

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8225

Thursday 13 November, 2014

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

### DONT MISS

# NEXT WEEK

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## Sick days off above 36,000 for council

But local authority says it has implemented new strategy to tackle the problem of absenteeism and long-term illness

LOUISE LEE  
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COUNCIL employees took a staggering total of 36,033 days off sick from work last year.

Figures just released for 2013/14, show that Argyll and Bute staff on average were missing from work through illness for two working weeks.

With the average annual council salary of £28,800, the absence bill for the local authority has been described as 'eye watering'.

On average, council workers in Argyll and Bute took 10.6 days off in 2013/14, double the 5.3 days recorded in the private sector.

This places the council's absentee rate just above the Scottish national mean figure of just under nine days, but well below the worst affected local authorities.

However, while the figures for staff sickness in Argyll and Bute are improving, particularly the number of teachers taking a day off, the local authority has racked up almost half a million sick days in the last five years.

Injury, back problems, infections and digestion problems are among the most common reasons for short term absence rates, it was revealed.

Although long-term absenteeism among council workers and teachers has improved over the past year, it has more than doubled in the last five years with

227 staff members being absent for more than 28 days.

The main reasons given for long-term absence are stress, medical treatment and digestion problems.

But some council insiders argue that the widespread geography of Argyll makes it very difficult to provide sickness cover given the reduction in staff numbers since austerity measures were imposed by the UK government.

'One worker, in a front line service, said she was at her wits' end having to cover for people who were off with a 'sore back' or a 'cold' without anyone else coming in to help her.

She said: 'The truth is I cannot do my job and everyone else's in the time I have. Sometimes it is easier to stay off sick myself rather than face a task I cannot do.'

Insiders say increased stress is the root cause of employees taking days off.

Dave Watson, of union Unison, which represents public sector workers, described the rise as an inevitable consequence of massive job cuts.

He said: 'We have carried out surveys and found sickness had gone up in areas where jobs had been cut but there had been no reduction in workloads.'

'Those left behind have to plug the gaps, resulting in increased levels of stress.'

An Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman said it 'mitigated staff absence by supporting staff

to return to work'. She continued: 'We have introduced a trigger system to manage absence and the use of occupational health services to support the process.'

'Managers are provided with training on this specific policy.'

One of the sectors with a high rate of lost days through sickness is care services, which includes home carers and care home workers, who are among the lowest paid on the council's books.

However, council said there was a precautionary factor to the relatively high absence rate.

She said: 'Many of the staff in this service work with people who may have poor health or are elderly, and therefore they cannot take the risk of working with clients when they have a viral illness such as a cold.'

'They are, therefore, more likely to be absent when staff in other roles can still attend work.'

But Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, cabinet secretary for education and lifelong learning, said: 'These figures should worry the administration of the council and senior managers.'

'Staff absence at this level is about unhappiness.'

'The council must look on its staff as its main resource and treat them better.'

'This problem of staff absence affects the delivery of services from the council.'

'The council must face reality and support staff much better than it does at the moment.'

## A SOLEMN SALUTE



SERGEANT Mike Wood of Oban police salutes the war memorial on Oban's Esplanade during the town's remembrance service on Sunday.

Sgt Wood, a former Royal military policeman, led the police

parade during the march to the war memorial from the Corran Halls in his last remembrance service in a police uniform, as he retires from Police Scotland later this year. Representatives from a variety of services and

organisations met at the war memorial on Sunday in what was one of the best attended services in recent memory.

For more on Remembrance Sunday, see page 10

## Haggisfest should prove a tasty treat

OBAN could soon lay claim to be Scotland's go-to town for St Andrew's Day celebrations.

As part of Oban Winter Festival this month, organisers have laid on a series of events to mark the patron saint's day and are encouraging people in and around Oban to get involved.

Events include a grand ceilidh, haggis hurling and a sponsored run, the Tartan Dash, where competitors must dress in tartan to take part.

But the main event is the inaugural Haggisfest, pitting seven butchers from across Argyll and Bute against each other in a cook-off at Oban Distillery.

For more, see page 11

## Innovative charity picks up top award

ARGYLL outdoor charity Stramash has been honoured at the Scottish rural parliament in Oban after winning the national Rural Innovators Award.

Stramash, which had previously won the Argyll and Bute stage to qualify for the national final, saw off competition from six other finalists, including rural business and employment category winner Isle of Jura Community Shop.

The organisation provides the only outdoor children's care apprenticeship scheme for young people in Scotland and runs an outdoor nursery as well as offering outdoor pursuits.

## Head-to-head for competing bands

TWO TRADITIONAL Three bands will go head-to-head for Live Act of the Year at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

Skerryvore and Skipinnish have both been nominated in the category alongside Peatbog Faeries and Gavin Marwick's Journeyman Spectacular.

Music fans are now being asked to vote for their favourite in each of the 16 categories before November 28.



## Mull pub is the toast of the trade

THE BEST independent pub in Scotland is on Mull.

Tobermory's Macgochans won the accolade at the Scottish Licensed Trade News Awards last Thursday.

The pub was picked for its warm welcome, great food and the range of drinks, 'all in an outstanding setting by the sea.'

Mull resident and pub owner Neil Morrison himself was complimented on his staff training and the overall customer service.

Neil said: 'I was not expecting this award because of some really stiff competition.'

'We were delighted to walk away with such a great name.'

'The final three were our-



selves, Panda and Sons in Edinburgh and the Syne Bar in Edinburgh - so we really were the outsiders to win.'

Neil took some of the team with him to awards. The Macgochans team were presented with its award by comedian Kevin Bridges who said: 'I'll need to get up to the pub for a gig.'

Styled 'the home of great craic', Macgochans regularly hosts gigs, pub quizzes and even bingo. Over the summer, rock legend guitarist Eric Clapton played an impromptu short set for unwitting revellers.

Neil (left) is pictured with Ann Nixon director of the Kopparberg brand and comedian Kevin Bridges.

### ARGYLL AUCTIONS

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**Reindeer parade to light up Oban**

SANTA and his reindeer are coming to Oban on Saturday, November 22 for the Christmas lights switch-on in Station Square.

Oban Pipe Band is to accompany Santa through the town, leaving from the Corran Halls car park at 5pm, along George Street and Argyll Square to Station Square for the switch-on at 6pm.

During the evening there will be a Victorian market in the Caledonian Hotel and fair-ground rides in Station Square.

Winners of a primary school Christmas card competition organised by the Rotary Club of Oban will accompany Santa in the procession and assist in the switching on of the lights.

BID4Oban is sponsoring the event, aided by the Rotary Club of Oban and Oban and Lorn Lions Club.

**Poly tunnel pulls in £1,000 prize**

DALMALLY Eco Group has been awarded £1,000 after winning a national competition run by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Scotland.

The group, led by Dalmally primary school, won the climate and energy category in the community competition, beating hundreds of community groups and schools from across Scotland to claim the prize on Friday.

The group designed a climate-friendly community poly tunnel, and proposes to use the prize money to enable them to grow fruit and vegetables for the community.

The prize was funded via the People's Postcode Lottery, which raises millions of pounds for charities and communities annually.

**Sowing the seeds of a different pot**

THE LORN Garden club was treated to a talk last Thursday by Lindsay Morrison of Inwood Garden in East Lothian, entitled, 'grow something different in a pot'.

Lindsay, whose garden is part of her property at the bed and breakfast she runs, developed her garden from scratch and has become an expert grower of various plants.

The evening ended with the autumn plant swap where members excelled themselves in bringing plants from their gardens to share and swap.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2 when Maurice Wilkins, head gardener at the National Trust's Arduaine Garden will give a talk, entitled 'west coast gardens from the sea'.

**Lawyers willingly waive legal fee**

PEOPLE in the West Highlands are being reminded that this month is Will Aid's Make a Will Month, which benefits people and charities around the UK.

Every November, participating solicitors waive their fee for writing a basic will, and instead invite their clients to make a donation to Will Aid.

**Make Donald's wish come true, say Argyll politicians**

**Michael Russell MSP pledges to lobby health secretary and Alan Reid MP says pilot project is step in right direction for Argyll4dialysis**



**Michael Russell MSP Argyll & Bute**

I will never forget the stories that the late Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, councillor, taxi driver and good friend to many in Oban and further afield, used to tell about his three-times-weekly, early morning trips from Oban to the Vale of Leven in Alexandria for his dialysis treatment.

Those who remember the larger-than-life Skye and his humour will know that they were often very funny but they disguised a harsh truth - he had to put up with a huge amount of discomfort, pain, fatigue and inconvenience just to live the life there rest of us take for granted.

There are still too many people in Argyll who have to do that and despite a long-term campaign, which I got involved in when I became the MSP for Argyll & Bute in May 2011, only six months before Skye died, it sometimes seems they are no nearer the solution - dialysis facilities closer to home. Certainly in Oban and

hopefully in Campbeltown too. NHS Highland has argued that the cost of establishing these units would be high, that there would be difficulties in staffing them with the specialised nurses that they need and that the number of those who require treatment is not sufficient to justify the expenditure. But they have also said that they will keep the matter under review.

That review process has taken too long and is about more than money or even numbers.

The quality of life for individuals, sometimes elderly, is the real issue. An hour's trip to Fort William (or Dumbarton



The late Donald 'Skye' McIntosh

and on occasion even Glasgow) every second or third day, in all weathers and when feeling very much below par is not something any of us would want to do. To know that there was no end to that imposition is even worse and therefore a promise from NHS to get on with it and establish a unit within an announced and agreed timescale is what this newspaper's campaign has sought and which I am keen to see actually happen.

I will be taking that case back to the cabinet secretary for health in the coming weeks to seek the continuation of the support shown by his predecessor Nicola Sturgeon for dialysis closer to patients - something that in rural Scotland is difficult to do, but which now needs to take place.

No-one is unrealistic about the financial challenges facing all public services as a result of Westminster austerity. But within those challenges there is space for essential improvement and the NHS has been protected by the current Scottish Government in precisely the way it said it

would when it was elected. I hope some flexibility will now be shown by NHS Highland to allow Skye's long term wish - that no-one else would have to put up with what he put with - to be fulfilled.

**Alan Reid MP Argyll & Bute**

Having to visit a hospital three times a week for dialysis treatment is very tiring in itself. But if you live in Argyll, you have the added stress of long, exhausting journeys to and from the hospital on those three days each week.

Argyll patients have to travel to either Fort William, Vale of Leven or Glasgow for their dialysis. I have long supported the campaign for dialysis units to be provided in local hospitals in Argyll.

It is good news that NHS Highland has responded to the campaign by announcing that an outreach dialysis unit will be piloted at Campbeltown Hospital.

Preparation for the dialysis unit will take about six months. The health board will evaluate the pilot after a year.

Hopefully the pilot will be a success and then similar units will be installed in hospitals throughout the Highlands and islands, such as Oban, where there are also patients who have to make the long and tiring journeys three days a week.

If all goes according to plan, by the end of 2016, these journeys to hospitals in Fort William, Vale of Leven or Glasgow will be a thing of the past for all Argyll dialysis patients.

**Alarming warning from Kenny to those with foul habit of using bin**

**STEVEN RAE**  
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A RESIDENT of Pulpit Hill in Oban is the latest person to call foul on irresponsible dog-owners in the town.

Kenny McLennan says that as well as not cleaning up after their animals, some are using his wheeie bin to deposit bags of dog mess.

After finding a bag of dog dirt in his bin for the third time, despite putting up a sign warning against it, he decided to contact *The Oban Times* in the hope it would shame the dog owners into taking it home with them.

Kenny, who is a retired telecom engineer, said: 'It's just sheer disregard and a lack of ownership or social conscience.'

'I've spoken to the police who were very helpful, although they can't really pin an offence on anybody as using someone else's bin is a grey area. The council were helpful too.'

'Some people have said to me, "oh they're doing the decent thing, wrapping it up", but if they're doing the half-decent thing of wrapping it up why not do the whole decent thing and take it home?'



DUMP: Kenny McLennan is fed up with dog owners dumping bags of dog dirt in his bin 16\_146bin01

Kenny, who lives with wife Sheena, said he had thought of one unusual way to deter irresponsible owners: 'I've got a siren out there that used to be fitted to power stations, to be heard over the noise of diesel generators. I could wire it up in two minutes to the lid of my bin, put a sign up saying, "don't touch this bin, it's alarmed".'

'I'd do it just to see the looks on

their faces when they opened it. 'I've also seen a very respectable man bag it - this is around the time that the school bus is coming - look round 360 degrees and throw it in the hedge across the road.'

While it has been suggested it's harmless to use his bin, it did not get emptied one Wednesday because of rules about disposal. Kenny explained: 'One morn-

ing the binmen wouldn't empty my bin because it was sitting on top of the rubbish in the bin, and they were quite right not to. Also, the rules with dustbin emptying now are, that if your stuff's not in a bag, they're entitled not to take it because it's loose rubbish.'

Kenny added that if the offender would care to defend their actions he would be pleased to meet them to discuss the matter.

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U.S.A

31 October 2014

RE: Iain A. C. Reid, approximate age 70 years old

As a 21 year old college student in a three week work camp in Tobermory, Isle of Mull, in July 1963, I met Iain A.C. Reid working on a boat near the Isle of Gometra, where he and his family worked for Gometra's owner, Col F. H. Howard.

During a trip to Oban, Tobermory and Gometra in 2006, I tried to find Iain using letters he had written me in college in 1963-1964 as a reference point. The people at the council offices in Oban went out of their way to help me, but no luck. It only recently occurred to me to put an ad in a local paper, a method successfully used by a retired American WWII veteran to locate and other retired WWII soldier in Europe.

In August of this year I had a wonderful reunion with a German fellow whom I'd met in the youth hostel in Glasgow in July 1963 just before I began my volunteer project on Tobermory.

It would be great to have a similar reunion with Iain Reid if I can find him. So with the Lord's grace and the help of the staff at the Oban Times, maybe Iain Reid and I will have a chance to meet again while we're still on God's good earth.

Sincerely  
Peter C. Miles

**Friend reaches out over the pond to isle of Mull**

IN A lifetime of friendships' only a few are special, says a man from New York State, who is looking for a pal he made back in the 1960s.

Peter Mills, from Copake Halls, met Iain A C Reid on the Isle of Mull in July 1963 when he was working at a Quaker work-camp in Tobermory and Iain was working on a boat near the Isle of Gometra.

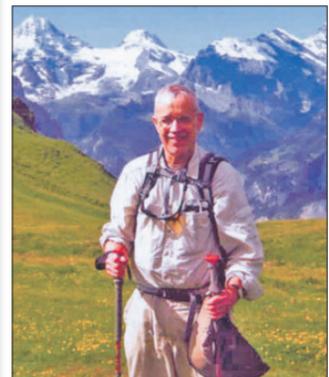
Iain's family at that time worked for the Howard family. They owned, and still own, the islands of Ulva and Gometra. Despite searches on the islands for his

friend, who would be in his 70s, in 2006 and help from staff in the Oban registry office, he cannot find anyone who knew him.

Peter, who is a retired teacher, said: 'You get to my time in life and think of all the people you met and friendships you made.'

'I just wanted to see him again and share some old memories about that work camp back in the 1960s.'

'It only recently occurred to me to put a request in a local paper, a method successfully used by many others searching for friends.'



MULL LINK: Peter Miles (above centre) at Quaker camp on Mull 1963 and (left) in 2014

**MULL lines**



CASH BOOST: Councillor Mary-Jean Devon (left) hands over the cheque to committee chairwoman Marion MacLean

**Appealing park cheque**

THE TOBERMORY Playpark appeal received a major cash boost last week when it was presented with a cheque for £7,800 from the Kenny MacIntyre Memorial Fund.

The playpark appeal was set up by parents and grandparents, who were becoming increasingly concerned about the dilapidated state of the town's only outdoor play area.

In just four short months, the committee has worked hard, holding fundraising events and securing donations and this significant contribution has boosted the appeal funds to a total of £16,000.

Playpark committee chairwoman Marion MacLean said: 'We are thrilled to receive this donation, which shows the huge level of support for the appeal. It is likely to cost up to £40,000 to replace the playpark equipment and to have raised nearly half the costs in such a short time is really encouraging. We can't wait to get started.'

The Kenny MacIntyre Memorial Fund was set up in memory of the popular BBC journalist in 1999, and a brand new all-weather sports facility was opened in his home town in 2006.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'I am absolutely delighted that money which has been available, and is separate to the main fund, is being put to such good use.'

'The group of young mums are working so hard and I know they will provide the children of Tobermory with not only fantastic new recreational equipment, but first and foremost educational facilities, which are badly needed, not least as the town's baby boom shows no signs of slowing down.'

If anyone would like to make a donation to the playpark appeal, they can at the Isle of Mull Soap Company shop on Tobermory's Main Street or by contacting tobplaypark@gmail.com.

**Benefactor's Ulva offer**

THE ULVA Ferry Housing Project on the Isle of Mull continues to go from strength to strength with an anonymous pledge of £15,000.

The donation will directly contribute to the construction costs of the houses, enabling preliminary work to be undertaken sooner than expected.

This pledge marks a significant contribution to closing the funding gap for the construction costs of the houses. The anonymous donor is hoping to stimulate further donations by offering to match a further £10,000 from new donors.

This means that anyone, as a tax payer, who donates £100, would see the project benefit by receiving £25 GiftAid from HMRC and a further £100 from the benefactor.

The Ulva School Community Association (USCA) is building two family homes next to Ulva primary school on the west coast of Mull, with support from Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) which, as anchor organisation, is taking on the long-term responsibilities of owning the houses and employing the housing project manager.

The housing project is the result of extensive community consultation carried out by USCA, which identified affordable housing to be the top priority for the remote and isolated area.

Thanks to a sympathetic local landowner, a plot of land at Ulva Ferry has been made available for purchase with assistance from the Scottish Land Fund, along with funding to employ a housing project manager for two years to oversee the design, procurement and construction of the houses.

Argyll and Bute council is assisting with the construction costs with a grant of £180,000 from its rural housing development fund.

The innovative houses are being designed to passive house principles by Tobermory-based firm Thorne Wyness Architects, and will be built by a Mull-based contractor early next year.

The three-bedroom houses will be offered to local families to rent at a 'mid-market' affordable rate with secure tenancies and low heating bills.

Helen MacDonald, housing project manager, said: 'We are delighted and very grateful to receive this substantial pledge, which along with the many donations to our buy-a-brick scheme from both locals and visitors alike, confirms the huge level of support there is for the housing project.'

'Two new houses may not seem a lot, but in an area with few affordable housing options, these homes will make a positive difference to both the families who rent them, and to the wider community.'

'Every single penny donated will contribute directly to the build costs of the houses; if you would like to support the regeneration and sustainability of this fantastic community, please do consider making a donation.'

Anyone who would like to support the housing project can buy a 'virtual' brick online at www.justgiving.com/ulvaferry-housing.

To discuss a more substantial donation, please contact Moray Finch, MICT general manager, on 01680 812 900 or email mfinch@mict.co.uk.

**Make Mull national park**

A BRADFORD visitor to Mull has suggested that the island become a national park.

Val Ibsen, from Wilsden in Bradford, wrote to *The Oban Times* saying: 'Have just heard that there are plans to build a fast road from Tobermory to the ferry to Iona on the Isle of Mull.'

'I am horrified that anyone would want to build one on this serene, beautiful island.'

'My husband and I and our family have holidayed here for many years and cannot understand the effect it will have on the wildlife and character of the island.'

'We would also like to see Mull and the Inner Hebrides as a national park so that they can be managed by people who have the best interests of these magical islands.'

**Lifeboat launched for stricken yacht**

A YACHT with two people on board ran aground last Thursday morning off Eilean Mor, near Dunstaffnage. Oban's lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald was launched at 9am to go to the aid of the yacht and found on arrival that the two crew had been taken off by other boats in the area. The lifeboat returned to its berth having established everyone was safe and there was no immediate danger to the yacht. Two days previously, the lifeboat was launched to help a RIB with four people on it after engine problems at Innimore Bay, south-east of Lochaline in the Sound of Mull. The lifeboat got to the rigid inflatable at 6.20pm on the Tuesday and took the four people on board. The RIB was then taken in tow towards Lochaline where it was berthed at 7pm and the passengers put ashore.

**Payback order for uninvited visitor**

A MAN who turned up drunk at his former partner's home and didn't take kindly to being refused entry, has been made the subject of a community payback order. At Oban sheriff court on Tuesday, Kevin Hobbs, 26, Croft Avenue, Oban, pleaded guilty to banging on the front door, putting his foot in the doorway to stop it closing and shouting and swearing at his ex-partner on September 30. He also pleaded guilty to punching a hole in a door in the same house on September 25.

Hobbs, who was already on a community order for a similar previous offence, was given an 18-month supervision order, told to carry out 200 hours' unpaid work in the community and order to pay £100 compensation.

**Biker hit 97mph on slippery road**

A BIKER who was clocked at 97mph near Bridge of Orchy on the A82 was pursued by police at speeds of up to 100mph through Glen Orchy. Peter Lorandffi, 35, from Leamington Spa, pleaded guilty at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday to speeding on August 1. The court was told police were manning a standard speed trap when they heard the roar of the bike. It was a very wet day, the court heard, with a lot of standing water on the road. Lorandffi was banned from driving for six months and fined £650.

**NHS targets 'fed-up' GPs**

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

NHS HIGHLAND has targeted 'dissatisfied' GPs in the north of England as it seeks to plug a worrying gap in its front line healthcare service.

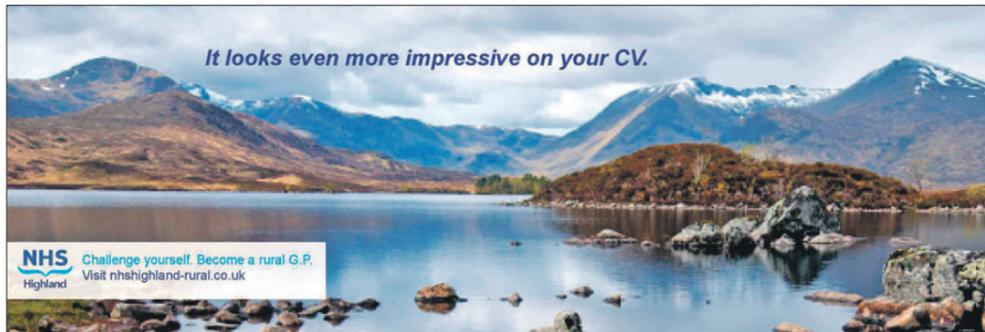
The health board is desperate to fill 24 vacancies across the region, offering 'Golden Hellos' to some potential recruits and commissioning a marketing company to launch its recruitment campaign south of the border.

Marketing has so far included an illuminated van bearing stunning Highland scenes being driven around Liverpool during a recent GP conference and adverts on billboards and on buses in Leeds.

The recently-launched campaign, which focuses on pilot areas including Kintyre, Mid Argyll, Arisaig, Mallaig and the Small Isles, has received £1.5 million from the Scottish government.

Gill MacVicar, the health board's director of operations for north and west Highland, said the campaign was already paying off, with six expressions of interest received.

Explaining Scotland had been 'saturated' with recruitment drives, she said: 'We know there are some dissatisfied with the English health system and some are even leaving the country; New Zealand and Australia are powerful advertisers. 'We are saying to them: if you



IDEAL TONIC: an advert used by NHS Highland to attract dissatisfied GPs to the West Highlands

are looking for a change - and a lot of people are - then here is something a bit different.

'The GPs that move here say there is much less pressure and they get longer with patients.'

Port Appin surgery, one of the last providers of an out-of-hours service in the region, announced last week it was opting out, partly because of the difficulty in selling the old-fashioned lifestyle of the rural on-call doctor.

Ms MacVicar said: 'GPs need to prove continual professional development and that is difficult to do as a single practitioner. There is also the 'goldfish bowl' effect where they may not be on duty but are at people's beck and call and that can be difficult for them and their families.



BALANCE: retired GP Dr Iain McNicol believes rural GPs can work on call and have quality of life

'Doctors now expect down time. They're no longer on call for 100 hours; they are trained for shift work.'

NHS Highland has also discovered that GPs considered other factors such as housing, education and prospective employment for their partners when deciding whether to come to the Highlands.

But retired Appin GP Dr Iain McNicol, who previously ran his own out-of-hours service, believes rural GPs can have the best of both worlds.

He said: 'People would only phone me in the middle of the night if they really had to. They knew I was there if they needed me, which reassured them, but also that I needed some quality

of life. I can see how NHS 24 works in the city because doctors there have an unremitting battle but in rural areas it's a different situation - I don't see why doctors here can't cover on-call until 10pm and then handover to NHS24 after that. It would help keep people at home and help them feel more secure.'

Asked about the changes at Appin surgery, Dr McNicol said: 'It is inevitable change. Why should the doctor there be the only one in Argyll doing on-call?'

The recruitment campaign features a dedicated website, nshighland-rural.scot.nhs.uk/why-rural, which details GP vacancies and explains some of the benefits of practising in the Highlands' rural communities.

**Crewman was asleep as boat ran aground**

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

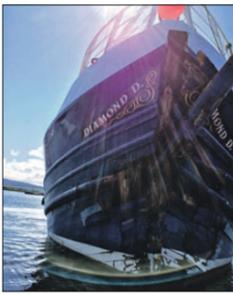
A FISHING boat had £18,000-worth of damage done to it after a crew member fell asleep at the helm and grounded the FV Diamond D off Ardnarmurchan in the Sound of Mull. The rest of the crew and skipper were asleep below decks on May 24 when they were awoken suddenly by the grounding of the prawn boat, Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday.

The skipper ran to the wheel-

house where he found 20-year-old Kenneth Brown 'dancing about in a panic'.

The boat was so badly damaged that it began to take on water and Tobermory's Royal National Lifeboat Institution lifeboat was launched to its aid - at a cost of around £7,500, procurator fiscal Eion McGinty told the court.

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton explained that the Diamond D fished out of North Shields in the winter, but moved to prawn fishing grounds on the west coast in the summer.



Brown, of North Shields, had taken the helm from the skipper having slept for a couple of hours after leaving Oban the evening before. He pleaded guilty to failing to keep a proper look-out and navigate safely.

'He has quite honestly said he fell asleep - he just dozed off,' said Mr Thornton, adding that there was no suggestion of alcohol or drugs being involved.

GROUNDING: damage to the FV Diamond D

The Diamond D was taken for repairs to Mallaig and was back fishing by July and Brown, a fisherman of two years, was still employed by the same firm, said Mr Thornton.

'He deeply regrets this error,' said his solicitor. 'He feels he has let down his employer and is glad no one was injured.'

Fining Brown £650, Sheriff John Herald said: 'To be fair to you, you have been honest from the start but I have to balance this against the amount it cost your employer.'

**New panel will oversee school closures**

A CAMPAIGN group in Argyll has welcomed the formation of an independent panel to make final decisions on school closure proposals.

Applications are now open for the panel and candidates from the Highlands and islands are being encouraged to apply for approximately 10 positions.

Currently, Scottish ministers can 'call in' a local authority proposal to close a school and then make a final decision in relation to the closure.

The new panel will take over responsibility for reviewing the cases called in by ministers and reaching a final determination.

Argyll Rural Schools Network (ARSN) was formed in 2010 to campaign against the council's proposal to close 25 schools and group secretary Philip Rowland welcomed the formation of a panel.

He said: 'It is a step forward because it is opening up the process, rather than the issue of school closures becoming

an entrenched battle between the council and parents. It is positive that methods of debate and discussion will not be solely controlled by the council.'

The panel will be able to consent to a closure, with or without conditions, refer it back to the local authority to consider again, or refuse consent.

The Scottish government is introducing the changes through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in spring 2015.

**Sorry saga as dentist pulls out of Oban hospital unit**

A MULTI-million pound dental unit planned for Oban has faced another major setback, writes Steven Rae.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) was informed on Friday that the unnamed dentist planning to set up practice within the Oban Dental Access centre has pulled out of the deal.

The centre, located in Lorn and Islands hospital, has not been fully operational since it was completed in September last year.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Roddy McCuish said: 'This is obviously another blow to Oban. I would urge all parties to get round the table to discuss this matter as soon as possible to get it sorted out.'

