the Scottish Cup tie to take place.'

The Highland league game originally scheduled for October 24 has been moved to November 3.

'We had been looking forward to getting someone else in the Scottish Cup, anyone who wasn't in the Highland league would have been fine. We were hoping

### Football

for something a wee bit different and I know that a few of the boys would have liked to play Queen's Park at Hampden.'

### Every chance

MacDonald is remaining hopeful and added: 'On the day, we will have every chance, we think like that going in to every game.'

The team played Clachnacuddin at home on Wednesday and will play Nairn County away on Saturday.

## Squash club holds championship and plate competitions

### Squash

LOCHABER Squash Club's championship and plate competitions were held at the Leisure Centre recently.

All levels of players entered and the early rounds went with form. In the Championship first quarter final, Neil Worsdall beat Warren Cameron 3-0 in a very close fought match. In the third quarter final, won 3-2 by Ian Black over Andy Bilton, the lead changed after each game before Ian took the last game. David MacKay took an early lead over Colin Campbell in the fourth quarter final. Colin drew level in the second game but, after a tight third game, David dominated the fourth to win 3-1.

In the first semi-final, Murdo Murray, fresh from a bye in the previous round, lost two tense games to Neil Worsdall before taking the third. Neil came back to control the fourth game and win 3-1. In the second semi-final, David MacKay took a two game lead against Ian Black. The next two games were tight, but Ian took both and was stronger in the fifth to win 3-2.

In the final, Neil Worsdall won the first game against Ian Black and maintained his lead to take the Championship 3-0.

First and second round Championship losers entered the Plate competition. In Round 2, Allan Reid beat Josh McAllister 3-0, John Mortimer beat Martin Cameron 3-2 and Marc MacLean beat Scott Alexander 3-1. Allan Reid beat Kenny Mann 3-0 in the semi-finals and Marc MacLean beat John Mortimer 3-0.

Marc played very well in the final, but could not counter Allan's power and control as he went on to win 3-0.

The chairman, Amanda Henderson, presented the winners and finalists with t-shirts and vouchers. She thanked the Crofter Bar for their sponsorship and the Leisure Centre for their support.

## Schools Camanachd Association AGM

THE Schools Camanachd Association AGM took place at The Alexandra Hotel in Fort William recently.

The meeting heard reports about the season's schools competitions and was heartened by the increase in entries to the national primary school cups, the MacKay and Tulloch. The Donella Crawford girls cup also had a healthy entry this year as did the Wade Cup u16 tournament held at the Dell. It was noted that work needed to be

### School shinty

done to boost entries to the other secondary school competitions the MacPherson and MacBean Cups.

After the financial report had been heard and before the election of office bearers, the president, Mr Donnie Maclean, and secretary, Mrs Linda Bell, gave notice of their intention to stand down. As there were no nominations for the positions of office bearers it was decided that the Schools Camanachd Association would, for the foreseeable future, be held in abeyance and the running of all the SCA competitions would be taken on by the Camanachd Association's Development Team.

Camanachd Association President, Jim Barr, said: 'The Camanachd Association's development team are totally committed to preserving and developing the schools competitions and our four full-time development officers will be actively involved in promoting and organising all the 2015/16 schools competitions.'

## Isle of Skye Golf

GOLFERS played for the seniors monthly stableford Isle of Skye golf club on Thursday, October 1. The results were: Murdo Beaton 37; 2. Ian Sikorski 36; 3. Calum Beaton 35.

On Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4 the captain's prizes were presented to: 1. Murdo Gordon, 8, (66,58); 2. Brian Macleod 21, (81,60); 3. Calum Beaton 15, (77,62); 4. Sandy Ross 5, (67,62).



ON THE BALL: Fort William youth team at half time on Sunday 16\_f41fortunders01

## Youngsters turn on the style against Forres

FORT William's youth football team went head to head with Forres on Sunday and came out on top.

The boys started off 1-0 down, but went on to walk away with a 13-3 victory at Lochaber high school's 3G pitch.

### Home game

It was the team's first home game of the youth development league.

Youth development coach, Mark Rydings, said: 'A magic game of football was being played out there. The season has been really good so far and training has been brilliant. We beat Invergordon 9-0 last week, but were beaten by Elgin 5-4 recently.'

### Dedication

The dedication in training has been demonstrated with 25 turning out every

### Youth football

week, including five youngsters travelling from Acharacle twice a week.

Goal scorers against Forres were: Shaun Maclellan, Sam Mackenzie, Herbie Patterson, Kian Cameron, Alfie Duncan and Rab Rydings.

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Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday  
Sunny intervals on Sunday  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 8 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm						
Thur	03.20	3.0	08.39	1.6	15.26	3.2	21.53	1.6
Fri	03.48	3.2	09.35	1.4	15.45	3.5	22.29	1.4
Sat	04.13	3.4	10.17	1.2	16.16	3.7	23.00	1.3
Sun	04.43	3.7	10.53	1.1	16.48	3.9	23.29	1.1
Mon	05.15	3.9	11.27	1.0	17.21	4.0	23.57	1.0
Tues	05.47	4.0	11.59	0.9	17.53	4.1	** ** *	** *
Wed	00.26	1.0	06.16	4.0	12.31	1.0	18.23	4.1

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