'There is obviously a case for this dental centre in Oban but it's of no use unless it is operating at full capacity.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, who serves the Oban North and Lorn ward, said the news had left her 'bitterly disappointed'.

Elizabeth Reilly, assistant clinical director for dental services in Argyll and Bute, said: 'On behalf of Argyll and Bute CHP, I would like to apologise to the people of Oban and surrounding areas for the fact that we have been unable to secure a lease for a tenant in the dental access centre.'

'The CHP is now looking at the options that are available to us in order to try and secure a tenant as soon as possible and we will continue to keep the public informed with any developments.'

**Leader-in-waiting gives her blessing to broadband rollout**

DEPUTY First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed on Monday that 30,000 homes and businesses in the Highlands and islands can now benefit from fibre broadband.

The service, delivered through the £410 million Digital Scotland rollout, is now live in more than 120 locations.

Stuart Robertson, director of digital at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), said: 'This public investment is creating a brand new fibre network right across the Highlands and islands, and will change the way people in many of our remote, rural and island communities use broadband, opening up new opportunities.'

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# HUNDREDS OF DELEGATES CONVERGE ON OBAN TO EXCHANGE IDEAS

## Years in the making: doors open on rural parliament

THE OPENING ceremony of the Scottish rural parliament epitomised the nature of the organisation - good quality conversation and rigorous debate.

The ethos of the event was bringing people together from across the county to share knowledge and encourage ideas.

The real point is to empower those people living in rural areas to seize the opportunity to influence the Holyrood and Westminster parliaments.

The rural parliament has been years in the making but with the current volunteer board hopes it was the first of many.

**“ We will be the talking shop that makes things happen ”**

**Chairman**  
John Hutchison

Speaking at the opening ceremony, chairman John Hutchison, MBE, former

Highland Council area manager for Lochaber, said: ‘The rural parliament is an idea whose time has come. The country is in a reflective mood about who it is and who should govern us and what that governance should be. This is the right time for the rural parliament to begin to take shape.’

‘We will be the talking shop that makes things happen.’

‘At one time,’ the Fort William man explained, ‘we were, as rural areas, forced to fight against each other. One example is the [Fort William] Belford hospital campaign versus the Lorn and Islands [Oban] campaign. One

rural community fighting against another. The rural parliament should be making sure that we are all getting what we need in our communities - and where we need to share resources we can.’

Also speaking was businessman and Oban Atlantis Leisure chairman Neil Mathieson, who welcomed everyone to Oban for the event as the chairman of the local organising committee.

He set out to show what a wide range of activities were happening in Oban and Lorn.

Argyll and Bute council, host of the opening reception and meal for 400 delegates, was represented by area chairman

councillor Roddy McCuish.

He said: ‘Getting people from all over Scotland here in Oban allows us to work together to look for the good of us all.’

Supporting the event was ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne, whose chief executive Martin Dorchester explained the company had a vested interest in supporting and empowering rural and island communities.

He told the gathered delegates: ‘We employ 11,000 people from rural areas and it is vital for us to nurture and grow opportunities like this to understand our role in developing this community.’

THE SCOTTISH Government’s cabinet secretary for rural affairs has said he thinks land reforms are likely to dominate parliament over the next two years.

Richard Lochhead, MSP for Moray, made the claim during a speech at the first rural parliament in Oban on Friday.

Addressing the crowd at Atlantis Leisure centre, he said: ‘We brought forward the community empowerment bill as we want to improve community planning.’

‘Land reform is an ongoing process. There’s a range of works underway at the moment that are going to result in very radical outcomes. I can also say I think land reforms are going to dominate much of parliament activities over the next year or two and beyond.’

Mr Lochhead said that community ownership and the economic benefits it brings to local economies was a vital way for communities to thrive in rural Scotland.

‘Our communities should be allowed access to land to fulfil aspirations and needs,’ he said.

‘A report published by community land Scotland shows that community ownership models work and work well and the turnover of communities featured has more than doubled and the rental point increased fourfold.’

He also mentioned the benefit of the parliament to discuss issues faced particularly by rural communities. He said: ‘The shared knowledge, skills and expertise are really important to help communities build confidence, resilience and get the outcomes they want to achieve in the future.’

Mr Lochhead announced the doubling of funding to the Scottish Rural Network (SRN) to £4million over the next six

years. He said: ‘This additional funding will greatly enhance the existing network, enabling it to do so much more to support the implementation of the new Scottish Rural Development Programme.’

Mr Lochhead rounded off his speech by addressing how devolution should be increased in the wake of the Scottish independence referendum, feeling that only in exceptional circumstances should powers be reserved by Westminster.

He said: ‘The vision, and I’m sure we all share it, is to see a thriving rural Scotland, a great quality of life, a thriving economy.’

‘Last night the young musicians finished with the song A Brand New Road. It’s an appropriate title for the song and it’s an appropriate thought to have in our heads this morning too as it’s the first ever rural parliament in Scotland, the biggest ever gathering of rural activists in Scotland and we are embarking on a brand new road.’

‘So good luck with that journey, I’ll support you and the government will support you along that journey.’

## One voice delivers vision for the future

SCOTLAND’S rural community spoke with one voice as it delivered its vision for the future straight to the Scottish government.

After three days of discussions, workshops and fringe events in Oban, the unenviable task of pulling together the opinions of around 400 delegates at the inaugural Scottish rural parliament was left to former Highlands and Islands MSP Peter Peacock.

His summary was greeted with applause by guests at the final event of the rural parliament on Saturday in Oban’s Atlantis Leisure.

He said he had noted three main common themes: ‘We want rural communities to be

empowered, connected and sustainable,’ he said. ‘There is no question people want a tier of government that we can access to influence events and we want young people more involved.’

On the topic of ‘connected’ he said improved broadband would give the region ‘great power’, adding that rural Scotland no longer wanted to be in the position of ‘catching up’.

He told delegates: ‘I think right now you have never been more powerful. You have been given an opportunity by the Scottish government to come together.’

‘Richard Lochhead said in some respects that he has made a rod for his own back and the government is not likely to tell you

to go away. Are we asking the government to deliver this for us, or are we asking them to support the rural parliament and rural communities to deliver more for ourselves? It seems to me it is more of the second option.’

Mr Peacock was followed by Argyll and Bute MSP and education secretary Michael Russell.

He said that while he could not, on behalf of the government, commit to everything in the report, he added: ‘There is nothing on that list that gives me any difficulty at all.’

‘This is not asking government: “Do this and then we will wait to see how you have done.” We will co-decide what goes

forward, not just with politicians but with individuals in these communities.’

‘I am enthused by this gathering because I do not think politicians have all the answers. I don’t think politicians should make all the decisions.’

‘They can help power and enable decision making in Scotland and help people understand the constraints we have in Scotland.’

But Mr Russell had one note of caution in addressing one delegate’s claim that money was simply a ‘construct’ of society and real value was in Scotland’s land and assets. He said: ‘Whether money is just a construct, it is a construct that people talk about quite a lot.’



OBAN TOURISM: Elaine Robertson and Linda Battison were talking up Oban and Lorn as great places to visit 17\_146rural2

AN EVENT to show off the rural parliament’s hometown of Oban was a success for a number of exhibitors who took part.

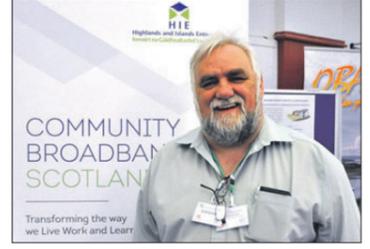
Public, private and third sector organisations got together to show all that the town had to offer.



BID4OBAN: Kay MacDonald and Nic Jones meant business when they attended the Scottish rural parliament 17\_146rural4



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: Argyll and Bute council’s staff Linda Houston and Adrian Jackson-Stark 17\_146rural5



BROADBAND: Campbell Cameron was on hand with advice from Community Broadband Scotland 17\_146rural1

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**Public offences woman arrested**

A WOMAN has been arrested after allegedly committing a series of offences against members of the public, a police officer and an employee of NHS Highland.

Police were called to an incident in Oban town centre at around 6.55pm last Saturday after a woman was accused of confronting members of the public.

The 50-year-old woman is also accused of assaulting a member of the public, possession of an offensive weapon, three counts of disorder, assaulting a police officer and assaulting a member of the medical staff at Lorn and Islands hospital in the town.

**Minard memorial restoration fund**

A WAR memorial in Argyll and Bute is to be restored to its former glory with a £2,900 grant from the Scottish Government.

Minard war memorial, in Minard village hall, is one of 20 to receive a grant, part of £160,000 given from the latest round of funding from the Centenary Memorials Restoration fund.

The £1m fund, announced last year, was set up as part of the Scottish commemorations to mark the centenary of the First World War.

**Speeding driver clocked in Connel**

A 48-YEAR-OLD man has been charged with speeding after being clocked driving at 50mph through an Argyll village. The driver was stopped by police on the A85 within Connel's 30mph speed limit at 10.47pm last Friday.

**Collision report**

A 33-YEAR-OLD man has been reported to the procurator fiscal, accused of dangerous driving on the A85 near Dalmally, after his vehicle was involved in a collision with a car east of the village at 1pm last Thursday.

**Village mourns death of man they called 'Godfather of the Games'**

THE COMMUNITY of Taynuilt has been left in shock after the death of its most celebrated volunteer, Leslie Servant, who was described this week as a 'natural leader', writes Euan Paterson.

Mr Servant, who died in the early hours of Monday morning after suffering a stroke on Saturday, had celebrated his 80th birthday in September with a well-attended party in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The Inverawe resident was a mainstay of Taynuilt Highland Games and had given his services to the village's church, community council, horticultural society, youth club, brownies, scouts, shinty club and drama group, among others since moving to Taynuilt with his wife Jessie in 1971.

'We worked out that the only thing he hadn't been involved in was the WRI and country dancing,' said Jessie. 'He loved Taynuilt.'

Jessie said she has been 'engulfed with kindness', following the loss of her husband, adding: 'I have had lots of support, not just from the family but from



**STALWART:** Leslie Servant received his quich for long service to the Taynuilt Highland Games from games president Davy Thomson and Davy's wife, Carol

the whole village.' Leslie's commitment to Taynuilt Highland Games over more than 40 years earned him the nickname 'Godfather of the Games' and in 2013 he was gifted a quich for his long service.

Murray Sim, who served with Leslie on the community council, was shocked by the death of the retired water bailiff. He said: 'Leslie was a huge part of village life and will leave behind a huge void in the community.'

'He was such a popular guy, very obliging and was involved with so many things because he loved the village.'

He has done more than anyone else for Taynuilt. His Inverawe neighbour of 45

years, Robert Campbell-Preston, paid tribute to a 'natural leader'. He said: 'He was a great neighbour, so helpful and kind. He had a great sense of fun about him and was just a wonderful man.'

'He was a great character who will be missed by many people.'

Leslie and Jessie had been for a walk on Saturday afternoon before Leslie, a fine rugby player in his youth, watched the Scotland rugby team's victory over Argentina. Later that evening, the former Glasgow City policeman began to feel unwell and was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital, where Jessie said he had 'the best of attention'.

He is also survived by his three children: Gordon, Lorna and Andrew and grandchildren, Alexander and Iain.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow (Friday) in Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt at 1pm.

On receiving his long service award from the Highland games committee last year, Leslie said: 'I wasn't born in Taynuilt but I have lived here since 1971 and I feel I owe something to the village, because it has given me a wonderful life.'

**Construction boss hits out at extra 'rural' tax**

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

ARGYLL'S largest private employer says its apprenticeship scheme and the construction of new housing in the county is under threat from government bureaucracy.

M&K MacLeod Construction director Jane MacLeod said the cost of building a new unit rises by between £4,000 - £6,000 on heating systems, because of a lack of mains gas in Argyll.

She says Scottish building regulations require them to install costly alternatives to electricity - seen as environmentally unfriendly - such as ground-source heating.

Ms MacLeod believes Argyll, a net exporter of renewable energy through wind power and Cruachan's hydro pump storage scheme, is being unfairly tarred with the same brush as more industrial regions.

But the Scottish government stressed it would want to avoid giving Argyll the green light to construct homes that were less energy efficient than the rest of the country.

Ms MacLeod said: 'Mains electricity is regarded as environmentally unfriendly, despite the fact that as an area we are a net exporter of renewable energy, with large amounts of hydro, wind and other renewables. 'How can we possibly believe

that gas and oil that has been shipped from the Gulf and trucked into Argyll is better for the environment than electricity generated from renewable sources such as solar and hydro?'

Lochgilthead-based MacLeod Construction is the largest non-government employer in Argyll, with a turnover of around £25million per annum, and currently employs 200 people, of who 20 are apprentices or trainees.

But Ms MacLeod said the construction industry was being strangled by 'red tape', adding: 'We already face enough problems in running rural businesses without this additional rural tax. 'If we were building the same

houses in an area with mains gas, our costs would be considerably cheaper.'

'Already we face real problems retaining young people in rural communities without having to charge them an extra tax to set up their first home.'

'If the current system is not changed, we will find it impossible to continue our current commitment to apprenticeships and trainee places and in the very near future will have to reduce our workforce.'

Ms MacLeod put her points to Holyrood finance secretary John Swinney at Argyll and Bute council's recent economic summit. He replied that he would 'look into' the matter.

But a Scottish government spokesperson said: 'While we are aware of some local interest in the energy standards in Scottish building regulations, it is the case that the standards that have applied to new homes since 2010 do not penalise the use of grid electricity.'

'In 2015 we will introduce new energy standards which will address this matter for all new buildings.'

'If standards were lowered for development in Argyll and Bute, the area would end up with new build homes which were less energy efficient and more costly to run which is not in the interests of either homeowners or our national building regulations.'

**Head of finance leaves council after 19 years to join association**

THE HEAD of strategic finance for Argyll and Bute council is to step down after almost two decades of service.

Bruce West will join the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) as director of finance and IT in February, after 19 years with the council.

When asked if the timing of his resignation had implications for the administration's budget, due to be released in February next year, a spokeswoman for the council said: 'Having set a two-year budget approach for 2014/15 and 2015/16, the council is currently in a period of stability.'

'The expertise of our strategic finance team will continue to support the council as it uses this time to plan for the future.'

She added: 'Bruce has been a fantastic officer throughout his time with the council and a real asset to the work of the organisation - he takes with him the good wishes of elected members and colleagues.'

Helensburgh Central SNP Councillor James Robb paid tribute to Mr West saying: 'Bruce West has given many years of valuable service to the council, earning the respect of elected members. He will be a huge loss.'

'Finding someone willing to try to protect the council from the irresponsible financial decisions of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat administration will be difficult.'

However, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, Alan Reid said: 'The Liberal Democrat, Conservative and independent councillors were forced to step in to pick up the pieces and have made a good start, managing to stabilise the appalling mess inherited from Councillor Robb's SNP administration.'

Chief executive for ACHA, Alastair MacGregor, said: 'ACHA is pleased that someone with Bruce's experience of strategic finance will be joining us. We look forward to working with him.'



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**Lochaber and Skye**

PEOPLE in Lochaber and Skye will have the opportunity to learn more about what community services are provided in their areas.

Highland Council is to host the events as part of a number of meetings throughout the Highlands.

During these open evenings directors and councillors explain to local people what is done where they live and how money is spent as well as listening to what else they would like to see.

Graham Mackenzie, chairman of the council's community services committee, said: 'Community services delivers many of the council's every day services such as refuse collection, grass cutting, waste management, homelessness, roads maintenance and much more. This puts our staff in regular contact with most of you.'

'We are keen to speak to you about how we deliver these services, how we might improve service delivery and what you could do more of yourselves to benefit your community.'

The Lochaber event will be on November 19 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Fort William council chambers and Skye's will be at the same time on November 26 at Portree High School.

**Fort William**

FORT William's women's rural institute group enjoyed a talk from a local fundraiser about charity work in Lochaber.

Alison Rennie, area fundraiser for Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS), told members about the charity's home care teams who provide support for families in their own homes and how CHAS helps to lighten the load for parents and carers.

Mrs Rennie explained that CHAS provides end of life support to the child and his family and this can be continued after the child has died and how support is tailored for the individual child's needs and those of the family. After answering many questions on the work of the charity, Mrs Rennie was thanked by Betty Mac Donald for her thought-provoking talk.

The competition for a childhood memory was won by Isobel McGavin, who also won the raffle along with Lynda Tillett and Sylvia Roy.

The next meeting will be on Monday December 1 at Inverloch Hall, starting at 7.15pm. Next month's competition will be for a handmade Christmas decoration.

**Arisaig**

OCTOBER was an unusual weather month in Arisaig, according to amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyne.

Despite the first half of the month being exceptionally warm and dry, torrential rain towards the end brought the total rainfall to 255.7mm, well above average.

The coldest night this October was 4°C with the hottest day at 20°C, both normal for the time of year.

**Mallaig**



**WINNING SMILES:** Ellie MacPherson, left, and Kiera Stephen of Mallaig primary school won Christmas card design competitions

TWO BUDDING artists at Mallaig primary school have won design competitions for impressive Christmas cards.

Ellie MacPherson, primary six, won the Highland Hospice competition and Kiera Stephen, primary 7, took first place in the Royal National Lifeboat Institution contest. Both charities have the cards for sale in their shop and the girls said they would like it if people bought the cards to support the hard work of both Highland Hospice and RNLI volunteers.

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**GENEROUS DONATION:** Pipers from Oban high school pipe band presenting a cheque to Glynis Dewar and Rosemary MacColl of the Oban branch of Cancer Research UK

**School pipe band tunes in with charity cheque**

AROUND 50 guests were treated to a midweek musical performance recently as the Netherlorn piping society met at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Among the guests on October 29 were volunteers for Cancer Research UK, who received a cheque from Oban high school pipe band halfway through the night.

The school pipers regularly busk

in Argyll Square during the summer months to raise band funds and every year choose a charity to donate their earnings from their last performance to.

Glynis Dewar, chairwoman of Cancer Research UK's Oban branch, was delighted to receive a cheque for £354.84 from piper Ally Maclean, one of the high school band's more experienced pipers. Glynis, who

is a committee member of Oban pipe band, said: 'We'd like to thank Oban high school pipe band for its generosity. It was a good performance tonight. It's good to see some of the younger children performing and as it's quite informal the children aren't too nervous. It gets them used to standing up and performing in front of a crowd which is good practise if they want to go on and compete.'

**Community council election results**

**Appin**  
AN UNCONTESTED election to Appin community council will see the three candidates join automatically.

Lorraine Drysdale, 17 Kirkton, Tynribbie, Charles Stewart Forthingham, Achnacone House, and Elaine Venters will become community councillors as of November 27.

**Ardchattan**  
THREE North Connel residents will be among four new additions to Ardchattan community council from November 27.

Hugh Letford, 33 Lora View, Colin Morrison, Ryvoan Achnacreemore, and Gordon Wood, Dovewood, 8 Etive Park will join John Campbell, The Chapel House, Ardchattan as the new faces on the community council.

**Ardrishaig**  
ELSPETH MacCallum Sullivan, of The Shieling, Glenburn Road, will be accepted onto Ardrishaig community council as the only candidate from November 27.

**Colonsay**  
COLONSAY community council will add two new members on the date of the community council elections (November 27).

Because the community council required more than two candidates to force an election, both Mr Howard and Mr Joll will automatically join up on that date.

**Connel**  
CONNEL community council will welcome two new members from November 27 without the need for an election. They are: Roger Ashforth, Kinmundy, 1 Glen Park and Thomas Nelson, Kilmarnaig House.

**Dunadd**  
ONLY one candidate has put their name forward for Dunadd community council and will therefore join the group on November 27. Marion

Thomson, of 24 Kilmartin, is the community council's newest member.

**Inveraray**  
AS OF November 27 Inveraray community council will welcome two new members.

The appointment of Tracy Boyce, 6 Glen Aray View, and Norina Coupar, The Bank House, Church Square, means no election is required.

**Islay**  
THREE islanders, two of whom are from the Rhinns area, will join Islay community council without the need for an election.

From November 27 Fraya Holmes, 24 Shore Street, Port Wemyss, Mary Lawson, 72 Jamieson Street, Bowmore, and Alastair MacLellan, 5 Campbell Place, Portnahaven, will become community councillors.

**Jura**  
JURA community council has been boosted by the addition of three new community councillors. Deborah Bryce, Ardnamara Croft, Rose Fletcher, Lussagiven Cottage, and Andrew MacCallum of Jura Hotel will take up their positions from November 27.

**Kilmore**  
TINA Jordan is the only candidate for the election to Kilmore community council and as a result will automatically join after the election date of November 27.

**Lochgilhead**  
FIVE new members will be welcomed onto Lochgilhead community council this month.

The new recruits will automatically join the community council on November 27 without prompting the need for an election. They are: Andrew Buntin, 16 Fernoch Park, Brian and Norma MacLennan, Shore Cottage, Achnaba, Avril Stewart, 8 McCracken Court, Lorne Street, and

Gillian Voinot, 30 Argyll Street.

**North Knapdale**  
NORTH Knapdale community council will welcome four new community councillors from November 27.

Peter Burrell, 1 Torgortan, Tayvallich, Iain Ritchie, Crinan House, Ardmore, Crinan, Ryan Ross, Westering, Ardmore, Crinan, and Andrew Wilson, 1 Salen, Tayvallich, are the new members.

**Southend**  
DAVID Bassett and Patricia Healey will become the new members of Southend Community Council from November 27.

Mr Bassett, of An Caladh, Muneroy, and Ms Healey, of Dunaverty House, will be added to the community council without the need for an election.

**Strachur**  
TWO village residents have been added to Strachur community council without the need for an election.

As the only two candidates, Celia Alderton, 2 Stronechreivich, and Kirsteen Reid, 3 Forest View, will become community councillors as of November 27.

**Tarbert**  
FIVE residents of Tarbert have been added to Tarbert and Skipness community council from November 27 without the need for elections.

The new additions are: Robert Crawford, Escart Farm, David McBride, 1 Cairnbaan Cottage, Campbeltown Road, Neil MacCallum, 2 Quay House Studios, Harbour Street, Robert MacLeod, Dubhclaidich, Kilberry Road and Fiona McTaggart, Coney Island, 14 Mealdarroch.

**West Kintyre**  
ONLY one new member will be added to West Kintyre community council from November 27. Michael Kelly, Pinwherrie Cottage, Whitehouse, will join without the need for an election.

**MORVERN lines**

THERE are some who maintain Gaelic was the language of the Garden of Eden and if you accept that it had its roots in the east, they may well be correct.

We will never know what language Eve used to cajole poor Adam into eating that apple but by all accounts Gaelic has been used in song and verse since time immemorial.

Ossian, a legendary Celtic warrior, who is said to have lived in the third century, started the ball rolling in Morvern. He was followed in the 19th and 20th centuries by at least half a dozen outstanding bards, including Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy, the Rev Norman Macleod of Fiunary, Sandy Cameron, Bunavullin, Miss May Mackay, Ullin, and today by Alasdair Whyte from Salen, Mull, with his evocative song 'An Leitir Bhoideach' which he wrote about the time his grandparents farmed at Fiunary.

Thanks to these composers and Riona Whyte, tutor and founder of the 'Burach' choir, Gaelic still flourishes in the parish which was evidenced by the number of competitors from Morvern whose names featured in this year's Royal National Mod prize list.

Congratulations go to: Hector MacKechnie, Savary; Finlay Cameron, Mungosdail; Rachel Bolton, Lochaline; Floriana Lawrence, Kiel; Hamish Kennedy, Ullin and last, but by no means least, Verity Lawrence, Kiel, aged six, who was competing in the National Mod for the first time. 'Burach' came third in the rural choirs event and several Morvern children sang in the Mull Junior Gaelic Choir which won the overall competition and took home the Darlington Society Silver Jubilee Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic.

There are not so many pipers in Morvern these days compared to 50 years ago when six highly accomplished players kept alive the music of old Gaul. John and Kenneth Munro, Torr Mollach, Ardtornish; Donald Cameron, Kinlochtaeacus and Kiel; Harry MacIntyre, Ardtornish; Allan MacDonald from the island of Carna and John Scouler, Lochaline, were much in demand at ceilidhs, dances and on more solemn occasions.

Many of them benefited from the tutelage of the legendary William Ross whom Owen Hugh Smith, the owner of Ardtornish Estate, brought to Morvern to teach piping.

William Ross (1878-1966), pipe major of the 2nd Battalion, the Scots Guards, was considered one of the most influential pipers of the century. His well known compositions, including 'Leaving Port Askaig', 'Capt Norman Orr Ewing', 'Brigadier General Ronald Cheape of Tiroran' and 'Leaving Ardtornish' to name but a few, are still popular today.

Pity the poor piper from Drimmin though who accompanied a Maclean laird to a funeral in Kilmallie churchyard a few generations earlier.

After the burial, when refreshments were served in the usual liberal fashion, he indulged too freely and instead of playing a lament, struck up a lively and cheerful dance tune called Calum Crubach - 'Lame Calum'.

The good men of Corpach were not quite ready for this divergence to such an extent that one of them stuck his dirk in the bag to stop the music.

While the pipers strutted their rousing stuff, some on the battlefields of Europe, the ladies of Morvern entertained at home with the more gentle clarsach.

A leading light in that field was Miss Edith Taylor, Rahoy, who was the first honorary secretary of Comunn na Clarsaich.

At the 1946 National Mod in Aberdeen, Miss Taylor won the Hilda Campbell Clarsach Trophy and its accompanying silver brooch. At the Mod grand concert, HM Queen Elizabeth presented her with the trophy and spoke to her. Miss Taylor, used a wire strung Dolmetsch clarsach as the old clarsairs were reputed to do and played on her left shoulder which was unusual. She ran a successful school of harping at Rahoy in the summer of 1947 which provided an opportunity for clarsach players from all over Scotland and at all stages of proficiency to meet and compare notes. Every form of clarsach music was to be heard, including the playing of psalms and hymns at the Sunday services in the private Episcopalian chapel beside Rahoy House. Discussions and ceilidhs were held daily. Some of the classes were held out of doors; one in particular took place on a warm afternoon on a knoll close to a 4,000-year-old burial cairn called Carnliath on the north shores of Loch Teacuis.

The music of these timeless stringed instruments mingling with the sound of the gentle lapping waves and the call of the oyster catchers along the tide-line, must have been unforgettable.

**Iain Thornber**  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



**Edith Taylor from Rahoy playing the clarsach at The National Mod in Aberdeen in 1947 before HM Queen Elizabeth**



**PLAYERS:** school of Harping at Rahoy

**Sleat**

PUPILS of Sleat primary school donned hard hats to visit new housing being built next door.

The 58 south-Skye pupils toured the site, examined machinery and got a close-up look at the inside of a forklift.

Project manager Pav Pawlowski said: 'As the Kilbeg site is next door to the school the children have been really interested in what has been going on and have been keeping an eye on our progress.'

'It was great to have them visit the site and hopefully we have inspired some builders of the future.'



**BUDDING BUILDERS:** Sleat primary school pupils visited a building site next to the school

**Duror and Kentallen consider new shop and cafe plans**

DUROR and Kentallen community council met on October 13 in the Kentallen and Duror Community Centre.

Community shop/cafe - John Connolly and Maurice Mackenzie produced a useful paper detailing what would need to be considered for the development of the facility which could possibly be a community shop, cafe or heritage information centre, as it was not clear whether the proposed centre at Lagnara would go ahead.

The committee had since heard that the plans at Lagnahawere still alive and hopefully would still go ahead despite possibly no grant being available.

The community council wholeheartedly supports the plans for the centre at Lagnaha which would benefit the whole community tremendously. The centre is likely to open around 2017.

Electricity power failures - It has been confirmed that the tree cutting exercise promised by the power company has been completed bar the area behind the Stewart Hotel.

The owners have agreed with the electricity company that they would be taking trees down completely. The recent power cut was caused by a tree down on Ardsheal.

Re-positioning of postbox and notice board - The postbox by the old village shop is to be moved to

the front of the primary school. The notice board at the school needs to be replaced and the notice board at the old shop will be moved to Achindarroch.

The community council will get a quote for the upgrading of the two notice boards.

Care at home - A recent report of a vulnerable older person, who was left without appropriate care concerned the community council.

The chairman, Jonathan Baxter, suggested that the care at home manager be asked to come to the next community council meeting to explain what the official position was regarding care for older people at home and how it interacts with the

health service. Councillor Andrew Baxter is to invite the manager.

GeoMap - Jonathan Baxter reported that the cost of the suggested Geomap interpretation board for the new section of the multiuser track was £5,000 and the community council would need to fund half of this amount. It was agreed that this was not a viable proposition.

New secretary - Sarah Leitch has handed in her notice as secretary. Donald MacLeod agreed to take the duties on temporarily until a permanent secretary could be found.

The next meeting will be on November 10 at the same location.

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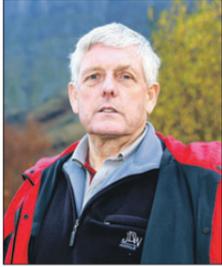
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RETIRED AS LEADER: John Grieve

### John steps down as Glencoe mountain rescue team leader

THE LEADER of Glencoe mountain rescue team (GMRT) has retired from his position, but will remain a volunteer.

At 70 years old, John Grieve, from North Ballachulish, has been in the group for 30 years and team leader for the last two decades, being the first port of call for emergencies.

John attended his first rescue at Glencoe in 1964 and worked as a teacher at Kinlochleven junior secondary school, now Kinlochleven high school, before taking up a full-time career in the fishing trade alongside his GMRT duties.

He will be replaced as team leader by his deputy Andy Nelson.

John said: 'I have very good people behind me to take over. I can relax now without thinking I will be the first point of contact 24 hours a day.'

'I have treated it like a job. It's quite a big workload; last year we covered 73 rescues and nine fatalities. We had an avalanche where, if the helicopter hadn't been in Glencoe, the woman wouldn't have survived.'

The mountain rescue team will start building an extension to its base in three weeks to provide extra security for its equipment following a break-in last year, in which items worth £11,500 were stolen.

This has been funded by public donations, with GMRT hoping to raise £50,000.

## STARK WARNING CHILDREN'S LIVES COULD BE AT RISK IF HIGHLAND COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS LEAD TO MALLAIG CLOSURE

# Save our swimming pool

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

CHILDREN'S lives could be in danger if a swimming pool in west Lochaber closes through Highland Council's budget cuts, users have warned.

Mallaig and district swimming pool serves communities from Acharacle to Inverie and the Small Isles and is the only pool within a 50-mile radius but if the local authority cuts its annual grant of £85,000 the facility will be forced to close.

Seven full-time staff will lose their jobs as a result but the main concern for locals is children living in the coastal areas will have nowhere to learn to swim.

More than 100 people gathered at the pool to campaign for its protection on Friday and Mallaig diver Ian Robertson said children could be at risk of drowning if they couldn't attend swimming lessons. He said: 'This is the only amenity west of Fort William.

It's not practical to expect little ones to go on a 100-mile trip for their swimming lessons but it's absolutely vital they know how to swim. Can you imagine the reaction if a couple of kids drowned at the harbour a few years down the line? There's no way it [Highland council] can let this facility close, it would put too many lives at risk.'

Catherine McDonnell, who managed the pool for 15 years until 2010, added: 'Look at where we live, we're absolutely surrounded by water so being able to swim is a basic life skill.'

'Even without that vital aspect there's a not a huge amount for the young ones or elderly people to do. The pool acts as a meeting place and a hobby for so many people.'

Mallaig and District Swimming Pool, which also includes a fitness suite and games room, serves Mallaig high school as well as primary schools in the area.

Highland Council has

It's absolutely vital they know how to swim

Ian Robertson  
Mallaig diver

suggested halving the current total arts, sports and culture funding, currently £714,000 as part of a bid to save £64 million over five years. The pool's board committee may also have to apply for its annual grant each year, meaning if its bid is rejected it might receive no local authority funding at all.

Fiona Baker, director of the facility, said: 'If we could raise all the money ourselves we would do it in a heartbeat but we already

do all the fundraising we can. There's no way we could raise that kind of money on our own.'

'Whilst it is clear Highland council must make savings, to cut funding from Mallaig pool will inevitably force its closure. Officials have the figures and know how important the funding is to the operation of the pool.'

'We are looking to the council to save our pool by protecting our funding, the building and this valuable local asset.'

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, also expressed concern about the future of the facility.

He said: 'It is disappointing for the prospect of closure to loom over the pool. Swimming is a vital life skill for those in coastal and island communities and I hope that Highland council will heed the volume of opposition to closure.'

More than 1,000 people have also signed an online petition to protect the pool from closure.



VITAL: Kelsey MacBeth, left, and Jennifer MacPhee highlight how important the pool is to Mallaig



A LOCHABER choir is on the hunt for new members to compete in its first Royal National Mòd.

Formed in March this year, Lochaber District Gaelic Choir, desperately needs new members before it can take to the stage in Oban next year. Choir chairwoman Fiona Cameron said: 'I'd really encourage anyone who is interested in singing to come and give it a try, you'll be made very welcome.'

Rehearsals are held at Caol Community Centre on Wednesday evenings and Gaelic knowledge is not necessary to join.

For more information contact Ms Cameron on 07881 688912.

## Toddler stranded as mother slept after day drinking

A TODDLER was left stuck on a balcony while her mother slept after a day of drinking, Fort William sheriff court heard on Tuesday.

The 33-year-old parent of two had been consuming alcohol at a bowling event on August 30 while a babysitter looked after her then two-year-old daughter, said procurator fiscal Karen Smith.

But when the Fort William mother, who can't be named for legal reasons, returned and sent the babysitter home she fell asleep and the child made her way outside to the flat balcony and couldn't get back in.

Ms Smith told the court: 'At 6.15pm police officers received a call about a child crying and in distress. When they arrived she was only wearing a t-shirt and had taken off her nappy. Police gained entry through an insecure door and went towards the living room where the woman was slumped in a chair directly behind the balcony.'

The fiscal added that the accused, who pled guilty to leaving a child in a distressed state at a previous hearing, had initially denied drinking but police officers could smell it on her breath.

Defending solicitor, Hamish Melrose, said: 'My client started drinking at 11.30am and was repeatedly bought alcohol at the event. She was not aware of how much she was drinking because she was actively bowling. She accepts her behaviour was not good and just wants to put this behind her.'

The accused also admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner to neighbours and police officers during the same incident.

Sentence was deferred for three months for good behaviour.

## New water freight contract takes lorries off trunk road

MORE than 6,000 heavy-load journeys will be removed from Lochaber's trunk road in the next three years.

The Scottish government has awarded almost £1 million to Fort William transport company Boyd Brothers Ltd for a new freight water service, which will

see sawn timber from neighbouring sawmill BSW Timber sent to England by boat rather than on the A82 and M74.

Transport minister Keith Brown said: 'This new service will help to reduce the number of HGVs travelling on one of our most iconic scenic tourist routes.'

Stewart MacLean, of the campaign group the A82 Partnership, welcomed the announcement but said it did nothing to improve the road itself.

He added: 'It's good news there will be fewer heavy loads travelling on the fragile A82 but it won't impact the dangerous bends and

other problems on the road. We will continue to seek further improvements on the road itself.'



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**Eye to eye**  
with John Wallace

**Hope For The Future**

One of the most exciting aspects of eye-care is how technology for investigating eye conditions is developing. I have talked about this many times. Even more exciting is when a new treatment for a visually devastating chronic condition such as age related macular degeneration (ARMD) is being developed. For several years it has been possible to treat wet ARMD. This is when fluid leaks into the retina at the back of the eye resulting in a devastating loss of vision. Treatment involves injections of drugs which seal the leaky vessels behind the retina.

For those suffering from dry ARMD which is a chronic gradual loss of vision due to increasing age there has been little that could be offered other than advice to stop smoking and to eat a healthy diet. Recently a drug company announced it was entering clinical trials following successful pre-trials where stem cells were injected into the retina. These amazing cells allowed the retina to regenerate and in some cases there was not only a halt to the progress of dry ARMD but also a reversal with improvements in vision.

It is going to be several years before this form of treatment is widely available. The main difficulty would appear to be the problem of placing the stem cells in the retina in the correct position so as to not cause any further damage to the eye.

While we wait in anticipation of the treatment we should all be trying to avoid doing anything that can increase the risk of ARMD. We can't help getting older but we can eat healthily and not smoke. We can use sunglasses to protect our eyes from damaging UV which is also linked to retinal damage. If there is any sudden change in your vision please consult your optometrist urgently.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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Don't miss our bumper Christmas supplement in next week's Oban Times

# Christmas

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## A truly brilliant tribute

From Oban to Fort William, from Spean Bridge to the islands, thousands of West Highlanders turned out to pay their respects to those brave men and women who have fought so bravely over the ages to defend the values we cherish and nurture as a nation: freedom, tolerance and democracy.

As the sun shone with all its radiant glory on the many people who had gathered at war memorials, Oban businessman and philanthropist Graham MacQueen captured the spirit of the occasion when he said: 'Oban has shone once again on Remembrance Sunday, not just the weather but the people who turned out.'

### Glasgow Letter

#### Youth concert

GLASGOW Skye Association held a concert in the Crawford Hall for those who competed at the recent National Mod.

Vice president Christine MacLeod had the pleasant task of introducing the many youngsters, most of whom attend Sgoil Gàidhlig Glaschu.

Ruairidh MacDermid opened proceedings with accordion selections and then there were contributions from Innes Scullion, song and fiddle; Rebecca Small, song, poem; Connal MacDermid, song; Murren Dalton, song, poem; Seona MacLeod and Anna Horsburgh, fiddle duet; Carla Gallanti, tin whistle; Seumas Scullion, bagpipes; Hanna Abdul Rehman, Highland dancing; Mia Gallanta, songs; Lewis Sutherland, keyboard; Elena McEleny, song, poem; Aila McEleny, chanter, and Laura Cairns, song.

The vote of thanks for the evening was delivered by honorary president Calum Ross.

#### Pipers and pipe music of WW1

THE THIRD in a series of five concerts organised by the Scottish Piper's Association featuring the music and pipers of the Great War will take place in the College of Piping, Otago Street, at 7.30pm on Saturday December 6.

On this occasion the evening will feature the pipes and music of the Black Watch with military historian and writer Colin Campbell providing the commentary.

The concert is free and for those unable to attend it will be streamed live on the internet at www.collegeofpiping.org

#### Reminders

TOMORROW evening (Friday) the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association annual concert will take place in Glasgow University Union at 7.30pm.

The dance will follow with music by Ceol an Aire.

The following Thursday, Darren MacLean, Linda MacLeod and Alasdair Whyte will be the singers at the Treen Association annual concert at 7.30pm in Partick Burgh Halls.

Instrumentalists will be Allan and Kay Rowan, pipers Donald and John Campbell and accompanist Kathleen Callander.

The annual dance will take place in Glasgow University Union the following evening to the music of Skipinnish, from

19pm to 2am. The next singing workshop will feature Mary Smith with songs from 'Ness in Lewis and will take place from 7pm to 8pm on Tuesday November 18 at An Cafe Ur Gaidhlig, 74 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 7AL.

A singing session with Mary will follow until 9pm.

#### Scottish Trad Music Awards

THE TRAD Awards will take place on December 13 in Inverness Leisure Centre at 7.30pm. Voting is open, until November 28 at www.projects.scottishculture.com/scotstradmusicawards/voting

#### Diary dates

**Thursday November 13:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association dinner, Pond Hotel, 7.30pm.

**Friday November 14:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association annual concert and dance - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Piping recital with Pipe Major Chris Armstrong, College of Piping, Otago Street, 7.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm - The Poozies. Glasgow Jura Association annual ceilidh and dance, St Vincent Bowling Club, St Vincent Crescent, 7.30pm.

**Saturday November 15:** St Columba's Church of Scotland Guild Christmas Sale, St Vincent Street, 11am to 1pm.

**Tuesday November 18:** Singing workshop with Mary Smith - see above. Hugh Robertson Prizes for Scottish singing, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 4.30pm. Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a Waterloo Street, 8pm - Allan Taylor.

**Thursday November 20:** Glasgow Treen Association annual concert - see above.

**Friday November 21:** Glasgow Treen Association dance - see above.

**Saturday November 22:** Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir 70th anniversary dinner and dance, Glasgow University Union, 7.30pm with dance to Deoch'n Dorus.

**Pub scene**

THE KEELIES will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday with Parting Glass there on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Monach Isles on Friday, Andrew MacDonald on Saturday and Nicky McMichan/Martin Pottinger on Sunday.

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



## Corran market garden, Onich, 1950

Christopher Paine of Great Missenden submitted this week's flashback photo which features Corran Garden, Onich. This was the much-loved business started by Christopher's father before the war which Christopher ran for a few years in the mid 1950s. The former market garden is now a housing estate called Corran Gardens. Prints or emails of flashback photos sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk should be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB Telephone: 01631 568000  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk Fax: 01631 568001

### Thanks for work during floods

Sir, I wish to thank several people who during the recent torrential rain and floods came to the aid of Mull residents.

Firstly, thanks to the Tobermory crew of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue who had the daunting task of stopping the shops and businesses on Main Street being flooded. Thanks to the crew, water from the Eas burn was diverted into the sea after they worked all through the night. The Tobermory crew were ably assisted by the volunteer crew from Salen.

Next a huge thanks to the council boys who worked tirelessly to clear debris and landslides to keep the roads open. They worked many hours over the weekend and at the time of writing are still working to get some roads open.

Lastly, thanks to the boys from Sottish Water

who were out all Saturday and into Sunday morning trying to locate and repair a burst pipe. Normal service has been resumed. All of these people worked during horrendous weather conditions to bring normality back to our day to day life.

Sometimes we forget how much we rely on all of these services but be assured we appreciate the commitment we get from you all.

**Mary-Jean Devon.**

### Horrified over Mull road plan

Sir, Have just heard there are plans to build a fast road from Tobermory to the ferry to Iona on the isle of Mull.

I am horrified anyone would want to build one on this serene, beautiful island. My husband and I and our family have holidayed here for many years and are worried about the effect it will have on the wildlife and character of the island.

We would also like to see Mull and the Inner Hebrides as a national park so that they can be managed by people who have the best interest of these magical islands.

**Val Ibsen, Bradford.**

### Housing partly to blame

Sir, Although everyone is blaming the weather alone for the disastrous flash flood on October 28, a major contributory factor must be all the development in the catchment area of the burn, in the valley beyond Oban hospital.

Whereas rain falling on vegetation in this area would have worked its way into the burn in its own time, it is now falling on roofs or tarmac and all reaching the burn in a very short time.

Any further development in this area will only make the problem worse. However, the development of catchment ponds with

outlets to allow the water to drain away slowly could perhaps prevent any future flooding.

**Phil Moss, by email**

### Bid40ban thanks

Sir, In the last few weeks we have had a number of successful events in Oban.

May we thank some of our supporters and partners who helped bring them to fruition: The Oban Times, Atlantis Leisure, J M Breckenridge, Kevin McGlynn, Northern Lighthouse Board, Graeme MacQueen, auxiliary coastguard, Steve O and the Argyll and Bute council 'boys'. Thanks also to the individuals and organisations who helped us support last week's Scotland's Rural Parliament. There is still plenty to look forward to, namely the annual reindeer parade and the nationally recognised Oban Winter Festival.

**Neil Mackay, Bid4 Oban.**

### Islay Letter

#### Dunlossit House

FIRST time visitors sailing to Islay are often greatly impressed by the imposing baronial mansion which commands the hilltop overlooking the approach to the ferry terminal at Port Askaig.

This is Dunlossit House, known locally as Dunlossit Castle, and is the island home of the billionaire merchant banker and local landowner Bruno L. Schroder.

Originally a shooting lodge, it was converted into a more grand residence in 1868.

The property was bought in 1890 by Donald Turner Martin of Kintour who married Isabella Martin Gilmour from the planned, and now highly protected, village of Eaglesham in East Renfrewshire.

Unfortunately, the building was destroyed by fire and this led Martin to build the current mansion house.

Martin's father-in-law came to live in the restored building and was to remain there until his death in 1905, five years after his daughter's death in Edinburgh.

A Martin Memorial Cross was erected in the Dunlossit grounds and is similar to the Martin Memorial found at the burial ground at Eaglesham Castle.

The Martin connection with Dunlossit ceased in 1911 when the property was purchased by W A Bankier. It was then sold on to Nathaniel Dunlop in 1918 and continued in his possession until his death in 1931.

The house and estate was bought by Helmut Schroder in 1937 and, following his death in 1969, it became the island residence of his son Bruno.

Facing the mansion's main entrance is the Schroder coat of arms, carved from Bath stone and quarried in Box near Chippenham in Wiltshire. It depicts a lion and a unicorn on either side of the Schroder shield.

In 1979 the Schroder family purchased two cannons which had been used as bollards at Port Askaig pier. These were restored at the Royal Armoury at Fort Nelson and one was fired at the official launch of the Islay lifeboat 'The Helmut Schroder 11 of Dunlossit', which was gifted to the RNLI and the Islay branch by Bruno and his sister



IMPRESSIVE: Dunlossit House

Charmaine Mallinkrodt in memory of their father.

Today, Dunlossit House remains a lived-in stately home with breathtaking views of the Sound of Islay and beyond.

### Post Mòd concert

ILICH who tasted further successes at this year Royal National Mòd at Inverness displayed their winning ways at a post Mòd concert, hosted by Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle in Bowmore.

Those who braved the elements enjoyed a treat of Gaelic song and poetry as the winners strutted their stuff and endorsed why local competitors, particularly in the junior classes, continue to dominate the prize lists in the Learners' sections a National Mòd.

Filling the curtain-up spot was Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, under the baton of Arlene McKerrell, who reprised their third placed contribution in the puit a beul competition. The senior choir also enjoyed second place success in the mixed choral competition and shared the Selma Shield for the highest mark in Gaelic with their Mull counterparts. They also secured the Hugh MacCowan trophy for the Argyll choir with the highest Gaelic marks.

Port Ellen primary school choir, led by head teacher Maureen MacDonald, was also in top form

and richly deserved first place successes in the unison, two part harmony and puit a beul competitions. They were joined on the Bowmore stage by members of the Bowmore primary school choir who took third place in both the unison and puit a beul section.

Unfortunately, their ranks were decimated by the arrival of a sickness bug on the night of the concert.

Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle, also directed by Arlene, enjoyed first place successes for choral harmony and puit a beul in the under 19 competitions.

Winning junior solo singers were Lewis Davey, Ryan Johnston, Asher Borthwick, Rebecca and Abbie Morris, Eva Munro and Rachel Johnston.

Top placings in the poetry section went to Elizabeth MacMillan, Lauren Morris, Ryan Johnston, Mirren Brown, Emily Mackie and Abbie Morris.

Runner up duettists were Anna and Eilidh MacDonald and the bronze medal for former winners went to Mairi MacGillivray.

Seniors also featuring high on the prize list and concert programme were Lynn MacDonald, Libby Weir and sea song winner and silver medal finalist Ferguson Muir.

**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.**



## Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

CÀIRDEAS, COMUNN, AGUS GAOL, faodaidh tu nis tighinn a-mach! Thàinig faclan an t-seann bhàrdachd cloinne thugam uair neo dhà ag èisteachd ri deasbadan an reifreinn, agus luchd-taice an aonaidh a' bòideachadh a' mheas a th' aca air Alba mar phàirt chudromach de dhùthaich aonaichte. Tha mòran den iomairt aig luchd-taice neo-cisimeileachd air a bhonnachadh air trioblaidean iomlanachd, agus air an argamaid gum bheil aire agus mothachadh air cor an t-sluaigh a sior fhàs nas laige mar as fhaide tha iad bho bhunait Riaghaltais. Beagan sheachdainean an dèidh dha iomairt an aonaidh buannachadh, tha sinn an sàs ann an deasbad mòr às ur mu dheidhinn co-dhùthcha ceart neo ceàrr gum bheil luchd-cleachdaidh cumhachd an dealain aig tuath a' pàigheadh barrachd air sgàth 's gum bheil e, a rèir riaghlaidair a' chumhachd OFGEM, nas daoire an t-seirbheis a libhrigeadh air an iomail. Saoil nach biodh na bòidean air a' mheas dhaingeann a chualas aig am an reifreinn mòran na b' fhasa an creidsinn nan robh sin na b' fhollaiseiche ann am feallsanachd agus poileasaidhean riaghaltais a thaobh nan coimhearsnachdan as fhaide air falbh à Lunnainn.

Tha dà thaobh air a h-uile ceist thuir Ministear a' Chumhachd, Matt Hancock, ach bheir e suil air cùisean! Agus ged a tha Ceannard OFGEM, Dermot Nolan, ag aontachadh gum biodh e na bu chothromach aon phrìs a bhith air connadh air feadh na dùthcha 's e an Riaghaltas a dh'fheumas co-dhùndhadh a dhèanamh air poileasaidh, agus chosgadh an t-atharachadh uamhas a chur an gnìomh thuir Nolan! Ach Carson a leig iadsan seo air adhart, tha fhios gum bu chòir cothromachd dha luchd-cleachdaidh cumhachd a bhith na dhleastanas air OFGEM? Saoilidh mise gur e ana-ceartas a th' ann gum biodh muinntir an iomail, aig am bheil ire nas lugha de sheirbheisean poblach de gach seòrsa, a' pàigheadh barrachd airson goireasan bunaitich mar seo! Tha dleastanas air an dà Phàrlamaid! Tha iomairt eile a' tòiseachadh gus feuchainn ri toirt air companaidhean fòn co-obrachadh gus gum faigh daoine seirbheis ann an sgìrean iomallach. Am bi leithid sin de dh'aonta doirbh? Uill nan robh leithid sin de dh'aonta mar phàirt den chad-dealbhachaidh aig toiseach cùise, cha bhiodh! Càite an deach an fheallsanachd chiallach a bh' anns an Iomairt aig an Oir? Bha cuid 'cur sios air sin seach nach robh ionmhas mòr na chois, ach 's e gum robh e a' cur impidh air buidhnean poblach obrachadh còmhla airson math an t-sluaigh a' chuid a b' fheàrr dheth!

SURCHARGES on energy costs, higher fuel charges, and poor mobile-telephone signals are some of the frustrations which stimulate the demand for devolved powers. The fact that such inequality exists demonstrates the extent to which the warmth of the unionist embrace of the periphery is not matched by policy on essential public service provision by either parliament.

Perhaps they should revive the Initiative at the Edge which had no significant budget but required public authorities to co-operate in the best interest of the community.

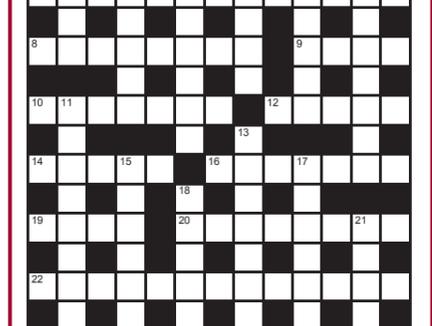
**Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)**  
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# SCOTS

Heritage Magazine

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**LAST week's SOLUTION**

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**Muck salmon farm ready for business**

A SALMON farm on Muck is set to become fully operational within the next fortnight.

Owner Marine Harvest recently took on six members of staff on the island to house staff, which are also close to being finished.

The firm is building five new homes on the island to house staff, which are also close to being finished.

Fusion Marine has supplied 10 fish pens for the site, which now hold the smolts and are said to be working well.

Steve Bracken, business support manager of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'The people of Muck have made us feel very welcome. The great thing about the island is that the fish do not have to be taken that far at all to be gutted, only across to Mallaig. It is also an excellent location because there is great water flow.'

Scottish salmon production is currently at its highest level in a decade. On Muck, 60 per cent of the finished product will be distributed across the UK, with the rest going worldwide.

**Catwalk beckons for Showstoppers**

A LOCHABER drama group will be swapping stage costumes for the latest fashions to raise money for charity.

Members of Showstoppers will be strutting their stuff at M&Co, Fort William, tomorrow night (Friday) with all proceeds divided between group funds and Lochaber charity Star for Harris. The show starts at 6.30pm.

**Prehistoric basket washed up by tide**

A RARE archaeological find has been washed up by the tide on North Uist.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is attempting to excavate and assess the item - thought to be a prehistoric basket - with the help of Historic Scotland and the local community.



COMMITTED: Members of the Rotary Club of Lochaber joined staff at Invernevis House care home to re-launch the 'memory box' project for dementia sufferers

**Memory box project re-opened**

NHS HIGHLAND and the Rotary Club of Lochaber have re-launched a 'memory box' project to aid dementia sufferers.

Kicking off last Monday, it will see crates filled with items such as books, antiques and photographs being circulated around Lochaber care homes to stimulate conversation and exercise the minds of those living with the condition.

Each box will have a theme, such as school days, war and music.

Rotary club president John Harvey said: 'The club is committed to this project which will help

enhance older people's quality of life. Essentially we are looking for items that stimulate interest and 'strike a chord'. We would like to ask the public to help us fill the boxes by donating any memory-provoking items that they can spare - simple things like old cinema tickets, theatre programmes, invoices and flyers from local shops can lead to long and pleasurable conversations.'

Anyone wishing to donate items should hand them to a rotary club member or leave them at the offices of David Mee Architect, 3 Cameron Square, Fort William.

**OFFICIALS CLAIM CASH HANDOUT BREAKS EUROPEAN RULES**

**Row breaks out over Corran Ferry subsidy**

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

CLAIMS by Highland council officials that the local authority could be breaching European law by subsidising the Corran Ferry have been dubbed 'a smoke and mirrors act'.

Members of the community services committee warned the route between Corran and Ardgour was still running at a loss, despite fare increases, and if Highland Council continued to fund the £115,000 deficit it could break state aid rules by distorting competition.

At the committee's meeting last Thursday the group voted to consider three options to plug the gap - raise fares, tender the service or transfer it to Transport Scotland.

But this sparked outrage in the communities served by the ferry, including Ardnurchan, Ardgour and Moidart. Tony Boyd, leader of campaign group Free Crossing for Corran, said: 'It's a smoke and mirrors act by the council. I've researched it all and the law says aid is compatible with the rules if the positives outweigh distorting competition. 'This is a lifeline service for us and if the fares keep going up people will leave the area. If keeping our young people here isn't a positive I don't know what is. I'm completely lost for words.'

Community services chairman councillor Graham Mackenzie said: 'We are committed to doing the best we can for the people in the community, within the legal framework.'

Former Highland Council leader Michael Foxley also

insisted there was no breach of state aid rules. He said: 'If the service is small, unprofitable, remote in location and not marketed beyond UK borders it is not likely to invoke or infringe state aid rules.'

'The committee was told there was absolute clarity that subsidising the Corran Ferry would infringe state aid rules - this is not true. Our communities and businesses to the west of the Corran Narrows bring many millions of pounds of salmon, shellfish, timber and tourism into the Highland economy.'

'This is a lifeline service and needs to be subsidised by the council. If not, it support for all rural roads, schools and services to be withdrawn?'

A further report will be discussed by the community services committee next year.

**High school plaque marks end of Commando trail**

THE FINAL panel of the Achnacarry 'commando trail' has been unveiled outside Lochaber high school, revealing hidden treasures of World War Two.

Eight interpretation panels are now dotted around the Fort William and Spean Bridge area, telling the story of the vast number of soldiers based at the top-secret Achnacarry commando training centre.

The project is a partnership between Lochaber archaeological society and the Commando veterans association (CVA), with the idea that the public can walk



to all eight sites and scan the barcode located on each panel with their smartphone.

This leads to the CVA website, where more pictures and information can be found.

The panel at Lochaber high was unveiled by CVA chairman Joe Murtagh and will eventually be moved to a new garden being

PRIDE: Lochaber archaeological society chairman Robert Cairns, left, and Commando veterans association chairman Joe Murtagh unveil the final panel of the Lochaber commando trail

built outside the school.

It is part of a journey by Lochaber archaeological society to unlock the area's long-lost wartime secrets.

Society chairman Robert Cairns said at the unveiling last Friday: 'This is the second part of a big overall project. The first part involved a dig at Achnacarry where we found mortar bombs, live grenades and approximately 12,000 bullets.'

'The idea of the panels is to let everyone see exactly what went on around the commando base during the war.'

**Call for road cash not speed cuts**

A PRESSURE group has called for crucial investment on the A82 road, instead of reducing speed limits.

Members of the A82 Partnership have criticised a lack of funding by Transport Scotland on the trunk route north and south of Fort William, claiming it would take 375 years to match levels spent on the A9 Perth to Inverness road.

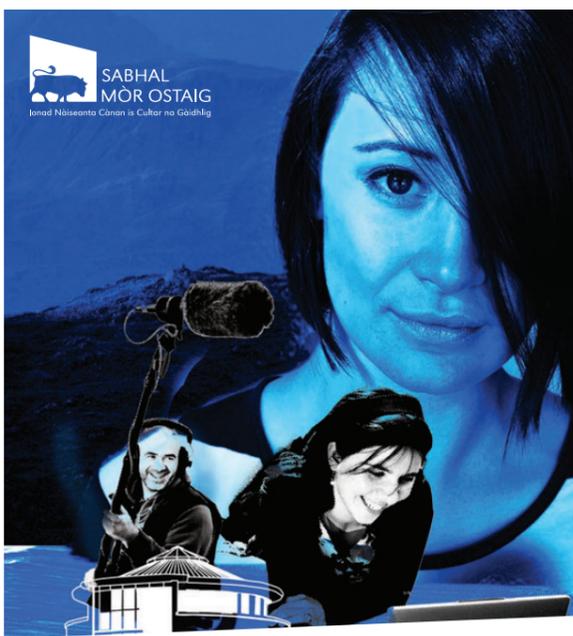
It follows an announcement that parts of the A82 between Glasgow and Inverness are to have their speed limit reduced to 50 miles per hour.

Three sections of the route, from Tarbet to Inverarnan, Onich to Fort William and Glen Gloy to Letterfindlay Lodge - totalling more than 25 miles - will be downgraded from the current 60 miles per hour limit, with Transport Scotland declaring them 'generally not representative of a national speed limit'.

Brian Murphy, chairman of the A82 Partnership, said: 'It is regrettable that, rather than investing in the A82, it is applying a speed restriction. With billions being spent on the glamour projects on the A9 and the

A96 it is surely time that the A82 is recognised as part of the national network and brought up to the standards required.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'We do understand the importance of the A82 to communities in the area and we are in regular discussion with them about our plans for the maintenance of the route with £57 million invested since 2007. We are taking forward work to improve the route between Tarbet and Inverarnan with ground investigations taking place over the next couple of months.'



**CÙRSAICHEAN CEUMA**

Faigh barrachd fiosrachaidh air na cùrsaichean fo-cheum dha fileantaich is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a cheanglas an cànan le caochladh chuspairean a leithid ceòl traidiseanta, na meadhanan agus teagasg.

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FURRY FRIENDS: left to right with Sandie Robb are primary one pupils Zane Gibb, Cruz Cameron and Maisie Anderson

**Furry friends join in lesson**

CAOL primary school had some unusual guests when pandas, armadillos and other creatures paid a visit.

Sandie Robb of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland brought the toy animals along to the school last Thursday when she gave children an introduction to different wildlife.

**Objectors win fight against pontoon**

CONTROVERSIAL plans to install a new pontoon on an idyllic Skye beach have been withdrawn following hundreds of objections.

Locals and visitors to Elgol reacted in horror to the proposal and more than 500 people from all over the world joined a social media campaign to reject the plan.

The plan by Highland Council involved installing a floating pontoon on the sandy beach, to be used in the busy summer season then moved elsewhere during the winter.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Highland council undertook a public consultation on a proposal to install a pontoon at Elgol harbour. The response to the consultation resulted in the clear rejection of the proposal. Consequently, the council has decided not to take the project further.'

Rosalind Lamond, who helped to set up the Facebook campaign, said: 'We're delighted it won't be going ahead. Thanks to everyone who spread the word and shared our campaign.'

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THOUSANDS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS HONOUR THE SACRIFICE OF FALLEN HEROES IN THE CENTENARY YEAR OF WWI



REMEMBER: Young and old gathered in Oban on Remembrance Sunday to honour the fallen, from young cadets to WWII veteran Ian Tindall (left), formerly of the 17th/21st Lancers, who turns 94 on November 25

# Remembrance Sunday sunshine as mourners across the west Highlands pay their respects

REMEMBRANCE services across the west Highlands and islands were held in glorious sunshine as mourners turned out in force to remember fallen heroes. In Oban, hundreds lined the Esplanade in a march from the Corran Halls, with many in the town remarking that the turnout was the biggest they had seen.

The service at the war memorial was led by Rev Ian MacFarlane and involved representatives of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL), the emergency services, Argyll and Bute council, forces cadets, boys brigade, guides and service veterans of all ages. Graham MacQueen MBE,

Argyll deputy Lord Lieutenant, said on Sunday: 'Oban has shone once again on Remembrance Sunday, not just the weather but the people who turned out. I think this year's service was busier than it has ever been but I think that has a lot to do with the centenary parade we had for WWI in the town earlier this

year. It is wonderful that we as a community are responding in this way, showing our respect.' Lochaber's commemorations began with a parade through Fort William's High Street, as Lord lieutenant Donald Cameron of Lochail saluted personnel including Lochaber schools pipe band, Fort William's branch of

the RBL, sea and army cadets. Later in the day Rev Dr Adrian Varwell led a touching service from the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial along with Rev Morag Muirhead.

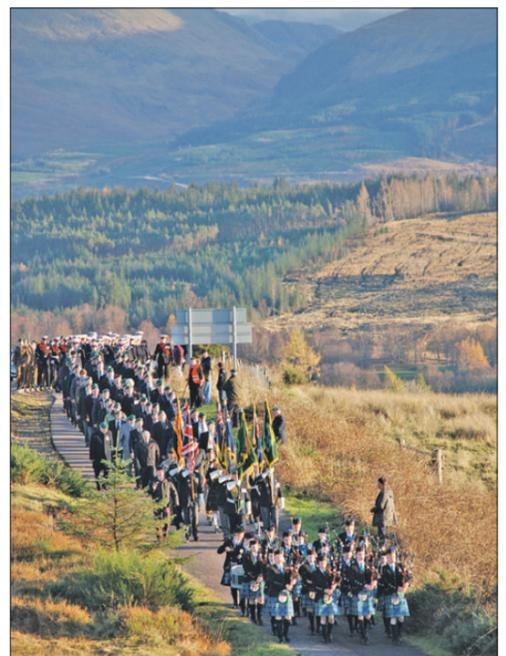
Wreaths of poppies were laid by members of the Commando Veterans Association, navy and army representatives, youth organisations, British Red Cross volunteers and civic heads Charles Kennedy MP and Highland councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of the Lochaber area committee.

On Skye the remembrance parade started from the Skye Gathering Hall, past Portree Harbour, along Wentworth Street to Portree Square where wreaths of remembrance were laid at the war memorial. A service was led by Rev Sandor Fazakas.

Local groups and services were represented including ex-servicemen, coastguard, army cadets, emergency services, the Isle of Skye pipe band, YMCA, 31st Ross and Sutherland beavers, cub scouts and brownies.

In Plockton the Lochalsh branch of the RBL was led by the Lochalsh junior pipe band under Niall Stewart in a march. Also on parade were Kyle's cadets, lifeboat crew, fire brigade, ambulance, red cross, 1st Lochalsh scouts and guides and Police Scotland.

Rev Roddie Rankin conducted a short service watched by a very large crowd, which donated £424 to the Earl Haig Fund.



PROCESSION: Hundreds of people took part in a march to Spean Bridge Commando Memorial 10\_f46remembrance03



ON THE MARCH: Oban pipers lead the march from Oban's Corran Halls to the war memorial 16\_t46remem05



PARADE: Veterans lead the march through Fort William High Street 10\_t46remem04



PRAYER: Reverend Adrian Varwell at the Commando Memorial 20\_f46remembrance02



LAMENT: Oban piper Euan Dewar plays at the war memorial 07\_t46remem02



CREW: Oban Lifeboat crew observe the two-minute silence 07\_t46remem01



BIG TURNOUT: The crowd assembles at Oban's war memorial 16\_t46remem12



WREATH: Councillor Neil MacIntyre lays a wreath at the war memorial in Oban 16\_t46remem08

**Devolution call for coastguards**

A WESTERN Isles MP has called for the devolution of power over coastguards, following the release of figures showing severe understaffing levels across Scotland.

The average number of shifts failing to meet the minimum risk assessed level of staff between June and September was 90.6 per cent, up from 42.6 per cent for the same period in 2013.

The figures were revealed last week following a freedom of information request by UK-wide pressure group Coastguard SOS.

Western Isles SNP MP Angus MacNeil, who has called for the devolution of coastguards in the past, has said doing so will lift the threat of closures to a number of Scottish coastguard centres because of UK government cuts.

In December 2010 the UK Government announced proposals for HM Coastguard with the intention to reduce the UK's Maritime Rescue co-ordination centres from 18 to two.

MSP for the Highlands and Islands Mike MacKenzie said: 'The Scottish Government has called for full responsibility for maritime transport in its submission to the Smith Commission, which would enable Scotland to shape the future role of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Along with the responsibilities for the operation of the Northern Lighthouse Board, devolving the power over coastguards would provide a joined-up approach to shipping and harbour policies and enhance confidence and job creation incentives in sectors such as renewables, fishing, oil and gas.'

**Housing group's landlord report**

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has issued its first landlord report, measuring its performance against the standards set out by the Scottish Housing charter.

Introduced by the Scottish Government in 2012, the report measures the quality and value of the service that should be provided, by comparing the results of internal research by ACHA against the Scottish average for the same services.

The findings showed that the average ACHA tenant's rent is £1.81 a week cheaper than the national average, a difference of £94 a year.

ACHA has also completed 89 per cent of the work required towards meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standards, compared to the Scottish average of 85.4 per cent.

ACHA's chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'There are positives highlighted in the report as well as work to be done. We will be holding regular road shows to engage further with our tenants and we welcome feedback on our Landlord Report to help us improve our services further.'

The full report can be viewed at: www.acha.co.uk

**OBAN SETS ITS SIGHTS ON BECOMING SCOTLAND'S PREMIER ST ANDREW'S DAY DESTINATION**

**High hopes Haggisfest will be winter festival winner**

OBAN has aspirations to become Scotland's premier St Andrew's Day destination, according to organisers of this year's Oban Winter Festival.

The event, which begins on November 21 and runs until November 30 has a full programme of events, culminating in a series of St Andrew's Day celebrations.

Central to this will be the inaugural Haggisfest, a unique celebration of the great Scottish staple which will see seven butchers and haggis-makers from Argyll cooking up a storm with a chance to win the coveted 'Golden Haggis Award'.

Butchers Mark Grant from Grants the Butchers of Taynuilt and James Paterson from Jackson Butchers, Oban, launched the event, which will be held in Oban Distillery.

Haggisfest will open to the public on Saturday, November 29 at noon and will be judged by local chef and restaurant owner Alex Needham and chef and manager of the Manor House Hotel, Gregor MacKinnon.

The public will have the chance to taste all the entries and vote for a 'People's Choice' award whilst enjoying a free tippie.

Alongside Haggisfest, visitors can browse the Scottish Food and Craft Market in the Old Distillery cask room at Oban Distillery.

There will also be a Tartan Dash race, where entrants will be sponsored to wear tartan and

run, jog or walk the route from Atlantis Leisure to the distillery via the war memorial.

Meanwhile, Atlantis Leisure will be the venue for a new event, haggis hurling, followed by the Family Science and Circus Show.

At 8pm a grand ceilidh in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls with Oban Pipe Band will complete a full day of St Andrew's Day celebrations.

A spokeswoman for Oban Winter Festival said: 'We want to make Oban a destination for St Andrew's Day.'

'There has been quite a lot of interest in the Tartan Dash but sponsor forms can still be collected from Atlantis Leisure.'

**Tartan**  
'We are asking those taking part to wear something tartan, whether it's a ribbon or full tartan dress.'

'We would also like shops to have tartan on display and we would encourage buskers to take advantage of the busy town centre by providing street entertainment.'

Oban Winter Festival is this year receiving the backing of Event Scotland.

Fiona Hyslop MSP, cabinet secretary for culture and external affairs, said: 'St Andrew's Day marks the start of Scotland's winter festivals and is the perfect opportunity to celebrate all that is great about Scotland - including our thriving contemporary culture, our rich heritage and our world-renowned warm and



Mark Grant from Grants the Butchers, Taynuilt, clings onto the Golden Haggis Award despite the best attempts of James Paterson of Jackson Butchers, Oban, as the pair launched this year's Haggisfest.

friendly welcome. 'That's why, once again, we are proudly encouraging Scots and Scots at heart from around the

world to join us in celebrating our national day at one of hundreds of brilliant events and attractions taking place across Scotland -

including at the Oban Winter Festival, which has an exciting line-up of St Andrew's Day themed activities.'

**HGV driver claims van crossed onto wrong side of road**

POLICE are seeking witnesses to an alleged incident of dangerous driving on the A85 near to Tyndrum involving a blue van.

The driver of a HGV contacted police just after 2pm last Thursday after having to avoid a head-on collision with the van one mile west of the village.

The reporter claims the southbound van crossed over to the wrong side of the road, forcing him to take evasive action.

**Psychic Paula visits Oban**

DESCRIBED as 'The People's Angel' psychic Paula O'Brien is bringing her national tour to The Royal Hotel in Oban for one night only.

She will be in Oban on December 2 at The Royal Hotel and coming to the west coast is a first for the international medium.

Paula is due to start filming her first TV show over the winter.

**Vandals smash car windscreen**

VANDALS smashed the rear windscreen of a car parked in Dunbeg's Lochnell Road between 7pm and 10.20pm last Saturday.

Anyone with any information about the incident should contact PC Andrew Hogg at Oban Police Station 101.



**New faces on Oban Rotary Club council**

AT THE HELM: the council of the Rotary Club of Oban for 2014/2015, who were elected last month. Back row: Gordon McLachlan, Alan Johnston, Alasdair MacDiarmid, Graham Innes, Graham Fraser. Front: Jack Tollan, Ken Moncrieff, Walter Burton, Douglas Small and president, Ronnie Neil.

**Hitting the high notes for pipe band trip funds**

A FULL house at Oban's Skipinnish ceilidh venue helped to raise £3,500 for Oban high school musicians travelling to New York next year.

The musicians, including the pipe band, traditional school of music and choir, will be performing at the city's Tartan Week.

At the fundraising ceilidh last Friday, which was attended by around 400 supporters, ceilidh band Ceol an Aire played free of charge and no fee was required for the venue. Acts including Skerryvore, Julie Fowles and Eddi Reader also donated prizes to a raffle and auction.

There were also performances from the school's musicians and Highland dancers.

In April next year the music department will take 40 children to the parade and they will play in venues such as Times Square and Central Park.

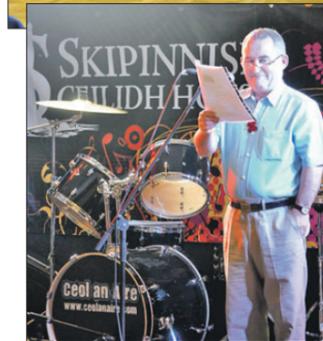
But they need to raise funds in an effort to offset some of the costs of the trip - the group needs thousands of pounds just to transport instruments and equipment.

Far right: Ruairidh Morrison (left) and AJ MacColl of Ceol an Aire.

Right: Oban high school teacher Frank McKenna was MC for the evening.



Oban high school pipe band plays to open the ceilidh.



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**OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL BY-ELECTION**  
Postal Ballot to be determined on 27th November



I am one of several candidates contesting this election in a postal ballot open to all electors of Oban. Postal votes are now being issued so I feel that I should seek your support early in the campaign in view of the heightened interest in this process.

Community Councils have an important role to play in the structure of local government and I am pleased to see the participation of younger people in this election. I am a past secretary of Oban Community Council, only leaving when work pressure proved problematical.

I come from North Argyll and I have lived and worked in Oban for close to 45 years, first with the Post Office and for the past 15 years, as a PA to successive MSPs in the local constituency office. This has given me a valuable insight into the environment and infrastructure of Oban and a keen understanding of many of the problems faced in a busy tourist town serving a wider rural hinterland.

I am particularly interested in the provision of social housing and have served for many years on the Boards of first Oban Housing Association and, latterly, the West Highland Housing Association.

I feel I have knowledge of how the Community Council should use its consultative and advisory function to work with other tiers of government towards effective governance of our affairs.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute towards this and therefor seek your support.

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# what's on

THE OBAN TIMES  
FREE EVENT LISTING

- THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**  
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm
- FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER**  
Cancer Research Quiz Night, Masonic Lodge, Oban, £3, 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm
- SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER**  
"Picts, Gaels and Scots - What's New?" Sally Foster Port Appin Hall, 2.30pm  
Charities Sale, St. John's Cathedral Hall, Oban, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm
- SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER**  
Doug Allan 'Life Behind the Lens' Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, Tickets £10/£8, 7.30pm
- TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**  
English for (Adult) Speakers of Other Languages, Oban Public Library, 2pm - 4pm
- WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER**  
Women and History Conversation Cafe, Corran Halls, Oban Argyll, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Email details of your event titled 'What's On' to [whatson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:whatson@obantimes.co.uk)

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail - An t-Oban 2015  
**Post-Mòd Cèilidh**  
**Skipinnish Cèilidh House**  
George Street, Oban  
Saturday 15th November 2014 at 7.30pm  
£6 admission (Children Free)  
Artists: Ruairaidh Cormack, Eilidh Cormack, Donna Dugdale, Hector MacKechnie, Ross MacPherson, Alastair MacLean  
Bean an taighe: Margaret MacLellan

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# Meet the artist

## Bill Baillie photographer

BILL Baillie is a photographer living and working in Argyll. Bill is an exhibitor with ArtMap Argyll and works in landscape and portraiture.



**What is your background?**  
Art has been a part of who I am as far back as I care to remember.  
Never been without some form of artistic implement whether it be a brush, a pastel or my camera.  
I discovered at the age of eight how magical it was being able to capture the beauty of the landscape instantly through my camera.  
Deciding not to accept my place at art school, I have never been formally trained and have made several career changes throughout my life before realising that I was only truly happy when taking photographs.  
Capturing the landscape has always been my passion and without trying I began discovering that I had a unique style which other people enjoyed.  
With this realisation I looked into selling my work which led to being asked to photograph people, weddings, products, etc.  
Now I capture events and people with the same passion and enthusiasm I have always had for landscapes.

influences on my work but I have certainly taken inspiration from some great artists.  
Inspirational artists include Monet, who had a fascination with light and how it changed over the landscape and an eye for seeing and capturing the abstract out of the otherwise ordinary.  
Inspirational photographers include Andre Kertesz, who was widely regarded as unorthodox in his use of angles and light, and Kilian Schoenberg, who uses his colour blindness to his advantage and sees and captures the world around him in a way that simply takes my breath away.

**What is current position that you are in and what work you are doing at the moment?**  
My business has grown every year and its future looks good with bookings coming in as far ahead as 2017.

Besides photographing weddings, portraits, commercial property and products I have recently started photography workshops which have proven to be very educational and enjoyable.  
As well as learning basic camera techniques we explore Argyll's landscapes and the workshops are a great day out.  
I still find the time to disappear into the landscape and capture the colours, textures and light and have a particular interest in trees at the moment.

**Who encouraged you and where do you work best?**

I encouraged myself. The feeling, the want to capture landscapes and now everyday life and events has come from myself.

Outside. Always outside where I can have the freedom to move around and watch the natural light and how it can change a scene, object, a person dramatically from one minute to the next.

**What do you want to do in the future?**

I would like to reach places that have been rarely seen, let alone photographed. They do not have to be famously known such as 'Tiger's nest Monastery' in Bhutan but simply just places that are seldom visited by people and there are plenty right here on our own doorsteps.

**Who are your influences and inspirations?**

I would not say that there have been many, if any,



# Anthony Gormley to create Saddell sculpture

SADDELL Bay, on the east coast of the Mull of Kintyre, is to host one of only five life-sized standing sculptures by an internationally renowned sculptor and artist.

Anthony Gormley, well known for his Angel of the North and Terracotta Warriors sculptures, will be installing the LAND sculpture to celebrate 50 years of the Landmark Trust.

The site in Kintyre looks out across the Kilbrannan Sound to the Isle of Arran. Landmark first acquired Saddell Castle, Shore Cottage and CulnaShee in 1975 and acquired the remainder of the Saddell Estate in 1984, and in 1990 bought Ferryman's Cottage.

The five life-size vertical body-forms will add a point of focus to each location, being thoughtful to their setting, encouraging visitors to contemplate the specific elemental conditions of each site, and in the case of the four coastal locations, the different qualities of the North Sea, the English Channel, the Kilbrannan Sound, and the Bristol Channel.

Anthony said: 'The challenge is to make the verticality of each sculpture the focus, as a kind of rod or conductor for thoughts and feelings that might

arise at a site. The sculptures identify the place where a particular human body once stood and anyone could stand, and in that respect they are open spaces empty of content and waiting for your attention.'

Landmark's buildings are often in remote locations, some of the buildings - notably towers and follies - were intentionally built to stand apart, some are positioned close to the coastline, making them a landmark or point from which to look out at the world.

It is this distance in time and isolation and people's place within it that is celebrated in LAND, and which embodies Landmark's work over the past five decades.

The sculptures will be installed by May 2015 and will be in place until May 2016. LAND is Antony Gormley's only solo outdoor installation in the UK in 2015.

The sculptures will have full public access and be free for everyone to enjoy.

The other sites are Martello Tower, Aldeburgh, Suffolk; Clavell Tower, Kimmeridge Bay, Dorset; Lengthsman's Cottage, Lowsonford, Warwickshire and Lundy Island, Bristol Channel.



# Tiree hero remembered

THE STORY of a soldier from Argyll and Bute, who died during World War One, has been told in a BBC ALBA documentary.

Private John Macdonald from Tiree was killed at the Battle of Arras in France in 1917, his death haunting his great-nephew Donald Meek as he was never able to put together a full picture of his death.

Càirdeas Cogaidh (A

War Friendship) follows the quest of Donald to establish the previously untold story of John and a comrade who were brought together in battle but separated by one bullet - as one fell and the other survived.

In common with many areas of the Highlands and islands, the war had a profound impact on Tiree.

Around 300 men left the island to serve in the

armed forces and 76 lost their lives, Private Macdonald amongst them.

John's letters and diary, which were scrupulously kept and passed down through Donald's family, offer a personable and valuable insight into a typical soldier's experience of life on the Western Front.

Càirdeas Cogaidh was shown on November 10 but can be seen on BBC iPlayer for 30 days.

# Oban preparing for fourth annual winter festival

PREPARATION is underway for this year's Oban Winter Festival, with organisers hoping it will be the biggest and best yet.

Now in its fourth year, the festival is a 10-day programme of activities, which gets underway on November 21.

While exact dates

and times are yet to be confirmed, events earmarked for the festival include art exhibitions, dry slope skiing, choir singing, a reindeer parade, lantern making, haggis hurling, and a grand finale fireworks display, along with many others.

Last year the festival

helped to generate an extra £1.13million for the local economy.

Further information about the festival can be found at: [obanwinterfestival.com](http://obanwinterfestival.com) and a full programme of events will also appear in next week's *Oban Times* as part of a special Christmas supplement.

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# Waterfront fireworks spectacular

A SPECTACULAR event on the waterfront saw Oban's annual firework event hit the headlines. This time an eight minute lightshow from leading pyrotechnic experts Pyrol saw the town lit up in spectacular fashion from the Northern Lighthouse Pier. The move to the pier side from Mossfield stadium has been welcomed by the crowd of more than 2,000 people who enjoyed the show. People gathered along the town's seafront to enjoy the show. The event was funded by BID4Oban and Oban Firework Committee. BID4Oban chairman Graeme

Bass said: 'We were delighted with the fireworks and the show that was put on for the town. 'It was wonderful to see so many people out and about to see the event. It was good that so many businesses took the opportunity to stay open late. 'It was a really inclusive event for everyone to be able to take part. The waterfront seems to be the ideal setting to show off the fireworks to their very best.' Graeme confirmed that the BID company would be putting on another fireworks display at New Year - to complement the other activities that are going on in the town.

REFLECTIONS: The sea and the sky were lit up during the fireworks show on November 5 Photo by Stephen Lawson

## Re-formed Idlewild on tour

AFTER a reunion at the Iona Village Hall music festival, Idlewild has announced its first tour after a four-year break. With some of band members having connections to the Ross of Mull and Iona, this was the band's first gig in four years. The set played during the summer festival was described as 'superb.' The line up included Roddy Woombie (lead vocals), Rod Jones (guitar), Andrew Mitchell (bass), Colin Newton (drums) and Luciano Rossi (keyboards) with support on guitar from Soren MacLean. Idlewild confirmed the release of a new album Everything Ever Written on February 9 2015, as they previewed the lead track 'Collect Yourself' on Steve Lamacq's 6Music show last week. A subsequent European tour has been announced with five UK dates planned, including gigs in March 7 and 8 in the O2 ABC Glasgow.

**2000** Second album 100 Broken Windows is released, gaining the band critical acclaim outside the UK - American magazine Spin declared it was the 'number one album you didn't hear in 2000'.

**2002** A breakthrough year for the quartet, with the third album, The Remote Part, charting at number three in the UK and going gold, and the release of top 10 single 'You Held The World In Your Arms'. Despite a change in the line-up (Fairfoul for Gavin Fox) the band goes on to support Coldplay on tour.

**2003** Idlewild play a series of opening gigs for the US leg of Pearl Jam's Riot Act world tour (the bands later reunited in 2007 for a gig at Wembley Arena).

**2005** Idlewild are voted third best Scottish band of all time in a public poll run by the List, and fourth among Warners/Promises as released. The band embarks on a UK tour and open shows for U2, REM and The Pixies. Despite these triumphs the future seemed uncertain when a record deal of eight years runs out, and Fox quits the band.

**2006** Soon the band is back on track and signs to Sequel, with Fox replaced by Astrid bassist Gareth Russell. Cue fifth album Make Another World, not as commercially successful as previous records but it reassures fans that artistic integrity remains fully intact (one reviewer called it 'passionate, poetic, life-affirming rock which verges on perfection').

**2007** Two greatest hits compilations are released: Scottish Fiction: Best of 1997-2007 and A Distant History: Rarities 1997-2007. The second of one is only available via download.

**2010** Roddy Woombie announces that after a tour supporting the sixth album Post Electric Blues (released in 2009), the band would take a break.

**2014** Nearly 20 years after they met and a four-year hiatus, the band confirms new album Everything Ever Written is to be released on February 9 2015, followed by a UK and European tour.



IDLEWILD: From a reformation on the Isle of Iona to international tours, pictured as they recorded a set for BBC 6Music's Steve Lamacq

## Fèis na Mara 2015 on the mark with first fundraiser

STILL spurred on by the momentum of this year's Fèis na Mara, organisers are already making plans for next year's festival. Slightly more than a month after the 2014 event in Mallaig, which featured Mànan, Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band, the Peatbog Faeries and many others, the committee is determined to make next year even better. Arisaig's Astley Hall will play host to the first fundraiser as local band DàimhMòr takes to the stage on Sunday December 28. Dàimh will be known to many as the Gaelic

five-piece folk band, but beefed up with bass, drums, brass, beatbox and more. Eilidh Shaw, of the Fèis na Mara committee, said: 'There is definitely a sense of momentum now, and an appreciation of the quality of music that we are bringing to the area, which is really what it's all about for us. 'The exciting thing is that there are so many brilliant bands out there, and Mallaig is a fantastic place for a festival like this. We are already inspired by the possibilities for next year's line-up.'

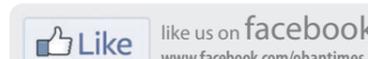
## Looking back in Lochaber

THE LATEST block of Lochaber archive classes has begun at West Highland College, Fort William. The session began last night (Wednesday) and everyone is welcome to future sessions, held between 12noon-1pm every Wednesday until

December 3. Classes examine education, church, poor relief and family/estate records and show how each can be used for genealogical and local history research. To book a place contact Lochaber Leisure Centre on 01397 704359.

## Psychic on tour

DESCRIBED as 'The People's Angel' psychic Paula O'Brien is bringing her national tour to The Royal Hotel in Oban for one night only. She will be in Oban on December 2 and her visit to the west coast is a first for the international medium.



## Seven Days

### Thursday 13

What: Gaelic conversation classes  
Where: Furan Gaelic Centre, Oban  
When: 7pm  
How much: N/A  
Gaelic conversation group for all levels of fluency. Come along and brush up on Gaelic language skills or start to learn Gaelic for the first time. Every Thursday night.

### Friday 14

What: Cancer Research Quiz Night  
Where: Masonic Lodge, Oban  
When: 7.30pm  
How much: £3  
Quiz Night to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

### Saturday 15

What: Post Mod Ceilidh  
Where: Skipinnish Ceilidh House  
When: 7.30pm  
How much: £6 children free  
Post-mòd ceilidh to raise funds for the Oban Royal National Mòd 2015. The evening will feature some of the medal winners from this year's Inverness Royal National Mòd - Ruairidh Cormack, Eilidh Cormack, Donna Dugdale, Hector MacKechnie. Also, Ross MacPherson (accordion) and Alastair MacLean (pipes). Tickets available at the door. Raffle, tea, coffee, home baking.

### Sunday 16

What: Anarchy and Beauty: William Morris and his Legacy 1860-1960  
Where: National Portrait Gallery, London  
When: 10 - 6pm  
How much: £14/£13/12  
Anarchy and Beauty explores the life and ideas of the great Victorian artist, writer and visionary thinker William Morris.

### Wednesday 19

What: Conversation Cafe  
Where: Studio Theatre, Corran Halls  
When: 1.30-4.30pm  
How much: Free - afternoon tea provided  
Come along to this event and celebrate how women have influenced history and how their lives have changed over the years.

### Monday 17

What: Doug Allen - Life Behind the Lens  
Where: The Sunart Centre, Strontian  
When: 7pm  
How much: £10/8  
Grabbed by a walrus; pawed by a polar bear; caressed by a whale; described by Sir David Attenborough as 'the toughest in the business.' Multi-award-winning wildlife photographer, cameraman, explorer, twice award-winning Polar medallist Doug Allan embarks on a Highlands and islands tour in Scotland this autumn. Doug will be hosting an evening of enthralling personal recollections from his travels around the world as one of the

world's leading wildlife cameramen. Doug is well known for his award winning photography and for his camerawork on hugely successful BBC series such as Life, Human Planet, Blue Planet, Planet Earth and the recently acclaimed Frozen Planet and Ocean Giants. Doug also filmed and presented for the BBC's Operation Iceberg. In July, he was the castaway on Radio 4's iconic series Desert Island Discs. With mesmerising footage and incredible photographs Doug chats about his latest stories and adventures.

### Tuesday 18

What: Theatre  
Where: An Cridhe, Tiree  
When: 8pm  
How much: £10/8  
Waves is a new solo theatre work written and performed by Alice Mary Cooper. It is the tale of Elizabeth Montgomery; the unofficial inventor of the Butterfly stroke. The work is performed in the aftermath of Elizabeth's memorial service by her carer Alice. Alice describes Liz's youth growing up on a small Australian island in the 1930's and how she employed sea creatures to teach her how to swim. With the help of fish, penguins and dolphins, Liz developed 'the Dolphin'. Combining new writing, highly expressive storytelling together with delicate movement and humour, the work promises to delight audiences young and old. 'Waves demonstrates she (Alice) is just as good at writing as she is at charming an audience' - The Stage. 'Cooper's story is magical.'

'(Waves) is told beautifully; Cooper is a performer and storyteller dedicated to instilling a sense of wonder in her audience' - Broadway Baby. 'Cooper tells her story beautifully' - The Scotsman.

Through portraits, personal items and fascinating objects, many of which are on public display for the first time, this major exhibition illustrates Morris's concept of 'art for the people' and highlights the achievements of those that he inspired. Curated by acclaimed author and biographer Fiona MacCarthy, the display features original furniture and textiles designed and owned by Morris as well as the work of his contemporaries including Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Edward Burne-Jones. These are innovatively showcased alongside remarkable books, jewellery, ceramics and clothing by craftspeople such as Eric Gill, Bernard Leach and Terence Conran, demonstrating how Morris's legacy continued into the twentieth century, influencing radical politics, the Garden City movement and the Festival of Britain in 1951. Supported by the Anarchy and Beauty Exhibition Supporters Group.

Elaine McChesney - a Women's Charter banner, held in Campbelltown Museum, made by a woman who was a prominent suffragette.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Time	Price
<b>Gone Girl</b>	Thurs 13th 17.00, 20.15	
<b>Fury</b>	Thurs 13th 20.30	
<b>What We Did On Our Holidays</b>	Thurs 13th 18.20	Fri 14th 15.50
	Sat 15th 15.50	Sun 16th 14.40
	Mon 17th 15.50	Tues 18th 15.50
	Wed 19th 15.50	Thurs 20th 13.20
<b>The Book of Life</b>	Thu 13th 16.00	Sat 15th 13.45
<b>Nightcrawler</b>	Fri 14th 18.10, 20.40	Sat 15th 18.10, 20.40
	Mon 17th 18.10, 20.40	Tue 18th 18.10, 20.40
	Thurs 20th 18.25	Sun 16th 12.40
<b>Dolphin Tale 2</b>	Fri 14th 16.00	Sat 15th 13.40
	Mon 17th 16.00	Tue 18th 16.00
<b>Ouji</b>	Fri 14th 20.55	Sat 15th 20.55
	Mon 17th 20.55	Tue 18th 20.55
	Thu 20th 20.55	Sun 16th 14.40
		Wed 19th 16.00
		Sun 16th 19.40
		Wed 19th 20.55
<b>The Judge</b>	Fri 14th 18.00	Sat 15th 18.00
	Mon 17th 18.00	Tue 18th 18.00
	Thu 20th 15.30	Sun 16th 16.50
		Wed 19th 15.30
<b>The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part One</b>	Thu 20th 15.45, 18.15, 20.50	

**Gone Girl (18)** Ben Affleck is suspected of murdering his wife in this dark, complex thriller.  
**Fury (15)** Brad Pitt leads a tank crew on a deadly mission at the end of WWII in this gritty, action-packed war movie.  
**What We Did On Our Holidays (12A)** Rosemond Pike, David Tennant and Billy Connolly star in a heart-warming comedy about an eventful family holiday. Doug and Alice are going through a painful divorce. Doug's father birthday party couldn't have come at a more inconvenient time. Heading off for the Scottish Highlands, the bickering couple issue their three young children with strict instructions to keep the divorce a secret. However, this is more easily said than done.  
**The Book of Life (U)** The journey of Manolo, a young man who is torn between fulfilling the expectations of his family and following his heart. Before choosing which path to follow, he embarks on an incredible adventure that spans three fantastical worlds where he must face his greatest fears.  
**Nightcrawler (15)** Nightcrawler is a thriller set in the nocturnal underbelly of contemporary Los Angeles. Jake Gyllenhaal stars as Lou Bloom, a driven young man desperate for work who discovers the high-speed world of L.A. crime journalism. Finding a group of freelance camera crews who film crashes, fires, murder and other mayhem, Lou muses into the cut-throat, dangerous realm of nightcrawling - where each police siren wail equates a possible windfall and victims are converted into dollars and cents.  
**Dolphin Tale 2 (U)** It has been several years since young Sawyer Nelson and the dedicated team at the Clearwater Marine Hospital, headed by Dr. Clay Hosker, rescued Winter. With the help of Dr. Cameron McCarthy, who developed a unique prosthetic tail for the injured dolphin, they were able to save her life. Yet their fight is not over. Winter's surrogate mother, the very elderly dolphin Pamona, has passed away, leaving Winter without the only poolmate she has ever known. However, the loss of Pamona may have even greater repercussions for Winter, who, according to USDA regulations, cannot be housed alone, as dolphins' social behavior requires them to be paired with other dolphins. Time is running out to find a companion for her before the team at Clearwater loses their beloved Winter to another aquarium.  
**Ouji (15)** In Oujia a group of friends must confront their most terrifying fears when they awaken the dark powers of an ancient spirit board. Siles White directs the Supernatural thriller that is produced by Platinum Dunes partners Michael Bay, Andrew Form and Brad Fuller (The Purge, The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Friday 13th) alongside Blumhouse Productions' Jason Blum (Paranormal Activity and Insidious Series, The Purge), Bennett Schneer (BattleShip), and Hasbro.  
**The Judge (15)** Hank Palmer is a successful defence attorney in Chicago, who is getting a divorce. When his brother calls with the news that their mother has died, Hank returns to his childhood home to attend the funeral. Despite the brittle bond between Hank and the Judge, Hank must come to his father's aid and defend him in court. Here, Hank discovers the truth behind the case, which binds together the dysfunctional family and reveals the struggles and secrecy of the family.  
**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part One (12A)** The Games are over. Now the Revolution is about to begin. The worldwide phenomenon of The Hunger Games continues to set the world on fire with The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1, which finds Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) in District 13 after she liberally shatters the games forever.

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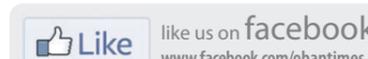
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Oban FM Community Radio, 132 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning with Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime with Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 Americano Show with Michelle	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	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	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	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	0800 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	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	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

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

<p><b>CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE</b> Oban Branch <b>Quiz Night in Masonic Hall</b> Albany Street Friday 14th November 7.00 For 7.30pm Max. 6 per team Admission £3 per person Pay at the door</p>	<p><b>Doug Allan</b> Wildlife Cameraman talks about 'Life Behind the Lens' Craigish Village Hall, Ardferr Sunday 16th November 7.30pm Tickets £10/£8 <b>01852 500746</b></p>	<p><b>Ceilidh Dance</b> West End Hotel, Fort William Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm Singers: Ellen Macdonald, Freddy MacKenzie, Raymond, Bremner, Morag MacNeil, Don R. MacIver, Music by: Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band Tickets £10 In aid of Oban Mod 2015</p>	<p><b>APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> "Picts, Gaels and Scots - What's New?" Sally Foster Saturday 15 November Port Appin Hall 2.30pm All welcome! <a href="http://www.appinhistorical.society.co.uk">www.appinhistorical.society.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Argyll Animal Aid Christmas Fayre</b> 11AM - 3PM Saturday 22nd November 2014 Corran Halls, Oban Gifts, Cards, Crafts, Toys and lots more Teas/Coffee and Home Baking</p>	<p><b>CHARITIES DAY</b> St John's Cathedral Saturday 15th November Christmas card sale 10.00am - 3.30pm Enter by main door, George Street, Oban Support your local, national and international charities Charity sale 10.30am - 3.30pm Downstairs Hall In aid of Multiple Sclerosis and St. John's Cathedral Stalls Teas Home Baking Raffle</p>		



# Your guide to Festive Dining

**COLUMBA HOTEL - OBAN**

**We present a fabulous party line up just for you...**

**Mistletoe Madness Christmas Disco**  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
You will be Rocking Around the Christmas Tree with our resident DJ *only £25 per person*

**Rod Stewart**  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
Tonight's The Night you WILL want to talk about it! *only £30 per person*

**Elvis**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
We're certain this party will get you All Shook Up & won't leave you Lonesome Tonight! *only £30 per person*

**FABBAulous**  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
You can Dance, You can Live, Having the Time of your Life! *only £30 per person*

*... book your place now before it's too late!*

**All party nights include a 4 course dinner & live entertainment**  
Please note that full payment is required at time of booking. Bookings are non-refundable & non-transferable. Please ensure arrival at 7pm for 7:30pm dinner service.

**YOU CAN BOOK NOW... IT'S EASY, JUST CALL 01631 562183**  
The North Pier, Oban PA34 5QD  
www.columbahoteloban.co.uk or email columba@sgehotels.com  
www.facebook.com/columba.oban @SGEHotels

**ROYAL HOTEL**  
Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4BE

**ROYAL HOTEL CHRISTMAS MENU**

**TO START**  
Tomato & Red Lentil Soup  
Smoked Chicken and Bacon Salad  
Mixed Salad leaves with home smoked Chicken Breast and Bacon Bits, drizzled with an Orange Dressing  
Carrot, Neeps & Tattie Soup  
Haggis Fritters  
Locally caught Haggis coated in an Inn Bru Batter with an Arran Mustard dip

**MAIN COURSE**  
Traditional Roast Turkey  
Served with Chef's Homemade Stuffing, Chipolatas and a Red Wine and Ruby Port Jus  
Lemon Sole  
With an Avacado Relish on a bed of Spinach  
Roast Sirloin of Beef  
Served with a Chasseur Sauce and Yorkshire Puddings  
Squash & Spinach Pie  
Butternut Squash, Barley and Spinach layered Pie  
All Main Courses are served with Cauliflower Cheese, Barton Carrots, Garden Peas and a selection of Potatoes

**DESSERT**  
Traditional Christmas Pudding Served with Brandy Cream Sauce  
Apple and Carmel pie Accompanied by fresh dairy Custard  
Iced Marmalade Cranachan with a Cointreau Chantilly Cream  
Scottish Cheese Board Served with Oatcakes & Homemade Tomato Jam  
Followed by Freshly Brewed Tea & Coffee with Tablet

**Information**  
Overnight accommodation available at £24.95 per person for Bed & Breakfast  
£5 deposit required per person at time of booking  
Final payment and numbers due by December 5th 2014-11-11  
Bookable at reception, via phone on 01631 563021  
Or by email royalobanmanager@strathmorehotels.com  
If booking 20 or more people then the organiser goes FREE!!!

**LOCHNELL ARMS HOTEL**

Available daily 12 - 2.30pm / 5 - 9pm.  
From 7th - 24th December (excl. Sunday lunch)  
£20.00 per person

**For reservations please telephone 01631 710408**



**Festive menu**

HOME MADE SOUP  
PRAWN & CRAYFISH SALAD  
CHEFS' OWN PATE, RED ONION MARMALADE & OATCAKES  
\*\*  
ROAST TURKEY WITH TRADITIONAL TRIMMINGS  
BRAISED RUMP OF VENISON  
POACHED FILLET OF SALMON WITH CREAMED LEEK SAUCE  
GREEN ASPARAGUS & PEA RAVIOLI WITH A SUNBLUSHED TOMATO DRESSING  
\*\*  
CHRISTMAS PUDDING & BRANDY SAUCE  
VANILLA CHEESECAKE WITH A WINTER BERRY COMPOTE  
APPLE STRUDEL  
TRIO OF LUXURY DAIRY ICE CREAMS

**LOCH MELFORT HOTEL & RESTAURANT**

**Gourmet Christmas Lunch**  
£55 PER PERSON

Slow Braised Ham Hock Terrine,  
Arran Mustard Potatoes, Oatcakes, Pea Shoots  
Grilled Green Herb Gnocchi,  
Creamed Spinach, Confit Garlic, Crispy Quails Eggs, Salsa Verde  
Traditional Scotch Broth,  
Steamed Haggis Dumplings, Chervil, Parsley  
Loch Melfort Prawn Cocktail, Langoustine and Prawn Tails,  
Julienne of Apple and Lettuce, Smoked Paprika Croutons, Tomato Aioli  
\*\*\*  
Spiced Red Wine Sorbet  
\*\*\*  
Roast Ballotine of Leg and Breast of Free-range Turkey,  
Sage and Onion Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Root Vegetable Parcel,  
Chipolatas, Roast Gravy  
Baked Fillet of Tarbert Landed Cod,  
Curried Parsnip Purée, Parsnip Rosti, Fondant Potato, Confit Garlic Cream  
Roast Sirloin of Argyll Beef, Duchess Potatoes,  
Crispy Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Celeriac, Carrot Purée, Red Wine Jus  
Warm Filo Tart of Roast Butternut Squash, Leek, Goats' Cheese and Pine Nuts,  
Confit Cherry Tomatoes, Rocket Leaves  
\*\*\*  
Traditional Steamed Christmas Pudding, Brandy Syrup,  
Brandy Sauce, Red Currants  
White Chocolate Mousse, Warm Dark Chocolate Sauce,  
Candied Orange, Chocolate Run Out  
Coconut Panna Cotta, Ginger Scented Poached Fruit,  
Roast Pineapple Syrup, Sugar Disk  
Selection of Three Scottish Cheeses,  
Date and Walnut Loaf, Oatcakes, Grapes and Chutney  
\*\*\*  
Freshly Ground Coffee is served in the Cocktail Lounge

**To make a reservation please call 01852 200233**

**THE GLEN** Formerly Soroba House Hotel

**STARTERS**  
Prawn Tart  
served with Oyster Sauce & Herb Beef  
Rocket Olive and Melon Salad  
with Balsamic Dressing  
Duck Pate  
with Crusty Bread & Orange Butter  
Carrot & Coriander Soup  
with Shrimp and Crusty Bread

**MAIN COURSES**  
Traditional Glen Christmas Turkey  
with Sage and onion Stuffing, Chipolatas, Roast & Boiled Potatoes,  
Brussel Sprouts & Rich Gravy  
Roast beef  
with Yorkshire Pudding, Market Vegetables & Bordelaise Sauce  
Salmon  
with Minted Pea Risotto & Lemon Butter  
Vegetable Ratatouille  
in Tomato Sauce with Mozzarella Cheese Snow Balls  
Vegetarian Salad  
served with feta cheese

**DESSERTS**  
Traditional Christmas Pudding  
served with Brandy Sauce, Cream or Ice Cream  
Apple Strudel  
with Warm Toffee Cream  
The Glen's Homemade Chocolate Mousse Quenelles  
served on a Wild Berry Coulis  
Ice Cream  
served with Hot Christmas Cherries in a Brandy Sauce  
Tea/Coffee & Mince Pie

Served at 3pm - £30 per person - booking only

**CONTACT 07810 032611 EMAIL forbesmchardy@hotmail.co.uk**

**REGENT HOTEL**  
Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5PZ

**Christmas Party Nights**

**£19.95**  
(which includes novelties, entertainment and a delicious 3 course dinner.)  
December - 5th 6th 12th 13th 20th 21st - all dates and party sizes considered - please call for details

**Starters**  
Vegetable & lentil broth.  
Smooth Ardennes pate served with fruit chutney and Scottish oatcakes.  
Honeydew melon with winterberry compote.

**Mains**  
Poached fillet of salmon resting on a mix of spaghetti and vegetables with a drizzle of lemon and dill cream.  
Roast turkey with all the trimmings with a rich gravy finished with cranberry sauce.  
Butternut and leek risotto topped with parsnip crisps

**Desserts**  
Christmas pudding covered in a brandy and orange scented sauce  
Chocolate yule log with fresh cream or ice cream  
Vanilla cheesecake with a spiced mandarin compote.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Coffee & Mince Pies  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Regent Hotel**  
Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5PZ  
T: 0843 178 7135 F: 0843 175 7136  
E: reservations.regent@bespokehotels.com  
W: www.bespokehotels.com/regenthotel

**George Street Fish Restaurant**

**Christmas Dinner Menu**

**Starters**  
Rosemary & Garlic Crusted Brie served with our chef's cranberry sauce  
Cockaleekie Soup  
Langoustine Cocktail  
Trio of Smoked Fish  
Halibut, Salmon & Mackerel

**Mains**  
Jackson's Fillet Steak with Langoustine tails in garlic butter  
Lemon Sole in Crispy Batter with home-made tartare sauce  
Seared Scallops & Chorizo with rocket salad  
Butternut Squash, Stilton & Spinach Risotto  
Grilled Halibut fillet with baby potatoes

**Desserts**  
Topsy Laird Raspberry Trifle  
Christmas Pudding  
Bread & Butter Pudding  
Vanilla Ice Cream

2 Courses - 22.50pp | 3 Courses - 27.50pp  
Steak Supplement - £10.00pp

**Make your reservation by calling 07836703060 or email info@fishh.co.uk**

**HAWTHORN RESTAURANT**  
FESTIVE LUNCH MENU 2014  
Available 12th - 24th December, served from 12.00-2.00pm

**STARTERS**  
Spiced Parsnip and Pear Soup  
House-smoked Salmon with Cucumber Caper Relish, Chive & Honey  
Crème Fraiche  
Chicken Liver Parfait with Saffron and Apple Chutney, Toast  
Winter Leaf Salad with fresh Clementine, dried Cranberries and Feta Cheese (V)

**MAINS**  
Traditional Roast Turkey with all the trimmings  
Fillet of Scottish Salmon, Pickled Fennel and Dill Beurre Blanc  
Venison Casserole with Sage Dumpling and Crisp Pancetta  
Chestnut Mushroom, Spinach and Rosemary Risotto (V)  
Pork Belly with Candied Apple, braised Savoy Cabbage and Thyme jus

**DESSERTS**  
Warm Pear Frangipane Tart with homemade Calvados Ice-cream  
Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce  
Trio of Scottish Cheeses with Oatcakes and Chutney  
Iced Praline Parfait, Caramelized Bananas

£14.95 FOR 2 COURSES  
£19.95 FOR 3 COURSES  
BOOKING RECOMMENDED!  
Hawthorn Restaurant, 5 Keil Crofts, Benderloch by Oban, PA37 1QS  
Tel: 01631 720 777

**Shower Herring Restaurant & Bar**

**Christmas dining at The Shower of Herring**

**FESTIVE MENU**  
Served throughout December  
Lunchtime - £20 per person  
Evenings - £25 per person

Spiced Parsnip and Honey Soup served with Parsnip Crisps  
Pork, Duck Liver and Port Pate set on a Rosemary Crouton with Fig and Orange Chutney  
Trio of Salmon, Prawn and Smoked Salmon Terrine with a dill Mayonnaise Dressing and Pickled Cucumber  
Goats Cheese, Pea and Mint warm Quiche  
~~~~~  
Roast Turkey Paupiette stuffed with Cumberland Sausage Meat, Cranberry and Apricot  
Stuffing wrapped in Streaky Bacon with all the Trimmings  
Slowly Braised Lamb Shank with Dauphinoise Potatoes and Smothered with a Red Wine and Tomato Sauce  
Poached Salmon Fillet topped with a Lemon Hollandaise Sauce and Asparagus  
Classic Nut Roast with all the Trimmings Served with a Red Pimento Coulis  
~~~~~  
Christmas Pudding with a brandy butter & vanilla custard  
Mulled Wine Cheesecake served with Spiced Winter Berries  
Chocolate and Orange Mousse topped with a White Chocolate and Cranberry Shell  
Ginger Crème Brulee served with Raspberry Shortbread  
Tea or Coffee  
Oban Chocolates & Mince Pies

Melfort Village, Kilmelford  
www.showerofherring.co.uk | Tel: 01852 200345

# Business

editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

## Fusion Marine wins £1m fish farm equipment deal

A CONTRACT worth more than £1 million has been awarded to Barcaldine-based Fusion Marine.

The allocation of the funds is part of an ongoing expansion and investment programme by Scottish Sea Farms.

The partnership with Fusion has seen more than £7 million invested by Scottish Sea Farms in just over six years, with this latest contract for 18 fish farm pens, sinker tubes and bird net support wheels for two sites in Orkney.

This latest contract was due to start in October with the pens ready for use in the spring of next year.

A number of other businesses will benefit from this contract, with Scottish hauliers, hotels and hire companies all used by Scottish Sea Farms and Fusion Marine during the completion of the project.

Scottish Sea Farms managing director Jim Gallagher said: "We have been working with Fusion Marine for a number of years now and this latest contract builds on this strong relationship and helps us to develop our new and existing sites

in Orkney. When we were granted permission for new sites we pledged to invest with Scottish suppliers and help to boost the overall economy as a result. This investment demonstrates this and recruitment is also underway in Orkney where we have five skilled jobs available."

The Fusion Marine pens are strong and provide containment for the salmon, with decking for operator protection and convenience.

Iain Forbes of Fusion Marine said: "For this latest contract, we have worked closely with Scottish Sea Farms regional manager Richard Darbyshire and his team in Orkney to develop a fish farm pen equipment package ideally suited to the local conditions. We have a long-standing relationship with Scottish Sea Farms which always displays real commitment to work, where possible, with Scottish companies."

The partnership between Scottish Sea Farms and Fusion Marine has been recognised at the Crown Estate Aquaculture Awards in the past, where Fusion Marine won best supplier to the fish farming industry.

## More business loan funds

BUSINESSES throughout Argyll and Bute can now access a wider range of financial support, thanks to new funding being offered to both start-up and existing companies through Business Gateway.

Anyone looking for funding for their business should contact Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway to discuss the options available.

The West of Scotland Loan Fund can provide loan funding assistance of up to £100,000 for small and medium-sized growth businesses.

The eligibility has recently been widened to include businesses based anywhere within Argyll and Bute.

The Start Up Finance Scotland fund is also newly available in Argyll and Bute. It offers unsecured personal loan funding of £1,000 to £25,000 for business purposes, to support new businesses which have been trading for less than 12 months.

Also available is the Business Gateway Plus Growth Grant which offers funding of 50 per cent of costs up to a maximum of £3,000. This fund is aimed at businesses trading above £70,000 with a specific growth project planned.

For more information contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604 555 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

# Science park's superb facilities to be envied



EXPANSION: Dr Tracy Shimmield tells the economic summit about SRSL's growth plans



TENANT: Malin House has a second tenant

Photo Scotphoto/HIE

THE SECOND firm to move into a science park at Dunstaffnage near Oban is already making waves in the marine industry.

SAMS Research Services Ltd (SRSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Scottish Association for Marine Science, a near neighbour of the European Marine Science Park (EMSP), has taken up a tenancy at Malin House.

The move was a welcome one for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) which had been struggling to find tenants since the building was completed two years ago.

EMSP is owned and managed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Malin House is the first of three phases proposed by the development agency.

Dr Tracy Shimmield, an internationally renowned marine geochemist who is leading the venture, said the move into Malin House heralded a new growth era for the company.

She added: "SRSL has grown steadily over the last three years and the move to Malin House allows room for further expansion."

Dr Shimmield was a speaker at the recent Argyll and Bute economic summit, held to address problems of population decline in the county, and impressed delegates with her report on SRSL's progress.

Describing the 'superb' research facilities at Dunstaffnage, she said: "People come from Edinburgh and universities to Malin House. We also had a top American scientist who told me: 'I always thought America did it better, but you have better facilities here'."

Dr Shimmield did signal a warning

about factors that could limit growth, including transport links. She added: "Another scientist once said to me: 'Why would I move my business here. If I wanted to come here by train it would take me five hours by train from Edinburgh. I can get to London quicker'."

"Lots of these companies want to do business with us but they want to come here from London and get back in a day."

"The increased number of trains from Glasgow is a good thing but the trains are very slow and we have an airport in Oban - let's use it."

SRSL has created a technical laboratory within Malin House to take forward the development and manufacturing of a device called SIMBA - which stands for sea-ice mass balance buoys.

This allows real-time monitoring of sea-ice covering polar environments and was originally developed to support researchers.

However, it is now being developed for commercial users and applications.

Douglas Cowan, HIE's area manager for Argyll and the islands, said: "SRSL is joining a growing, thriving entrepreneurial community centred around Oban."

"It's fantastic to see the commercialisation of research activity at SAMS, with such wide-ranging industry applications."

The 20,000 sq ft of office and laboratory space at EMSP was built with £7.5million of investment to support businesses in Scotland's growing life sciences and energy sectors and has the potential to support up to 125 jobs.

## Marine firm's new operations chief

BARCALDINE-BASED company Fusion Marine has appointed Chris Jones as its new operations manager.

Mr Jones, an established figure in Scottish aquaculture, will take on the new role to further boost growth for the business, which is one of the world's leading suppliers of fish farming equipment.

He said: "I'm excited about the opportunity Fusion Marine has given me to continue to innovate and put my many years of commercial and practical experience to good use."

"As operations manager, my job is to lead our hard-working production squad to improve, both individually and as a team, so that Fusion Marine continues to grow and cement its position as a world class fish farm pen and support equipment manufacturer."



NEW RECRUIT: Chris Jones will head the Fusion Marine production team

## Helping hand for craft businesses

CRAFT businesses in Argyll and Bute are getting a helping hand with a specially-designed workshop aimed at helping them develop and increase their customer base.

Business Gateway is running a brand new specialist workshop that will focus on growing a craft business profitably.

The free workshop 'Helping Craft Businesses Reach More Customers' will provide craft business owners with practical advice on making a creative business flourish. It will give an insight into understanding their market and competitors, how to choose where to sell, the benefits of using social media within their marketing and how to make the biggest impact at craft fairs.

Trainer Jack Redpath, carefully chosen for his skills and experience in helping creative businesses develop, will deliver the one-day workshop on November 20 in Tarbert (Loch Fyne), November 26 in Oban and December 3 in Strachur.

To find out more or to book, contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604 555 or [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

The workshops are part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programmes.

# Mull couple's dive into business a big success

DIVING into business has been a success for Isle of Mull couple Helen Dewar and Murdo Smith, who set up MDive Ltd last December.

Experienced diver Murdo decided he wanted to establish his own enterprise that employed local people and supported community projects.

With continued support from Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway, MDive is now planning further expansion after less than a year of trading.

MDive now has two dedicated dive teams, has been awarded a prestigious industry accreditation, has recently received a grant from The Noble Trust at Loch Fyne, and is continually increasing its customer base.

MDive's first contract was with Scottish Sea Farms, which advised on the appropriate health and safety regulations and legal requirements that would need to be met. Once these were met MDive began trading last December and Helen and Murdo



HARD WORKING: the MDive team

haven't looked back. Helen said: "Murdo has worked with dive teams in the fish farm industry for years and also has commercial and off-shore diving experience and a fish farming background. He has an in depth knowledge and understanding of what makes a good, efficient and safe diving company so when the opportunity first presented itself, it was logical for us to set up our own business."

"I was working for Visit Scotland but by March I began working at MDive full-time concentrating on growth and development of the company and our staff. We are happy with our two teams of three divers and a tender but are now in a position to create a third team to cope with demand. We believe we are in the position we are in because of our outstanding customer service, the expertise that Murdo has and the hard work and commitment from everyone at MDive."

Helen and Murdo approached their Business Gateway office and

have accessed a range of support in particular attending business workshops and one-to-one advice from a business adviser.

Helen added: "Business Gateway has been fantastic. Our adviser Angela has made everything so easy and straightforward for us."

Angela Vernel of Business Gateway said: "The progress MDive has made in under a year is extremely impressive and is a credit to the expertise and hard work of Helen and Murdo. As well as taking advantage of our free workshops, MDive has benefited from a Business Gateway Plus Growth grant which will help with expansion costs and contribute to future growth and development."

Helen concluded by acknowledging the importance of MDive's staff: "We are incredibly indebted to our finance manager Richard Dewar who has been a pillar of support from managing the office while I still worked at VisitScotland to dealing with our finances now."

## Oban electrician in shock at top three apprentice spot

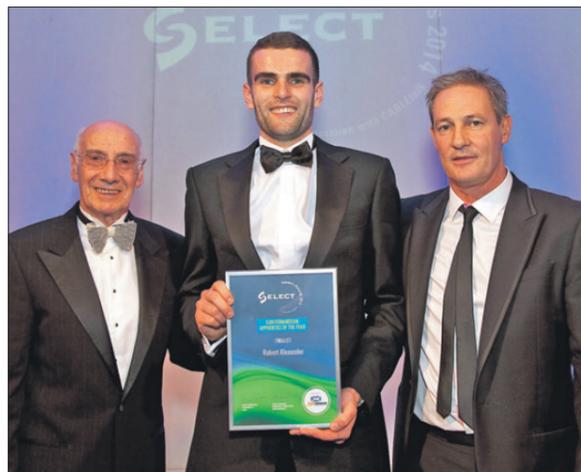
AN OBAN electrician got the shock of his life, reaching the top three in a prestigious Apprentice of the Year 2014 competition.

Robert Alexander, 23, beat around 460 candidates to be one of the Scottish region finalists and received a £300 cheque at the awards ceremony held in the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow.

Robert works at Kenneth Ferguson electrical contractors based in Connel, where he was taken on as an apprentice after attending Oban high school. As part of his training he attended Reid Kerr College in Paisley.

He said: "I was really delighted to get where I did, it was a real shock. I didn't feel my interviews with the regional panel had gone that great but it went better than I thought."

Kenny Ferguson, director of Kenneth Ferguson contractors, said: "I'm absolutely delighted for Robert to win the award. He has shown a great attitude since he started. His hard work paid off and he continues to be a great asset to the workforce."



TOP SPARK: Robert, centre, receives his award from Jock Simpson, left, chairman of the Scottish Joint Industry Board and Gary Mason, regional director of Edmundson Electrical.

Photo by Mike Wilkinson

## Success of partnership working recognised

A BUSINESS based at Dunstaffnage's Malin House has been shortlisted for a national award for businesses working with universities and research institutions.

Xanthella is one of 13 companies, consortia and individuals from across Scotland shortlisted as one of three finalists in the Interface Excellence Awards, which will take place on November 20 at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.

Xanthella has worked in partnership with the University of Strathclyde on

the design, manufacture and sales of photobioreactors for growing algae, an attractive commodity in the current climate, as it is used in biofuel production.

And the Argyll business will be competing against its Dunstaffnage neighbour, Scottish Association for Marine Science, which has been working with another nominee, MARA Seaweed of Edinburgh. The businesses will be up for Sustainable Partnership Award alongside the third nominee, React2 of Peebles,

which has been working in collaboration with Queen Margaret University to develop a range of interactive products that would help people experiencing problems with speech and language as the result of a stroke, brain injury, learning difficulties or dementia.

In addition to sustainable partnership, the other awards are Innovation of the Year, Outstanding Contribution to Knowledge Exchange and the Multi-Party Collaboration Award.

## Skye family's delight at award nomination

A BUSINESS on Skye has been entered into the finals of the Scottish Family Business Awards 2014.

'Jans' - established in Portree in 1973 by Jan and Effie Nicolson - has been shortlisted in the Scottish Family Business of the Year (small/medium) category, alongside three other groups.

It began as a buy-and-sell caravan shop but now includes a garden centre, cafe,

house and hardware shops, sign-making store, self-storage business and gas distribution centre, plus a car and van hire facility. It also lets out offices and business suites.

The firm employs 26 people including Jan and Effie's son Donnie, who is managing director.

Jan Nicolson said: "I'm delighted we have been shortlisted for this award."

"With the addition of our new cafe, we are now establishing Jans as a destination shopping experience, helping to reverse the trend of shoppers heading to Inverness and other cities."

The hardware shop includes a wishing well, with all donations going to charities. The Scottish Family Business Awards winners will be announced in the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow, on December 3.

Start a business. Grow a business. Business Gateway is here to help.

Free, practical advice and support for your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit [www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute](http://www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute)





# Farming

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Oban, call Euan Warnock  
and Donna MacDougall  
on 01631 567 036 for  
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Agent of The National Farmers Union  
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## Vital CAP information still missing, says NFU

AS NFU Scotland heads to Argyll tomorrow (Friday) with its roadshow meetings with members, it has called on the Scottish Government to bring forward vital information around how it plans to introduce key elements of the new CAP package.

For new or developing businesses, it says uncertainty over both the depth and reach of the national reserve - used for a number of purposes, such as allocating payment entitlements to new entrants and young farmers or compensating farmers for specific disadvantages - has yet to be properly addressed by the Scottish Government.

At the same time, for established businesses, the lack of clarity over the transition to the new area payment system is eroding confidence, says the NFUS, in the reform process for a host of farming businesses.

In a strongly-worded letter to Scotland's cabinet secretary for

rural affairs, Richard Lochhead, the union's president Nigel Miller has called on the minister to instruct his officials to operate in a more transparent manner; bring forward such vital information and allow all interested parties to scrutinise the Scottish government blueprint.

NFU Scotland has been meeting with members at branch meetings around the country and will be in Tarbert tomorrow afternoon at 1pm at the village hall and at the Corran Halls in Oban at 7pm.

Speaking ahead of the roadshows, Mr Miller said: 'We accept that the route to CAP implementation in Scotland was always going to be a difficult road and that the change to area-based support payments would be challenging.'

'However, the growing frustration felt by new and established businesses is being fuelled by an information vacuum and it is inherent on the



FRUSTRATION: Nigel Miller, NFUS president

Scottish government to address that by bringing forward the detailed processes and communicate with clarity on the impacts of the new CAP regime.

'Each week brings us closer to the new package of Pillar 1 support for farm businesses.

'Producers will be required to apply to the 2015 scheme year in May of next year but, at this late stage, many producers remain unable to make crucial business decisions because of the lack of detail.

'It is now vital that

Scottish Government officials operate in a more transparent manner. They must share the fundamentals of the reform options that are increasingly certain to be implemented.

'For established businesses, the impacts of the transition process to 2019, as announced by the cabinet secretary in June, have to be made clear.

'We understand that that the Scottish Government's original transition plan has been rejected by the European Commission and a new formula has been developed behind closed doors.

'That new formula, as well as the earlier transition models, must be shared so that any implications around the intended 'soft landing' for businesses are fully understood. Any transition approach that front loads extreme change into Year 1 could effectively create a cliff edge for some businesses.

'Richard Lochhead's commitment to Scotland's new generation of farmers is well known and appreciated. NFU Scotland has been clear that it believes that the national reserve, which may have to be extended, should support those disadvantaged by both the 2005 CAP Reform and the historic reference period 2000-2002.

'Some that entered farming before 1999 may also have been disadvantaged by the historic baseline.

'New entrants and developers need to know how the categories within the new national reserve are to be defined in order to understand the levels of support they are likely to receive from 2015 onwards.

'Even at this late stage, the union would urge Richard Lochhead and his officials to consider modifications to delivery plans if they minimise any significant disadvantage to new or established producers.'

### TIREE

UNITED Auctions held its annual late autumn sale on November 1 of 698 all classes' cattle at Tiree Auction Mart.

A good offering of stock in all ages was presented to a good turnout of mainland buyers. Bullocks sold to average £803.69 or 217.81pence per kilo (£792.62 or 221.07 last year). Heifers sold to average £694.51 or 209.86 pence per kilo (£689.36 or 209.56 last year). Younger aged cattle easily maintained last year's values with most quality consignments recording a rise on the year whilst older cattle were easier on the year, which is in keeping with current trends caused by the drop in values for finished cattle.

Bullocks sold to a top of £1,320 for Limousin crosses from Heylipol Farm and 323 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from G Campbell, Jr, Garaphail. Heifers sold to a top of £1,290 for Charolais crosses from Heylipol Farm and 281 pence per kilo for Aberdeen Angus crosses from Parkhouse.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:

Bullocks: AAx: £1,190(3) - Croish: £1,170 - Heylipol Farm(2): £1,140 - 3a Coals(2): £1,130 - Croish(2): £1,100 - 3 Kirkapoll(3): £1,050 - Heylipol Farm(3): £1,030 - Parkhouse: £1,020 - 3 Kirkapoll(2). BSHx: £1,140, £1,110(2) and £1,000 - Croish.

CHARx: £1,150 - Heylipol Farm: £1,150, £1,130, £1,100 and £1,050 - Salum: £1,040 and £1,010 - Heylipol Farm. Hex: £1,060 - Middleton Farm. LIMx: £1,320 and £1,190 - Heylipol Farm: £1,190 - Salum: £1,180 - Heylipol Farm: £1,170 and £1,160 - Sandaig: £1,160 - Salum: £1,150(3) - Heylipol Farm: £1,150 - Braeside: £1,110 - 4 Kilkenneth: £1,100 - Salum: £1,090(3) - Sandaig: £1,070 - 6 Barrapol: 4 Kilkenneth: £1,060 - 6 Barrapol: £1,050 - 4 Kilkenneth, Druimasaidh(4), 9 Barrapol(2) and Hillcrest: £1,040 - Braeside, 3a Coals and Sandaig: £1,030 - Parkhouse, Braeside and 6 Barrapol: £1,020 - 4 Kilkenneth and 6 Barrapol: £1,010 - Salum: £1,000 - 9 Barrapol. SALx: £1,140 - 3a Coals: £1,060 - Middleton Farm. SIMx: £1,160 and £1,090(2) - 3a Coals: £1,000(2) - 4 Kilkenneth.

Heifers: AAx: £920(2) - Croish. BSHx: £940 - Croish: £940 - 3 Middleton. CHARx: £1,290, £1,020(3) and £950 - Heylipol Farm. LIMx: £950 - Ruaig: £940(2) - Braeside: £930 - 4 Kilkenneth: £920 - Braeside: £910 - Salum(3) and Crothouse: £900(2) - 6 Barrapol. SALx: £870(4) - Middleton Farm. SIMx: £850 - Lochphuil and Braeside.

Top prices per kilo:

Bullocks: AAx: 262p - Hillcrest: 259p - Benview: 250p(6) - Parkhouse: 248p(2) - Whitehouse: 241p(2) and 238p(3) - Benview: 231p - Hillcrest: 230p(3) - Heylipol Farm.

BSHx: 224p - 3 Middleton. CHARx: 301p - Ardmay: 301p - Garaphail: 292p and 279p - Ardmay: 277p, 262p(2) and 259p - Salum: 258p(2) - Garaphail: 255p - Ardmay: 252p - Salum: 249p - Garaphail: 247p and 244p - Ardmay: 235p - Salum. HEx: 211p - 6 Balevullin. LIMx: 323p - Garaphail: 319p(5) - Parkhouse: 307p(4) - Hillcrest: 296p - Mannal House: 289p - Parkhouse: 287p - Mainroad: 287p(4) - Vaul: 282p - Mannal House: 280p(2) and 279p(3) - Hillcrest: 277p(5) - Salum: 276p(3) - Hillcrest: 275p - 1 Kilkenneth(2) and Mannal House: 274p - Mannal House: 273p - Vaul: 269p - Whitehouse: 266p - Mannal House: 264p - Whitehouse and Mannal House: 260p - Garaphail: 259p - Mainroad: 258p - 1 Kilkenneth, Salum and 4 Kilkenneth: 256p - Mainroad: 255p - 1 Kilkenneth and Parkhouse(2): 253p(2) - Crothouse: 251p - 8 Balevullin (2) and Mainroad: 250p(2) - Parkhouse: 248p(4) - Vaul and Whitehouse(2): 247p - 2 Heylipol: 246p - 10 Balevullin(3) and Vaul: 245p - 10 Balevullin: 244p - 6 Balevullin: 243p - 1 Kilkenneth: 242p(2) - 8 Balevullin. SALx: 259p(2) and 240p - 6 Crossapol. SIMx: 265p - Lochphuil.

Heifers: AAx: 281p(2) and 253p(2) - Parkhouse: 242p - Scarinish Farm. BSHx: 202p - 3 Middleton. CHARx: 254p - Garaphail: 241p and 239p(2) - Ardmay: 237p - Garaphail: 235p(3) - 2 Heylipol. LIMx: 281p - Parkhouse: 269p(2) and 265p - Hillcrest: 261p(4) - Mannal House: 258p - 2 Heylipol(2) and Mannal House: 256p - Mannal House: 254p(2) - Parkhouse: 249p(2) - 2 Heylipol: 247p(2) - 10 Balevullin: 246p - Crothouse: 243p and 242p - 1 Kilkenneth: 240p(3) - Salum. SALx: 274p(2) and 242p - 6 Crossapol. SIMx: 239p - Dunbeag.

Cows with calves: £900 - Scarinish Farm. Cast cows: £860 - 8 Balevullin: £780 - Greenhill: £750 - Mannal House and Vaul.

### DALMALLY

UNITED Auctions held a sale of 86 cattle and 793 sheep of all classes on Saturday November 8 at Dalmally Auction Mart.

All classes of stock sold at firm rates and to a good ringside of buyers.

Bullock calves sold to 281 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Kinlochlaich and the same home led the prices per kilo for heifers when their Limousin crosses sold to 269 pence. In-calf heifers from Succoth, Ardeonaig sold to £1,350.00.

Texel lambs from Tulloch sold to £63 per head while breeding sheep from Invernahyle sold to £76.00.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:

Bullocks: LIMx: £665(3) - Kinlochlaich: £560 - Muckairn. LUNIG: £660 and £590 - Muckairn. SIMx: £690 - Shellfield. HIGH: £550 - Silvercraigs. Bulls: £560(5) - Knockderry.

Heifers: LIMx: £690(2) - Achallader: £560 - Kinlochlaich. AAx: £520 - Kinlochlaich.

In-calf heifers: AAx: £1350 - Succoth: £1150 & £1050 - Braes of Ardeonaig.

In-calf cows: £900 & £820 - Stronmagachan. Cast cows: £600 - Brechnoille.

Top prices per kilo:

Bullocks: AAx: 256p - Kinlochlaich. LIMx: 281p(3) - Kinlochlaich. LUNIG: 243p - Muckairn. Heifers: AAx: 269p - Kinlochlaich. LIMx: 269p(2), 259p & 254p(2) - Kinlochlaich. Bulls: 312p(5) & 279p(5) - Knockderry.

SHEEP

Lambs: TEXx: £63.00 - Tulloch: £59.00 - Birchfield: £56.00 - Tulloch & Whitegates. BF: £56.00 - Ardbeg & Tulloch: £55.00 - Rearsa: £52.00 - Ardbeg: £50.00 - Castles Estate. Ewes: TEXx: £53.00 - Whitegates. CHEV: £46.00 - Silvercraigs. BF: £68.00 - Carse Knowe: £62.00 - Acharonich: £48.00 - Tulloch. Gimmers: BF: £76.00 & £60.00 - Invernahyle.

Top prices per kilo:

Lambs: 172p & 169p - Birchfield: 168p - Acharonich: 164p - Silvercraigs. BF: 160p - Tulloch: 149p - Birchfield & Glenoe Farms: 148p - Achanelid Farming.

## Pesticide reports show use in 2013

FOUR reports on the use of pesticides on outdoor vegetable crops, grassland and fodder, protected edible crops and rodenticide have been published by Scotland's chief statistician.

They show that 92 per cent of vegetable crops were treated with 53,000kg of pesticides in 2013, similar to 2011, when the last report was published.

Only four per cent of grassland was treated with pesticides, with a total combined weight of 85,300 kg.

This was a reduction in the total pesticide area sprayed of around a third since the last survey in 2009.

These decreases may be a result of the cool, wet weather at the start of 2013, leading to slower weed growth and disease.

In relation to fodder crops, 74 per cent of the crop area was treated with pesticides, with a total combined weight of 15,000 kg.

This amounted to a 14 per cent increase in the total pesticide area applied to fodder crops, mainly due to differences in the herbicide compounds used.

A summary report, which reflects the limited cultivation of edible protected crops in Scotland included all edible crops, except soft fruit, which are permanently protected by glass or polytunnel.

Overall, 39 per cent of the crop was treated with pesticides, with a total combined weight of 170 kg.

The total area of pesticide formulations applied in 2013 was very similar to that reported in 2011. However, the weight of pesticides used decreased by more than 70 per cent.

This was mainly due to a reduction in use of soil sterilants.

It was estimated that rodenticides were used on 72 per cent of grassland and fodder farms with approximately 217 tonnes of bait used.

However, as anticoagulant rodenticides are effective at very low concentrations, this bait contained less than 11 kg of rodenticide active ingredient.

This is the first time that rodenticide use has been surveyed on both fodder and grassland farms.

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### ISLAY

Islay Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd (Friday 24th October) had forward 184 cattle and 192 sheep at their annual autumn sale on October 24 on the Isle of Islay.

There was a good turnout of buyers for the sale, with many going home short of requirement of which more could have been sold to sellers advantage.

Bullock calves (100) averaged £643.44 (-£42 on the year) selling to £900 for a pen of Lim x from D McMillan, Ballulive.

Heifer calves (77) averaged £565.22 (-£30 on the year) selling to £705 for a pen of Char x from Ardaltta Estates.

Bull calves (1) sold to £500 for a Lim from D McMillan, Ballulive.

Leading prices: bullock calves: Char - £870 Ardaltta; R Lim - £800 Balliemartin; B Lim - £780 Auchnacloch; Lim - £730 Ballulive; Shorthorn - £550 Persabus; Longhorns - £395 Daill.

Heifer calves: R Lim - £690 Auchnacloch; B Lim - £680 Balliemartin; Char - £635 Ardaltta Estate; Cont - £625 Ballulive.

Sheep: lambs: Suff x - £62.50; Tex - £61 Persabus; Tex x - £55 Ballulive; BF - £50.50 Balative. Ewes: Tex x - £52 Balliemartin.

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**Commercial property market improves post-referendum**

COMMERCIAL property sales in Scotland almost doubled in 2014's third quarter, rising from £592m in Q2 to £962m in Q3.

This figure represents the best quarterly return on commercial property sales in Scotland since 2008 and the onset of the recession.

Central west Scotland saw a particular surge in sales, from an unusually low quarterly sales figure of £58m in Q2 to report sales of £242m in Q3.

The Scottish Property Federation (SPF), which analysed the figures from the Registers of Scotland, says that the resurgence indicates a renewed confidence in the commercial property market now that the political outlook is more stable.

A dip in sales in Q2 was attributed to pre-referendum uncertainty and the spike in activity between June and September suggests that market activity was considerably more in the last two weeks of September following the vote.

The SPF also pointed out that investors could be rushing to do high value deals taking place before the Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) is replaced by Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) at the start of April 2015.

It warned that if the tax was seen to be too penal by

investors, it could cause the Scottish property market to be perceived negatively by investors.

Although the Scottish government estimates that 95percent of transactions will pay the same or less under LBTT than SDLT, the figures show that some £772m of the £962m of sales reported was transacted in deals of more than £2m.

This equates to 75 percent of the value of sales in the period which would, by value, be facing higher tax liabilities under LBTT than under SDLT.

David Melhuish, director at the Scottish Property Federation, said: 'This latest analysis of commercial property sales in Scotland suggests a very strong bounce-back from any pre-referendum uncertainties or delays, with the value of commercial property sales in Scotland jumping considerably.'

'Confidence appears to be returning to the commercial property market, particularly for high value major investments.'

'It will be important that the introduction of LBTT does not de-rail this recovery in commercial property investment activity and we are concerned that with some three quarters of commercial property sales by value set to see an increase in commercial LBTT from SDLT that this will be viewed negatively by investors.'

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## BLACKWELL

**Vacancies at Glensanda Quarry**

**C A Blackwell (Contracts) Limited are the Load and Haul contractor at Glensanda Quarry.**

We are currently looking to recruit the following personnel to supplement our existing team in this remote and challenging environment:

**Maintenance Engineers x 2**

We are seeking skilled and qualified maintenance engineers to work with our existing teams. Experience of working on large mining / quarrying plant is advantageous, but as a minimum you should have experience of maintaining light vehicles / 4x4's and preferably general earthmoving equipment.

The shift patterns will be either 4 days on / 4 days off or 5 days per week Mon - Fri (1 engineer required for each shift)

Competitive salaries are offered and are dependent on experience and the shift pattern agreed.

Accommodation may be available on site depending on shift pattern agreed / home location.

**C A Blackwell (Contracts) Limited are a nationwide quarrying, earthmoving, and civil engineering company who can offer long term stable working conditions at Glensanda, with a benefits package including contributory pension scheme and health insurance.**

To apply for these roles please forward your cv in the first instance to our Plant Maintenance Manager at: [Martin.MacDonald@cblackwell.co.uk](mailto:Martin.MacDonald@cblackwell.co.uk)

argyllshire advertiser  
Incorporating Campbelltown Courier

**Reporter**

An enthusiastic, multi-skilled Reporter is required to join weekly newspaper, the Argyllshire Advertiser, part of the award-winning Oban Times newspaper group.

Joining the team at the Lochgilphead office, Mid Argyll, the successful candidate will have a solid foundation in journalism, good leadership qualities, excellent communication skills, a great deal of energy and at least two years experience. A full driving licence is essential.

This is an exciting opportunity with excellent salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send a covering letter of application with CV by email to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

**HATCHERY TECHNICIAN CAIRNDOW**

Salary £17,978 - £22,808 plus overtime and bonus

We currently have a vacancy for a Hatchery Technician at our Cairndow hatchery which is at the head of Loch Fyne. The post would be offered on a permanent full-time basis, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

This freshwater role is focused upon care of the eggs prior to hatching and also effective fish husbandry of the fry and parr prior to their transportation to seawater farms. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who have some experience in freshwater operations but it is not essential as full training would be provided. A driving license is essential.

Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be part of the site Alarm Rota which would involve staying in the hatchery accommodation for approximately one week in every 4/5 weeks. In return the successful candidate will benefit from an attractive salary package, based on experience, together with a bonus package for results achieved against set targets up to a maximum of 15% of salary.

If you would like to apply for this post, please send details of your experience to date, with a covering letter, by Friday 28th November 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

**HANOVERSCOTLAND**  
Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association  
95 McDonald Road Edinburgh EH7 4NS

**SHELTERED HOUSING MANAGER**

(Ref No: 112)  
Heatherlee Court, Kinlochleven  
£6,250 - £7,403  
12.5 hours per week

We are currently recruiting for an enthusiastic, professional and caring person to provide a housing management and support service promoting independent living for older people.

You will have the personal skills and approach to fill this role and the ability to liaise with care services and relatives. You will be a capable administrator and have basic IT skills.

You will preferably have SVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care or equivalent qualification.

Hours to be worked: Monday to Friday.

Service conditions include generous annual leave.

This post requires PVG Scheme membership (adults)

Application packs are available on: [www.hsha.org.uk](http://www.hsha.org.uk) or by emailing [recruit@hsha.org.uk](mailto:recruit@hsha.org.uk) CVs will not be considered. Please quote reference number above in all correspondence.

Closing Date: 12 noon on Thursday 27th November 2014. Interviews will be held on: 16th December 2014.

Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Ltd  
Scottish Charity no: SC 014738  
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**RETIREMENT HOUSING ASSISTANT**  
LYNN COURT, OBAN  
£6,044 - £6,300 per annum

At Bield we are committed to enabling older people to make their own choices and lead independent lives. We are looking for a proactive Retirement Housing Assistant to support the manager in the delivery of our retirement housing service at Lynn Court.

Your main duties will include maintaining a high level of cleanliness within the common areas of the development and providing general assistance to tenants on issues relating to the development and their Tenancy Agreement. You will also provide cover in the absence of the Retirement Housing Manager.

Hours of employment are 17.5 per week organised from 11am to 2.30pm from Monday to Friday.

In return we offer excellent benefits including a choice of pension schemes, opportunities for development and 7 weeks annual leave.

Please visit our website [www.bield.co.uk](http://www.bield.co.uk) for the full job description and an application form.

Closing date for returned applications is Wednesday 26 November 2014.

Bield Housing & Care Scottish Charity No. SC006878

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Telephone 01546 606017 or email [theygreygull@live.com](mailto:theygreygull@live.com)

**SHEPHERD REQUIRED**

We have a vacancy for an experienced shepherd to look after 2 hirsels of blackface sheep.

Must be prepared to work as part of the estate team, have good dogs and should be able to clip. You can expect to assist in bringing out tups and ewes for sale. Good family house provided with adjoining kennels. Apply with written CV and references to James Duncan Millar, Remony Estate Partnership, Remony, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2HR

01887 830209 or email [james@remonyestate.co.uk](mailto:james@remonyestate.co.uk)

**the three chimneys**

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With start dates from January 2015, we are seeking to fill the following positions at our award-winning Restaurant with Rooms:

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**Waiting staff**  
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Local accommodation is available.

Own transport is preferable due to location.

To apply email a CV with covering letter to [angela@threechimneys.co.uk](mailto:angela@threechimneys.co.uk)

[www.threechimneys.co.uk](http://www.threechimneys.co.uk)

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This is a key customer-facing role, so your people skills will have to be razor-sharp. As a Yard Sales Assistant / Relief Driver you will service all our customers with a smile and complete all necessary paperwork accurately to make sure they are absolutely satisfied with the products they buy and the service they receive. Full product training will be provided so the most important thing is that you have a flexible and can do approach.

Keyline is the UK's number one supplier of civils, heavy building materials and drainage solutions, with a nationwide network of branches and our aim is to be 'Best in Town' for product knowledge, availability and customer service. We're part of the Travis Perkins Group a FTSE 100 Company that's been recognised as one of Britain's Top Employers since 2010. If you aim to be the best you can be, then we'd like to hear from you.

If you would like to be considered for these positions please apply in writing to John Vallis, Branch Manager, Keyline Builders Merchants, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR. No agencies please.

**The Scottish Salmon Company**

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

**Marine Operatives AGD Team**  
Ref: Stronachullin MO/10/14  
Ref: Murray Toward MO/10/14  
Salary £16,935 Plus Overtime

We are seeking Marine Operative's for AGD team within our Stronachullin and Murray Toward sites. Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications. A full clean driving licence is essential for both positions as travelling may be involved.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme.

For an application form and job description contact:  
Angela Gibson, HR Assistant  
The Scottish Salmon Company  
Ardkinglas Estate  
Cairndow, Argyll PA26 8BH  
Tel 01499 600 430  
Email [angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com)  
Closing date: Friday 21st Nov 2014  
Visit our website at [www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**SRSL**

**Marketing Manager**  
(maternity cover)  
£28,361 to £36,659 per annum pro rata  
Part Time - 18.5 hrs per week  
Fixed Term appointment for 12 Months

SAMS Research Services Limited (SRSL) based at Oban is a specialist marine consultancy to the Aquaculture, Renewables and Mining industry sectors in the UK and overseas.

An opportunity has arisen for an SRSL Marketing Manager post to cover staff maternity cover. The post-holder will deliver the SRSL Marketing Strategy through a wide range of planned marketing, events and communication activities, to generate new business for SRSL.

The position is part-time, work pattern negotiable and will report to the Commercial Director.

The successful applicant will be a proficient web-user with excellent written communication skills, including significant attention to detail. Individuals with Marketing, Business or Scientific backgrounds will be considered. In return, we offer an attractive salary package & pension scheme, a flexible working environment and attractive location.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.samsrsl.ac.uk](http://www.samsrsl.ac.uk). Alternatively, please write to: SRSL Marketing Manager (maternity cover) (Job Ref. D09/14.TS), c/o SAMS Human Resources Department, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

**Closing date: Friday 28th November 2014**  
Interviews will be held week of 15th December 2014

SAMS Research Services Ltd  
Registered Office: The Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA  
T: +44 (0) 1631 559470 F: +44 (0) 1631 559001  
E: [info@samsrsl.co.uk](mailto:info@samsrsl.co.uk) W: <http://www.samsrsl.co.uk>  
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**Lynn of Lorne**  
CARE HOME

**We are currently recruiting Nurses to compliment our existing highly skilled team**

You must have a flexible approach to shift pattern and be able to work nights and weekends.

Advanced skill training can be given to successful candidates.

Variety of hours and competitive rates of pay.

We also require care assistants to enhance our skilled team.

Flexible approach to working required  
Good rates of pay and a variety of hours.

Professional qualifications on offer to successful candidates.

**Please contact the Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278 for application or for further information**

**Kilmartin Museum Café**

Kilmartin House Trading Company Ltd is seeking to appoint a **manager** for our busy Museum café. The café is famous for its high quality light lunches, home baking and service with a smile. The manager will be expected to undertake a wide range of duties including cooking, menu planning, staff management, adherence to environmental health regulations, stock management and ordering.

**If you would like to be part of our small friendly team please get in touch via e-mail [admin@kilmartin.org](mailto:admin@kilmartin.org), or by phoning 01546 510 278.**

The salary will be in the range £21k to £25k dependent on experience and the successful applicant must be available to start by 1st February 2015 at the latest.

# Job Vacancies at FAI Ardtoe Marine Research Facility



FAI Ardtoe provides research and production facilities for marine aquaculture science and technology. Pioneering research has been conducted on the site since its inception in 1965; with a comprehensive redevelopment and expansion plan now underway the site will be uniquely placed within the UK to offer facilities for commercial trials, larval rearing, production of biological control species, commercial shellfish and seaweed hatchery production and dedicated areas for applied aquaculture and marine science research. FAI Ardtoe is part of Benchmark Holdings PLC, an established, international, animal health, sustainable science and technical publishing business, employing over 200 people across nine countries.

### Manager, Fish Health Unit.

**Salary range:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience  
**Hours:** Full Time  
**Duration:** Permanent  
**Location:** Ardtoe Marine Research Facility

Our company is looking for Manager to oversee all operations within our new commercial Fish Health Unit. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day management of the unit, supervision of staff, coordinating trials, and reporting to clients. Further details of the post can be found at <http://www.benchmarkplc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/FAIA4-Manager-Fish-Health-Unit.pdf> or email [anna.winton@bmkholdings.com](mailto:anna.winton@bmkholdings.com). Closing date for applications Friday 21st Nov 2014.

### Trials Assistant, Fish Health Unit.

**Salary range:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience  
**Hours:** Full Time  
**Duration:** Permanent  
**Location:** Ardtoe Marine Research Facility

Our company is looking for a Trials Assistant to conduct operations within our new commercial Fish Health Unit. The successful candidate will be part of a dedicated trials team responsible for fish husbandry, trial procedures, record keeping and reporting. Further details of the post can be found at <http://www.benchmarkplc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/FAIA5-Trials-Assistant.pdf> or email [anna.winton@bmkholdings.com](mailto:anna.winton@bmkholdings.com). Closing date for applications Friday 21st Nov 2014.

### Deputy Site Engineer/Electrician

**Salary range:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience  
**Hours:** Full Time  
**Duration:** Permanent  
**Location:** Ardtoe Marine Research Facility

Our company is looking to recruit a deputy engineer/electrician to assist with site development and maintenance. The successful candidate will be a qualified electrician with a full clean drivers licence and experience in a similar role. Further details of the post can be found at <http://www.benchmarkplc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/FAIA6-Deputy-Site-Engineer.pdf> or email [anna.winton@bmkholdings.com](mailto:anna.winton@bmkholdings.com). Closing date for applications Friday 28th Nov 2014.

## Scottish Sea Farms Marine Husbandry Personnel

Scottish Sea Farms are the UK's leading producer of premium quality Atlantic Scottish salmon specific for UK and International markets. Our business is extensive; based in Argyll, across the West coast and throughout the Northern Isles and we pride ourselves in being trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers.

We are always on the look out for new talent with an ambition to build a career within the aquaculture industry. If you feel you have the drive and determination to make a positive difference to our organisation then we want to hear from you.

Positions are available immediately with an earnings potential of up to £22,000 plus bonus. You will also qualify for entry into the company's pension scheme, occupational health programme, gym membership and cycle to work scheme. All applicants are required to hold a full UK driving Licence.

Interested applicants should contact [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) or call 01786 445521 for a job description and application form.



## Simmers & Co Chartered Accountants

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 We require an individual with a pleasant and professional manner to be the first point of contact for our clients. Duties will involve word processing/audio typing and general office duties. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Office or equivalent. Salary offered will depend on level of experience.

Please send CV and a covering letter to: The Staff Partner at Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL or by e mail to [mail@simmers.co.uk](mailto:mail@simmers.co.uk) [www.simmers.co.uk](http://www.simmers.co.uk)



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## Fitter / Hatchery Technician Machrihanish

Salary £17,978 - £22,808 plus overtime & alarm rota payments

We currently have a vacancy for a Fitter/Hatchery Technician at our research Hatchery at Machrihanish, near Campbeltown. The post would be offered on a permanent full-time basis, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

The primary duty of this role is to maintain all plant and machinery on site to ensure the equipment is working efficiently, safely and is fit for purpose. Other duties would include the design, construction, and installation of all new equipment.

The Hatchery Technician element of the role is focused upon the development of wrasse as cleaner fish for the control of sea lice on salmon and on developing a sustainable culture of wrasse that avoids having to take fish from the wild. The successful candidate would be expected to undertake husbandry duties as part of this role.

Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Hatchery, and for the same reason, would be part of the site Alarm Rota. A driving licence is essential.

Full aquaculture training will be given but experience in basic mechanical engineering is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 28th November 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



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 Lochgilphead PA31 8RR  
 e-mail - [lil@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:lil@mkmacleod.co.uk)

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available shortly with wide range of experience, over 30 years, can do days, evenings, sleepovers, weekends, waking nights, very flexible. Own transport.  
 Please call 01631 565560 or 07500774224

## Opportunity: Personal Assistant to Support Woman with Disabilities

Hours: 9 hours per week plus flexibility to work additional hours at short notice (7 hours a week over 2 mornings at my home on Lismore and 4 hours per fortnight for a trip to Oban).  
 Salary: £9 per hour, plus ferry fares when necessary

Flexible, friendly, professional assistant to help disabled woman in her own home on the north end of Lismore and when out and about.  
 I am in my early fifties and I have short arms. I need help with personal care, help in the home, with shopping and with living life. Flexible working will be considered.

For further information, please contact Becs Barker in the first instance on 07766925388, or [becsbarker@carrgomm.org](mailto:becsbarker@carrgomm.org)  
 Closing date for completed applications: Friday 5th December 2014

Due to the nature of the role, this post is for females only, and is exempt under section 7 (2)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975

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## Oban Times

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The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://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
14/03490/FUL	Site 40m North of Silversands, 2 Portnaluchaig, Arisaig	Erection of house - renewal of planning permission 11/04624/FUL
14/03694/FUL	The Castle 25m West of Chapel House, Glenfinnan	Conversion of building into a two bedroom home
14/04020/FUL	Woodhowe, 13 Glenspean Park, Roy Bridge	Change of use from existing garage to self contained unit
14/04129/PIP	Land 500m North East of Old Schoolhouse, Tulloch, Roy Bridge	Reinstatement of former consent for erection of a new house with associated chalet, outbuildings and external works

Time period for comments is 14 days  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [epanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epanning@highland.gov.uk)

## CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

Mrs J M Hastings  
 14,15,16 Inverroy, Kilmornaig  
 0.105 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
 4.86.51252

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](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

## Oban Phoenix Cinema ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the cinema on George Street  
 17 December at 1pm  
 Nominations for board members to be made at least 7 days in advance to [louiseglenlee@gmail.com](mailto:louiseglenlee@gmail.com).  
 Questions for the board should be made in advance in writing to Louise Glen-Lee, at the above email address or to Oban Phoenix Cinema, 140 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX, or by telephone to 07717 526 999.  
 These should be received at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.  
 Accounts can be found at [obanphoenix.com](http://obanphoenix.com)

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## Oban Times

North Argyll Carers Centre Ltd  
**Annual General Meeting**  
 Thursday 11th December 2014  
 Royal Hotel Argyll Square Oban  
 12.00 noon  
 We look forward to seeing you.

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## public notices

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
 Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

## PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02249/MFF	Modification of existing fin fish farm site comprising 6 additional cages, addition of feed barge and increase of cage sizes from 70 metre circumference to 80 metre circumference and increase in extent of moorings.	Port Na Mine Fish Farm (Eive 3) Inverawe Taynuilt Argyll	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
14/02376/PP	Installation of run of river micro-hydro scheme	Arduaine Forest Arduaine Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
14/02519/PP	Erection of single storey side extension	Bridge of Orchy Hotel Bridge of Orchy Argyll and Bute PA36 4AB	Sub Post Office Dalnally
14/02535/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 11/01212/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Plot 2 South of Ardchoille Bonawe Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02551/PP	Erection of holiday accommodation unit.	Dundonald North Cornel Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02566/PP	Retention of temporary 70 metre high wind monitoring mast for a period of 3 years (renewal of planning permission 11/01825/PP)	Land North East of Musdale Farm Kilmore Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)

Notice is hereby given that J and C Read and Sons have submitted a Masterplan to Argyll and Bute Council in respect of Potential Development Area 6/52 as identified in the proposed Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan (February 2013). There is a requirement within this PDA for the provision of mixed density mixed housing (50% affordable) development and business and industry development.

A copy of the Masterplan (Document Number 21096494 and dated 5th November 2014) Reference 14/02663/MP/PLAN may be inspected Monday to Friday during normal opening hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, Tobermory Area Office, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PX and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the council about the Masterplan should make them in writing to Planning and Regulatory Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW before 11th December 2014.

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://epanning.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

### (QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (SPECIAL EVENT)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014

On Monday 10th November 2014, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers under Section 16B (6) of the said Act, made the above named Order, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period it will be unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the switching on of the Christmas lights on or near those roads.

The Order, which is necessary to facilitate the holding of the event, shall have effect when indicated by signs between 1400 hours and 2200 hours on Saturday 22nd November 2014.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD

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**Thank you**  
John and Jean Cargill would like to thank family and friends for the lovely cards, flowers and gifts they received on their golden wedding anniversary.

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DEATHS

**CAMPBELL** - Peacefully at her home in Auchterader on Friday November 7, 2014 after an illness bravely borne, Mavis Joan, formerly of Backhills, Glendevon and Duiletter, Dalnally. Dearly loved wife of the late Colin, dear mum to Anne, Fiona and Colin, mother-in-law to Ron and Jacqueline, much loved grandma to Kevin, Alicia, Euan, Karen, Gillian, Susan and David, great-grandma to Jodie and Ruairi. Funeral service at Blackford Parish church on Monday November 17, 2014 at 1:00pm, interment thereafter in Blackford cemetery. All friends respectfully invited, family flowers only but if desired donations in lieu to Marie Curie.

**CLARK** - Peacefully at home on November 8, 2014, after a short illness bravely borne, Maureen Ines MacKillop (née McLetchie) beloved wife of the late Jimmy, much loved mum, sister, aunt and special friend to many.

**SERVANT** - Peacefully on November 10, 2014, aged 80 years, Leslie Byron, beloved husband of Jessie MacFarlane, dear dad to Gordon, Lorna and Andrew and proud and very loving grandfather to Alexander and Iain, much loved father-in-law to Charlene and Sarah. Funeral service will be held at 1pm on Friday November 14 at Muckairn Parish Church, Taynait.

**THORBURN** - Fiona Marjorie, on Sunday, November 9, 2014, with her family after a short illness, beloved wife of William, mother of Gordon, Alan and Malcolm Gray Stephens and much missed grandmother and stepmother. Thanksgiving service at Christ Church, Lochgilphead, on Friday, November 21 at 11.30am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired, to Christ Church via info@donaldmacdonald.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**COULTER** - Rita and Iain send heartfelt thanks to everyone for the many cards, phone calls, visits and flowers from friends, neighbours and extended family after the loss of Robert (Bob the butcher). Special thanks to Vale of Leven Renal Unit whose nurses went above and beyond their duty of care. The dedicated team at Taynait Medical Practice for their practical help and emotional support. Marie Curie carers, our wonderful carers from Carers Direct for their patience and help especially over the last few weeks, and Bob's drivers who got him safely to The Vale and home again in all kinds

of weather. Our thanks also to Reverend Robert Brookes for a personal and uplifting service, Iain MacInnes and staff for compassion and care in funeral arrangement, Michael MacKinnon for piping services, staff at Taynait Hotel for purvey and also those who attended the funeral and contributed to the retiral collection for Vale of Leven Renal Unit.

**HENDERSON** - Reverend Charles Malcolm. Dorothy and family wish to sincerely thank all family and friends for the cards, letters, flowers and many kind expressions of sympathy and support received in their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Reverend Dr Roddy MacLeod for his uplifting words of comfort and moving tribute, to David McEwan for his wonderful musical arrangements and to Ruairidh Wallace for his beautiful singing of a hymn in Gaelic. Thanks to Kenneth Blair, Funeral Director, for his kind and caring attention and to Ardsheil Hotel for their fine hospitality. Grateful thanks to all who paid their respects at Highland Parish Church and Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbeltown and also to those who donated so generously in support of Christian Aid. Springbank House, Low Askomil, Campbeltown.

**MACDOUGALL** - Heartfelt thanks to family, friends and neighbours for all their kindness and support following the very sad loss of our beloved son and brother Michael. Special thanks to Vincent for a lovely service, Ian MacInnes and staff of D & A Munn for their caring direction. A total of £314.14 was raised for the Hope Kitchen.

**MACLEOD** - The family of the late John "Chokey" MacLeod would like to thank relatives, neighbours and friends in Ness, Lochaber and out with for the overwhelming expressions of sympathy, support and kindness over the past few months and particularly at the time of Chokey's passing. We were so grateful for the many cards, phone calls, monies and assistance with arrangements at Ness and Fort William. Many thanks also to the medical, nursing and domestic staff at Belford Hospital and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Also doctors and staff at Tweeddale Medical Centre, Fort William and to ambulance crews for assistance over past few months. Many thanks also to Macmillan and Community nursing staff for home visits at Fort William. Sincere thanks to the Rev Chris

"Kiki" MacRae and Rev David Kirk for officiating at Kilmallie and to Rev MacRae for travelling to Ness and officiating at services at Cross Free Church, also to Rev. Roddy John Campbell and to Free Church Elders and Church Officers at Kilmallie and Cross. Grateful thanks to Mr McLellan, Undertakers at Fort William and Mr A. MacRae, undertaker, Stornoway for their professional services and to Mr D.K. MacLean, Cemetery Attendant. Our thanks also to the Cal Mac crew on the Isle of Lewis ferry for all assistance given. Our sincere thanks also to the staff at Commun Eachdraidh Nis for a superb meal after the funeral at Ness and to Kilmallie Free Church ladies for a superb meal after the service. Special thanks to those who came from near and far to pay their last respects. Donations will be made to Macmillan nursing and Belford hospital, Fort William. (102, Camanachd Crescent, Fort William).

**SHAW** - (West Lethans Farm) Jennifer, William, Calum, Alistair and Isla would like to thank all relatives and friends for the many cards and support they received following their sad loss of Jack. Grateful thanks to Rev. Adrian Varwell, organist May Macintyre, Spean Bridge Hotel and Scott Greenlees at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their personal, well delivered services. Special thank you to all those who attended the church and graveside, generously donating £800 which will be shared between MS Society and Beeches Care Home who looked after Jack so well.

MEMORIAMS

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie, who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu. Words and time we cannot share but in our hearts you are always there. - Your loving family Allan, Catherine and Frank, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of a very dear husband, father and grandpa, Angus Cameron, died November 18, 1994. Always in our thoughts and prayers. - Rosemary and family.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of Iain David Cameron 'McGoshi', much loved husband, father and grandad, who passed away November 16, 2004.

Gone is the face we loved so dear  
Silent is the voice we loved to hear  
Can't believe ten years have gone since you left us.  
- Cathie and all the family.

**DAVIS** - Gavin Lee, our darling son left us November 17, 2000  
We cry because you died.  
We laugh because you lived.  
You left so many happy memories  
We love and miss you so much Gav  
All our love and kisses Mum and Dad xxx

**DAVIS** - Gavin Lee, my beloved brother taken November 17, 2000  
Your still in my heart and mind  
Still making me laugh cause your stories live on  
I hold you in my thoughts  
Still miss you everyday  
- Sheri & Martin xx

I love you uncle Gav  
Even though you can't say it  
I know you love me too  
- Tyler xx

**EMSLIE** - In remembrance of my beloved wife Anne, who was taken away on November 16, 2002.  
We never part from those we love  
No distance can divide  
In memory's garden day by day  
We still walk by your side  
- Hamish

**EMSLIE** - Remembering with love and gratitude our mother, mother-in-law and granny Anne, who passed on November 16, 2002.  
A light is from our household gone  
A voice we loved is still  
A place is vacant in our home  
Which never can be filled.  
- Your family

**FORBES** - Remembering with love my husband Harry, died November 15, 2007.  
Dearest you were taken from me far too soon  
You were my guiding star, sun and moon  
The time we had wasn't nearly enough  
To pack in an entire life time of love.  
Much love  
- Joan

We miss you dad very dearly  
The memories we have stay very clearly  
- Janice Ann and Harry Ewan

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of our parents Bertie, who died on November 11, 1989 and Agnes, who died on January 2011 - treasured memories.  
Also remembering Uncle Jack, who died on November 17, 1993.  
- Inserted by the family in Oban and Lochgilphead.

**MACKAY** - Treasured memories of Christine, much loved wife, mum and nana, who passed away November 18, 2006. Always in our thoughts.  
- Donnie, Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families.

**MITCHELL** - Precious memories of a special wife, mum and granny, Kathleen, who passed away on November 11, 2012.  
If we could have a lifetime wish, a dream that would come true  
We pray to God with all our hearts, for yesterdays anew  
A thousand words can't bring you back, we know because we've tried  
Neither will a thousand tears, we know because we've cried.  
You left behind our broken hearts and happy memories too  
But we never wanted memories, we only wanted you.  
Forever in our thoughts.  
Love and miss you always.  
- Your loving family, Stewart, Diane, Greig and Tracy.

**PARKINSON** - Treasured memories of a dear husband Arthur (Scouse), who passed away November 12, 1990.  
We think about you always  
Talk about you too  
We have lots of loving memories  
But wish we still had you  
- Your loving wife Jean and family

**PARKINSON** - Treasured memories of a dear dad and pop, Arthur (Scouse), who passed away on November 12, 1990.  
Your passing left us sore  
We loved you then  
We love you now  
And will forever more  
- Peggy, Alistair and family.

**PEARSON** - Proud and precious memories of our son Garry, who was taken from us so tragically November 13, 1999 aged 22 years.  
There is a family who misses you dearly,  
From who's lives you were tragically torn,  
We think of you daily and hourly,  
We try to be brave not forlorn,  
Tears that we shed in silence,  
And we breathe many a sigh of regret,  
For you were ours and we'll always remember,  
Though the rest of the world may forget,  
In our hearts and thoughts always,  
- Mum, Dad and all your loving family xxx

Thought for the week

Return to me; I will return to you

'We will remember them.' Familiar words, and how important. Remembrance day has just passed, and we honoured them. Important, too, that we learn.

Someone said that people who forget their history are destined to repeat it. In other words, learn from your mistakes. It's easy to airbrush stuff out of our collective memory.

One of the things we have banished is our memory of God and of Christ Jesus - not altogether, just most of the time. That is surprising since the Bible has had a significant influence on many of society's achievements.

Christians have been prominent in medical research, the law, overseas aid, care for the homeless, campaigns against human trafficking etc, but that often goes unnoticed.

When humanity regards itself only as a 'naked ape' rather than a 'son of God'

it leads to conflict and frustration. The spirit of Christ is so different from the self-centred, 'me-first' attitude of mere instinct. And if we banish God we can't complain when he leaves us to our own devices.

James, one of Jesus' apostles, quotes God's word through an old prophet: 'Return to me, and I will return to you.'

It's the hardest thing in the world to mend a broken relationship, yet God has taken the initiative and is calling us back. Our response involves communicating with him again. It involves our admission of wrongdoing, and belief that he is ready to forgive and restore us. It includes changing our attitudes and lifestyle with his help so we can be like him.

And his promise is: 'I will return to you.' If we let him teach us we need not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Archie McPhail, Oban Associated Presbyterian Church

GRADUATIONS



Alan Macdonald recently graduated with an A in HNC Sound Production from University of Highlands and Islands. Alan is a former pupil of Rockfield and Oban High School. Son of Alistair and Peggy Macdonald, grandson of Jean and the late Arthur Parkinson, Oban and the late Mary and John Macdonald formerly of Vatten, Skye and Kyles - Scalpay, Harris.



Flying officer Douglas McCorkindale BSc, at his graduation from RAF College, Cranwell, Lincolnshire. A former pupil of Kilniver Primary school and Oban High school. Douglas is the only son of Hazel and Neil McCorkindale, Scammadale Farm, Kilniver. He is currently on a posting at RAF Honington in Suffolk.

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Coping with bereavement

PEOPLE cope with bereavement in different ways - there is no one way of dealing with the loss.

The unpredictability of our feelings after losing a loved one means there is no instruction on how you should behave, what you should say, or how you should feel.

This was summed up in one moment for retired Oban solicitor Graeme Pagan, who has co-written a book on the subject.

When his son presented an old coal scuttle from Graeme's garage that belonged to his late wife, Heather, Graeme broke down as memories of his beloved came flooding back.

The incident gave name to Don't Mention the Coal Scuttle, a collection of anecdotes and personal experiences that Graeme has co-written with retired nurse Alison Pringle, who lives in North Connel.

'As we talked over the next few months, I realised Alison had been helping me through my grief and I thought someone else should have the benefit of that,' said Graeme. 'That's when I thought of the idea for a book.'

'I found the book gave me something to

achieve because when it was finished I had a real low, as if it had been keeping me going.'

Others have described the bereavement like waves on a beach; you can be standing in water up to your knees and feel you can cope, then suddenly a big wave comes and knocks you off your feet.

Experts generally accept that there are four stages of bereavement: accepting that your loss is real; experiencing the pain of grief; adjusting to life without the person who has died; and putting less emotional energy into grieving and putting it into something new.

Talking and sharing your feelings with someone can help. For some people, relying on family and friends is the best way to cope.

But if you don't feel you can talk to them much, you can contact local bereavement services through your GP.

A bereavement counsellor can give you time and space to talk about your feelings, your relationship, family, work, fears and the future. You can have access to a bereavement counsellor at any time, even if the person you lost died a long time ago.

Don't be afraid to talk about the person who has died. People in your life might not mention their name because they don't want to upset you. But if you feel you can't talk to them, it can make you feel isolated.

Anniversaries and special occasions can be hard but do whatever you need to do to get through the day. This might be taking a day off work or doing something that reminds you of that person, such as taking a favourite walk.

Graeme and Alison's book explores the idea of 'closure' and concludes that this is too simple a notion when dealing with bereavement.

Alison, who lost her husband, said: 'I don't really feel unhappy but I do have my moments. A good marriage built on good love is not meant to leave you ripped in shreds because that takes away from the happiness you have.'

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# Saints knocked out of Scottish Cup by controversial goal

'We acquitted ourselves well against one of the top teams in the competition'



CLEARANCE: Saints defenders clear their lines after a Giffnock corner during the first half of last Saturday's match at Northholm Park Photo: Derek Black

Giffnock North	4
Oban Saints	3
Scottish Cup - 3rd round replay	

OBAN Saints were edged out of this season's Scottish Amateur Cup by a controversial last minute goal at a rain-soaked Northholm Park, Giffnock on Saturday afternoon.

Full credit to the Giffnock North groundsman who ensured the match went ahead despite the adverse weather conditions.

Saints made one enforced change to last week's starting 11 with Lewis Cameron unable to shrug off the rib injury picked up during last week's 3 - 3 draw at Glencruitten.

The Giffnock defenders must have been delighted to see that Lewis wasn't in the Saints squad as he had run them ragged in the first game in Oban.

Lewis's place was taken by fit-again Donald Campbell. This was Donald's first appearance since breaking a bone in his foot in a pre-season friendly against

Greenock back in July and is a welcome boost to the squad.

Saints drew first blood in the 13th minute. Some good link-up play between Allan MacKay and Donald Campbell forced the first corner of the match. Scott Maitland's in-swinging from the right was met perfectly by Allan MacKay, whose powerful header gave Giffnock keeper Craig Marshall no chance. This stung the home side into action and Saints found themselves pinned back in their own half as the North probed for an equaliser.

After 26 minutes Saints lost the services of Roy McLuckie to an ankle injury. Roy's place in defence was taken by Jamie Graham.

On the half-hour mark a strong run from midfield by Myles McAuley opened up the North defence for Craig MacEwan to fire a powerful shot on target only to see it deflect wide for a corner.

Scott Maitland then curled over another pin-point corner kick

which was headed narrowly wide by Craig MacEwan.

Saints conceded in the 40th minute when they failed to clear their lines from a trade mark Giffnock long throw. The North used this weapon well throughout the match and it paid off when Brendan McGurk rose unchallenged at the near post to head his side level.

Saints were aggrieved that the throw had not been given in their favour but nonetheless should have defended the set play better.

**Curled**

The visitors established a 2 - 1 lead on the stroke of half-time when Allan MacKay was brought down on the edge of the Giffnock box. Ross Maitland curled the resulting free kick around the Giffnock wall into the bottom corner of the net past a static Craig Marshall for a well taken goal.

The home side began the second half determined to get back into the match and they did just that in the 57th minute. Again there was

## Football

a hint of controversy in the build up, a Giffnock midfielder was fouled but the referee allowed an advantage which Giffnock took but lost after three or four passes. The referee generously took the action back to the original infringement and awarded a free kick.

Saints once again failed to deal with the set piece danger and allowed Mark Shanta space to place a header past Daniel Cassells.

Worse was to follow just four minutes later when a deep cross from the right wing evaded the entire Saints back line to find the unmarked Stephen Fitzpatrick at the back post. The North striker had time and space to control the cross and slot the ball past a helpless Daniel Cassells in the Saints goal.

Manager Ian Jackson made his second change just after this withdrawing Scott Maitland and

replacing him with David McArthur. Saints were back on level terms in the 63rd minute when Allan MacKay delivered a tempting right wing cross into the six yard box for Craig MacEwan to out jump the North defence and keeper and head the ball high into the net.

Both sides kept plugging away in deteriorating conditions with the North having the best of the chances.

Indeed during this spell only some fine goal keeping from Daniel Cassells and some slack finishing from Giffnock maintained the level score-line.

In the 82nd minute Donald Campbell, who had enjoyed a good return to action, made way for Dougal Graham. The substitute almost had an instant impact when his strong run into the Giffnock box was halted when the ball appeared to strike the edge of a Giffnock defender. A 'stone-waller' was how Saints fan and former referee Alex Carmichael described the incident but the match referee was unmoved.

Ross Maitland came close to a fourth goal for Saints with a well stuck low shot from the edge of

the box but his effort slipped agonisingly wide of Craig Marshall's left hand post. That would prove to be the last involvement for Ross as he was replaced shortly afterwards by Dean Smith.

With the spectators speculating whether the light would hold out for extra time the North bagged the winning goal which rendered such speculation irrelevant.

Saints lost possession deep in the North half and the home team mounted one last attack up the right touchline where they had enjoyed success throughout the second half.

A deep cross left Jamie Graham one on one with Peter Gemmill at the back post. The Giffnock striker appeared to control the ball with his arm before rolling the ball into the net past a helpless Daniel Cassells.

Despite vociferous protests from the Saints camp the referee allowed the goal to stand and killed Saints Scottish Amateur Cup hopes stone dead for another season. There was barely any time left and the referee blew for full time seconds after the restart.

After 180 minutes of ebb and

flow between two evenly matched teams it was perhaps inevitable that this tie would be decided by either a moment of brilliance, a mistake or a controversial decision, unfortunately it was the latter. Congratulations to Giffnock North and thanks to them for two sporting encounters.

Manager Iain Jackson was gutted after the game. He said: 'We contributed to our own downfall. The goals we gave away were poor and a team of the calibre of Giffnock are going to punish defensive mistakes and that was what they did.'

'However, I think we acquitted ourselves well over the two games against one of the top teams in the competition, but at the end of the day we're out so we will just have to concentrate on the West of Scotland Cup and try and retain the Jimmy Marshall Cup and Premier Division title we won last season - we've still got plenty to play for.'

Saints are on their travels again this Saturday when they take on Rosehill Star in the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup. The game will take place at Netherpollock with a 1.30pm kick-off.



LOOKING SMART: Oban Saints Under 15s who play in the Dunbartonshire Football Development League are pictured along with their coaches wearing their new Macron playing kit kindly sponsored by Hazelbank Motors. The Under 15s are also generously sponsored by Simmers & Co, Also Transport, Kerries Tyres and Oban Filling Station. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Refereeing stalwarts decide to call it a day

## Shinty

SHINTY refereeing stalwarts Dunkie Kerr, Strachur, (left) and Dougie Cameron, Taynuilt, were presented by Camanachd Association's Ted MacDonald (centre) with a plaque in recognition of decades of service to the sport. Both retired at the end of last season but continue to be match assessors and goal judges. 16\_146pres01

# Disappointing end to season for McPhee at Valencia Grand Prix

A HUGE frustrated John McPhee will have to wait until next year before he can challenge for his first podium place in the Moto3 World Championship, after his 2014 season ended in cruel fashion.

The Connel rider was among the leading riders at the 2014 season finale, the Grand Prix of Valencia, when he skidded off the track with the finish line in sight.

The fall, which was a result of the 20-year-old losing control of the front end of his bike following contact with Niccolò Antonelli, left him hobbling home in 17th position.

**In the mix**  
The RSF-backed Saxo-Print-RTG rider - who started from eighth on the grid - was in the mix for a top five finish.

He had traded places with championship leaders throughout the 24-lap race but, after riding as high as fourth, he hit the deck before rapidly remounting to take the flag 14 seconds in arrears of his rivals.

Estrella Galicia 0,0's Alex Marquez claimed third place to clinch the 2014 title by a whisker.

McPhee's frustrations were compounded by his qualifying run the previous day when his own teammate has scuppered his chances.

He started from the third row of the grid after getting

balked on his final flying lap in qualifying. McPhee had set an earlier banker lap of 1m 39.775s but any chances of bettering the time were ruined when he was

run wide by team-mate Efrén Vazquez at the final corner.

There is hope for McPhee, who has secured a contract with SaxoPrint-RTG for next year, when



SPEEDSTER: Connel Moto3 rider John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Valencia Grand Prix. Photo: Bonnie Lane/CanBe Images

## Motorcycling

he aims to record his maiden podium finish.

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**Myles catches the eye of Scotland assistant manager**  
Football



Myles McAuley

OBAN Saints midfielder Myles McAuley caught the eye of Scotland amateur international assistant manager John Brown during the game against Giffnock North last Saturday. John said: 'I was impressed with Oban, they tried to get the ball down and play it about in difficult conditions and I thought Myles had a good game in midfield. 'I was actually there to watch Lewis Cameron, as we've heard good reports about him but unfortunately he was out injured. 'However, somebody from the international management team will be monitoring Oban Saints during the next few weeks.' The next step is players who impress are asked to attend international squad training sessions where they will be further assessed by manager Bruce McNaught.

**School teams do well at Grangemouth**  
School rugby

OBAN High School's S1/2 team travelled to Grangemouth on Saturday to take on McLaren/Grangemouth and Ellon. Oban had 26 players on the day, which is the highest turnout so far and the school is now on the verge of fielding a team at each age group. First game of the day was Oban against Grangemouth playing a mixed S1/2 team which Oban won 34-10. Oban S2s then faced a strong Ellon S2 team with Oban bringing in some extra players to make up numbers. This turned out to be a cracking match with Ellon winning 39-21. Lastly the S1s took on Grangemouth and ran out comfortable winners with some great individual tries and good teamwork, all the more impressive as some boys were playing their first match.

**Two out of two for Lorne under 16s**  
Youth rugby

OBAN Lorne under-16s recorded their second win in a row on Sunday as they defeated Dalziel 24-32. The Oban side held on late in the game after being reduced to 12 players. The team are away to Glasgow Hawks this Sunday.

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# Fort William back in the top flight after good win in Oban

'The match was a great advert for the sport'

**Shinty**

Oban	0
Fort William	2
National Division	

FORT William ensured their place among shinty's top table next season by claiming the National Division title in their rival's back yard.

Goals from Daniel Stewart and Arran MacPhee in the first half gave Oban Camanachd a mountain to climb at Mossfield, which welcomed hundreds of fans from both teams.

The home side needed to win the game to take the league title, while their opponents needed just a draw, and they couldn't recover from these early setbacks, which included a disallowed Gavin Stobbart 'goal' in the opening minutes.

A second half fightback, during which Oban's Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish hit the post, was too short-lived to change the outcome. Come the final whistle both teams shared a common relief that a nine-month season was finally over but Fort's jubilation was in stark contrast to Oban's dejection.

Fort manager Victor Smith said: 'We were absolutely delighted. Our goalkeeper, captain Paul Mackay, played very well and that helped us greatly but at the other end we took our chances when we needed to. The early goal in a big game like that really helps you to get into a rhythm.'



CHAMPIONS: Fort William were presented with the National Division championship trophy by Marine Harvest manager David Corrigan

Oban Camanachd boss Gussie Campbell said the result had ruined an otherwise good season for his team: 'We were capable of winning the league and that's what we set out to do, so to come so close was the disappointing thing. I am down just now but I look for the positives and there were plenty in our performance

on Saturday. We may also have a few new faces next season.' The rescheduled fixture last Saturday was the result of an abandoned match on September 27, when referee Robert Baxter suffered an injury in a sensitive area of the groin and was unable to continue. He did make an appearance on Saturday as goal

judge but the match was overseen by David Mitchell. Camanachd had been leading the previous match 1-0 and were aggrieved when Fort William chose to abandon the game.

Fears of a backlash in the rescheduled match were played down by both managers but Fort William's committee requested

a risk assessment and a security review of Mossfield ahead of the game. A band of Oban Camanachd supporters responded on the day by donning mock police hats, a gesture taken in good humour by the visitors.

No fee was taken at the gate but £800 in donations were received for the Ryan MacPhail Memorial

Fund, an Oban charity supporting youth sport.

Torquil Macleod, Camanachd Association chief operating officer, said: 'Saturday saw one of the largest crowds for a league match this season. The match was a great advert for the sport and provided a fitting conclusion to the season.'

## Gary decides to hang up his caman but not if his manager has a say in the matter

ONE OF shinty's most successful players has hung up his boots for the last time - but not if his manager has any say in the matter.

Fort William's Gary Innes is one of the game's most recognisable faces and has won countless trophies and individuals awards during a 16-year career with Fort William and Scotland.

His final contribution to the club was last Saturday at Mossfield when he led the line during a 2-0 defeat of Oban Camanachd, a result that clinched the National Division title and ensured the Fort would be playing premier league shinty next season.

But Innes, who plays the accom-

panion with traditional music band Manran, says the main reason behind his decision was that band's tour schedule meant he could not commit to enough of the shinty season.

His manager, Victor Smith, wished the 33 year old all the best but insisted he would still be getting a phone call next season.

As he held the National Division trophy last Saturday, Innes told *The Oban Times*: 'I looked at our schedule for next year and it would be week nine before I could join up with the boys and that's not good enough. 'The club is in a very healthy and strong place. You couldn't have

said that this time last year but there have been some big changes at the club and it is thriving.'

Looking back on his career with Fort William's first team, which started as a teenager in 1998, Innes picked out the two Camanachd Cup final wins where he was awarded the Albert Smith Medal as man of the match. In 2005 he captained the club to the Camanachd Cup and in 2010 he scored the winning goal against Kingussie with 15 seconds left to play to secure shinty's top prize.

Smith, Fort's manager and an ex-teammate, said: 'His contribution to the club has been massive. Even as a young player

he was great to play with and he is great to manage because he is a great player and has an excellent attitude.'

'I wish him all the best but I will still be phoning him at the start of next season.'

Asked how Innes ranked against the club's greatest players, Smith replied: 'He must be up there with the best of them.'

RETIRING: Gary Innes holds aloft the National Division trophy after his final game for the club before retiring



**2014 season review meeting**  
Shinty

ALL Camanachd Association members are invited to attend a 2014 season review meeting in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William on Saturday November 15 commencing at 2pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum for open discussion around the current competitions structure as well as the proposed set up for 2015.

There will also be an opportunity for members present to discuss the proposal from Kingussie Camanachd regarding the staged introduction of helmets.

A vote will be taken at the 2014 AGM on Friday November 28 on both these proposals.

There will also be an update on the new strategic plan 2015-2017.



FEATHERS FLY: Deborah (right) with partner Denise Gemmell, after winning the ladies doubles trophies at the Tryst Adult Social badminton tournament.

## Former international badminton star makes a return to the court

A FORMER international badminton star from Oban has returned to competition, and is now passing on her knowledge of the game to younger players.

Deborah Craig, 43, represented Scotland in singles, doubles and mixed doubles competition between the ages of 15 and 21.

Now she is making sure younger players have the chance to take up the sport in Oban by running a club in the town.

Deborah, a support worker, won the social Bonanza tournament in Glasgow in September, winning all of her games on her way to winning the title.

She also won the ladies doubles trophy with partner Denise Gemmell, PE teacher at Oban high school, on November 2 at the Tryst Adult Social badminton tournament.

Deborah said: 'It's great just to be playing again; I was out of playing for a few years after rupturing my achilles tendon.

'There were some good players playing in both

**Badminton**

the tournaments so obviously I'm delighted to have won.'

Deborah taught rising stars Harry and Stuart Mobey from Taynuilt, who are two of the top teenage players in Scotland in their respective age groups, and she is now running a badminton club every Thursday.

She added: 'It's a chance to give the kids a chance to improve and also to compete in some of the bigger tournaments.'

'We had people that couldn't even hit the shuttle when they started 12 weeks ago, and now they're doing great and really enjoying themselves.

'The bigger tournaments are also a great way for the children to get recognised, play different opponents and also meet new people too.'

Children up to the age of 16 are invited along to the club, at Atlantis Leisure, on Thursday nights between 6pm and 8pm.

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	10	2	2	37	17	22
Lovat	14	7	5	2	32	20	19
Glenurquhart	14	7	4	3	25	16	18
Kingussie	14	7	2	5	31	29	16
Kyles Athletic	14	6	4	4	25	20	14
Inveraray	14	3	4	7	18	29	10
Kinlochshiel	14	2	3	9	21	34	7
Lochaber	14	1	2	11	18	42	4

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	14	12	2	0	72	10	26
Oban Camanachd	14	11	1	2	46	14	23
Kilmallie	14	10	1	3	54	22	21
Beaully	14	7	1	6	37	29	15
Caberfeidh	14	5	1	8	31	39	11
Glasgow MA	14	4	0	10	25	47	8
Glenorchy	14	2	1	11	12	57	5
Bute	14	1	1	12	8	67	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	14	13	1	0	53	7	27
Newtonmore	14	9	1	4	42	16	19
Strathglass	14	7	1	6	38	32	15
Beaully	14	6	2	6	31	36	14
Glenurquhart	14	5	3	6	28	33	13
Kingussie	14	5	1	8	35	48	9
Lovat	14	4	0	10	30	48	8
Inverness	14	1	3	10	21	58	5

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	14	11	1	2	55	20	23
Lochcarron	14	8	2	4	38	46	18
Glenarry	14	8	1	5	25	31	17
Lochaber	14	6	1	7	50	39	13
Kinlochshiel	14	5	3	6	27	33	11
Boleskine	14	5	0	9	29	48	10
Skye	14	4	1	9	38	35	9
Aberdeen Uni	14	3	3	8	29	39	9

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	14	10	2	2	52	17	22
Kilmallie	14	6	3	5	51	28	14
Lewis	14	6	2	6	29	30	14
Strathspey	14	6	1	7	28	44	12
Lochbroom	14	4	4	6	19	36	9
Inverness	14	3	2	9	24	48	8

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ballachulish	14	9	5	0	39	15	23
Kyles Athletic	14	8	4	2	47	19	20
Oban Celtic	14	6	4	4	20	27	16
Aberdour	14	6	3	5	32	31	15
Lochside Rovers	14	6	3	5	32	34	15
Strachur	14	3	3	8	18	33	9
Taynuilt	14	2	4	8	32	46	8
Kilmory	14	2	2	10	16	31	6

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	14	12	2	0	66	7	26
Tayforth	14	12	1	1	51	10	25
Glasgow MA	14	7	1	6	46	29	15
Bute	14	5	2	7	25	37	11
Col Glen	14	5	2	7	36	36	10
Ballachulish	14	6	0	8	28	43	10
Glenorchy	14	3	1	10	20	40	6
Aberdour	14	1	1	12	14	84	3

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## Lorne reach semi final but made to sweat by Garnock

Green machine just three games away from a second appearance at Murrayfield

Oban Lorne	17
Garnock	14
BT West Regional Shield	

OBAN Lorne progressed to the semi final of the regional shield on Saturday with an impressive win but were made to sweat after a late Garnock comeback.

In what was the biggest game of Lorne's season so far, they welcomed a side one league above them to Glencruitten.

West Division 1 side Garnock had edged out Oban to the West Division 2 title last season, so a tight encounter was always on the cards.

It was therefore a nervy start for both sides but Oban were controlling the pattern of the game early on, putting in some clever positional kicks.

Oban's Andrew Abraham almost single-handedly racked up a 9-0 Oban Lorne lead after 30 minutes. The stand off was kicking Oban into vital areas off the field and slotting over the resulting penalties conceded by a Garnock defence constantly on the back foot.

Into the second half Oban extended their lead to 12-0 after 45 minutes with another superb penalty from Abrahams.

The Green Machine was now dominating most areas of the game including the scrum, line-out and the breakdown. Garnock were held back with some poor handling and a pack that was tiring in defence.

Up until this point, Oban's frustrated backs had been starved of any quality ball but centre Craig

### Rugby

Wright finally got to stretch his legs on 55 minutes when he scored a fantastic individual try. A scrum within the opponents' 22 resulted in a few phases of pressure on the try line, the ball was eventually spun to Wright in midfield who made a darting run sideways across the field around the Garnock forwards to touch down in the right hand corner. The kick was narrowly missed but Oban led 17-0.

Oban replacement Callum MacLachlan then squandered an easy scoring chance on 60 minutes as the big winger decided to step back into danger rather than take on two Garnock props outside.



ON THE CHARGE: Oban Lorne's Andy MacDougall barges his way through the Garnock defence

Oban had been fairly comfortable for 70 minutes of the game but poor discipline let the team down in the last 10 minutes as Garnock fought back.

A try on 72 minutes from a pick-and-go close to the try line narrowed the score to 17-7. Garnock had been gifted field position due to Oban's defence giving away too many penalties.

Oban were made to sweat late on as man-of-the-match Andrew Abrahams was sin binned for being offside at a ruck. The Garnock team made the one man advantage count by scoring another try at the end of the game.

Fortunately for Oban Lorne, match referee Willie Malone blew the final whistle after the

missed conversion attempt.

Carrick, GHK and Glasgow Academicals will await Oban Lorne in the semi-final draw.

The result means Oban Lorne are now three games away from a second appearance at Murrayfield in three years.

The team return to league duty this Saturday as they travel to play a struggling Clydebank.

## Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

### Football

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, third round replay - Giffnock North 4, Oban Saints 3; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Alba Thistle postponed; Premier Division One - Kilbowie Union 0, Dunoon 2; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic 2, Centre 3; Lochgilphead Red Star v Paisley postponed; Division 1B - Tarbert 4, Rosehill Star 2.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup third round - Dunoon v Greenock HSEFP; Rosehill Star v Oban Saints; Premier Division - Lochgilphead Red Star v Dunoon Athletic; Division 1B - Tarbert v Whitehill FP.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

### Youth Football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Under 14s 7, Broomhill SC 0. Saints scorers were Scott Mossman (4), Sol Smith (2) and Keir MacLean with a penalty. Dumbarton United 3, Under 15s 2.

Netting for Saints were Kenneth MacDonald and Daniel MacCuish. Drumchapel United 5, Under 16s 3. Scoring for Saints were Arik MacKechnie (2) and Ross MacMillan. Under 19s 4, Baljaffray 1. Saints goalscorers were Connor Howe (2), Duggie MacLeod and Zak Straub.

This weekend's fixtures: PFD United v Under 13s; Under 14s v Clydebank BC; Under 15s v Dumbarton United; Under 16s v Milngavie; Under 19s v Ardencaple.

### Islay golf

WINTER League played Sunday 9 November - 1 J Rozga 36 pts; 2 D Muir 35 pts; 3 A Livingstone 33 pts. Ccs73.

## Narrow home win for Athletic

### Football

OBAN Athletic defeated Bellaire 2-1 in a West of Scotland League game played at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Stephen Fox put the Oban side 1-0 up at the interval with Kris Gillies netting another goal in the second half. Bellaire scored a consolation goal in the last minute of the game.

This Saturday Athletic take on Calderwood Blue Star from the Lanarkshire League at either Mossfield or Glen 2 in the third round of the West of Scotland Cup, kick-off 1.30pm.

Calderwood are presently lying fourth in the Lanarkshire first division having played five games, winning four and losing one while Athletic are flying high in the West of Scotland League having played 10 games, winning eight, drawing one and losing just the one, so a good game is in prospect on Saturday.

## Convincing win for Oban Lorne Ladies at home to Lismore

Oban Lorne Ladies	47
Lismore Ladies	7
BT Women's National League Division Two	

OBAN Lorne Ladies maintain their position at the top of the league table after another convincing 47-7 win this time against Lismore WRF.C.

Oban had a full team, however, due to Lismore only travelling with 13 players meant Oban had the luxury of substitutes for the first time this season.



TRY SCORER: Oban Lorne Ladies' Kelly Lamont scored three tries against Lismore Ladies last Sunday Photo: Stephen Lawson

### Women's Rugby

The game was forced to start with uncontested scrums at the request of Lismore. This opened up the opportunity for Oban to change their usual line up and bring prop Julie Campbell in to the centre where she made a massive impact with the opposition struggling to stop her force.

Oban took some time to settle into the match, taking time to focus on the game and being penalised for minor discipline errors, however, this was short lived.

Kelly Lamont boosted Oban's scoreboard by getting three tries, working her pace on the wing after the team had sucked in the opposition and given her the space to sprint up the park which she is so well known for.

Kristy Sinclair touched down a further two tries this week.

Emma Roxburgh has taken on her new position at 10, showing great decision-making on the pitch and commanding the game which resulted in her touching down a fantastic try early on in the game.

Lexi MacLennan made a massive break up the park and was disappointingly tackled just a few feet from the try line.

Rebecca Sims scored a well-deserved try with an eight-ball pick up from a scrum on the 5m line.

Laura McCormick defies the typical attributes of a kicker and the Oban prop converted four out of five kicks.

Lexi MacLennan took over and safely secured a further two out of two conversions.

Lismore scored a consolation try, but it was a rampant Oban who ran out comfortable winners.

Player of the match was awarded to Christie-Leigh Bell.

## Oban karate club pick up nine medals at Scottish championships

TWO MEMBERS of an Oban karate club returned from a national tournament in Ayr with nine medals between them.

Robert Neil and debutant Craig Munro represented Oban Shotokan Karate Club at the Scottish Karate Alliance (SKA) World Union of Karate - Do Federations (WUKF) Scottish International Karate Championships on November 2 in the town's Citadel Leisure Centre.

Craig, who fought in the individual senior novice kumite section, gave an outstanding performance to reach the final and in senior novice kata section he reached the semi-final stage.

For the second year running Robert reached the final of the senior individual advanced (18 years plus) kumite.

He also gained a silver in the senior individual advanced kata section for the first time and another silver in the veterans' individual kumite section (35 years plus).

Robert and Craig, alongside two members from Burakado Karate Club, made up the team representing Oban Shotokan Karate Club for the team events.

Oban Shotokan gained bronze in both the senior team rotation (18 years plus) kumite and the

senior team mixed (18 years plus) kumite.

Robert said: 'Nine medals is an outstanding result from such a small club, only one year old.'

'We have done exceptionally well over the last year with junior members of the club winning medals from previous tournaments. Oban Shotokan Karate Club is fast becoming a serious contender at karate tournaments, not only nationally but inter-

### Karate

nationally as well. I would also like to mention a great thanks to Kevin Cassidy, one of our club instructors and club team coach, who keeps our training regime bang on target.'

The club trains on Tuesdays at the Oban Scout Hall from 6.30pm and at Fit4less gym on a Friday from 7.30pm.



MEDALLISTS: members of Oban Shotokan Karate Club

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Cloudy with rain showers  
Winds strong south easterly  
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate east south easterly  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds moderate easterly  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 13, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	03.34	1.5	09.10	3.4	16.16	2.0
Fri	04.26	1.7	10.04	3.2	17.18	2.1
Sat	05.24	1.8	11.21	3.1	18.38	2.2
Sun	01.14	2.9	06.27	1.9	13.17	3.1
Mon	02.17	3.1	07.35	1.8	14.23	3.3
Tues	02.59	3.2	08.36	1.7	15.05	3.5
Wed	03.36	3.4	09.26	1.5	15.43	3.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

### DONT MISS

### NEXT WEEK

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RETIRED AS LEADER: John Grieve

### John steps down as Glencoe mountain rescue team leader

THE LEADER of Glencoe mountain rescue team (GMRT) has retired from his position, but will remain a volunteer.

At 70 years old, John Grieve, from North Ballachulish, has been in the group for 50 years and team leader for the last two decades, being the first port of call for emergencies.

John attended his first rescue at Glencoe in 1964 and worked as a teacher at Kinlochleven junior secondary school, now Kinlochleven high school, before taking up a full-time career in the fishing trade alongside his GMRT duties.

He will be replaced as team leader by his deputy Andy Nelson.

John said: 'I have very good people behind me to take over. I can relax now without thinking I will be the first point of contact 24 hours a day.'

'I have treated it like a job. It's quite a big workload; last year we covered 73 rescues and nine fatalities. We had an avalanche where, if the helicopter hadn't been in Glencoe, the woman wouldn't have survived.'

The mountain rescue team will start building an extension to its base in three weeks to provide extra security for its equipment following a break-in last year, in which items worth £11,500 were stolen.

This has been funded by public donations, with GMRT hoping to raise £50,000.

### STARK WARNING CHILDREN'S LIVES COULD BE AT RISK IF HIGHLAND COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS LEAD TO MALLAIG CLOSURE

# Save our swimming pool

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

CHILDREN'S lives could be in danger if a swimming pool in west Lochaber closes through Highland Council's budget cuts, users have warned.

Mallaig and district swimming pool serves communities from Acharacle to Inverie and the Small Isles and is the only pool within a 50-mile radius but if the local authority cuts its annual grant of £85,000 the facility will be forced to close.

Seven full-time staff will lose their jobs as a result but the main concern for locals is children living in the coastal areas will have nowhere to learn to swim.

More than 100 people gathered at the pool to campaign for its protection on Friday and Mallaig diver Ian Robertson said children could be at risk of drowning if they couldn't attend swimming lessons. He said: 'This is the only amenity west of Fort William.

It's not practical to expect little ones to go on a 100-mile trip for their swimming lessons but it's absolutely vital they know how to swim. Can you imagine the reaction if a couple of kids drowned at the harbour a few years down the line? There's no way it [Highland council] can let this facility close, it would put too many lives at risk.'

Catherine McDonnell, who managed the pool for 15 years until 2010, added: 'Look at where we live, we're absolutely surrounded by water so being able to swim is a basic life skill.'

'Even without that vital aspect there's a not a huge amount for the young ones or elderly people to do. The pool acts as a meeting place and a hobby for so many people.'

Mallaig and District Swimming Pool, which also includes a fitness suite and games room, serves Mallaig high school as well as primary schools in the area.

Highland Council has

“It's absolutely vital they know how to swim”

Ian Robertson  
Mallaig diver

suggested halving the current total arts, sports and culture funding, currently £714,000 as part of a bid to save £64 million over five years. The pool's board committee may also have to apply for its annual grant each year, meaning if its bid is rejected it might receive no local authority funding at all.

Fiona Baker, director of the facility, said: 'If we could raise all the money ourselves we would do it in a heartbeat but we already

do all the fundraising we can. There's no way we could raise that kind of money on our own.'

'Whilst it is clear Highland council must make savings, to cut funding from Mallaig pool will inevitably force its closure. Officials have the figures and know how important the funding is to the operation of the pool.'

'We are looking to the council to save our pool by protecting our funding, the building and this valuable local asset.'

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, also expressed concern about the future of the facility.

He said: 'It is disappointing for the prospect of closure to loom over the pool. Swimming is a vital life skill for those in coastal and island communities and I hope that Highland council will heed the volume of opposition to closure.'

More than 1,000 people have also signed an online petition to protect the pool from closure.



VITAL: Kelsey MacBeth, left, and Jennifer MacPhee highlight how important the pool is to Mallaig



A LOCHABER choir is on the hunt for new members to compete in its first Royal National Mod.

Formed in March this year, Lochaber District Gaelic Choir, desperately needs new members before it can take to the stage in Oban next year. Choir chairwoman Fiona Cameron said: 'I'd really encourage anyone who is interested in singing to come and give it a try, you'll be made very welcome.'

Rehearsals are held at Caol Community Centre on Wednesday evenings and Gaelic knowledge is not necessary to join. For more information contact Ms Cameron on 07881 688912.

### Toddler stranded as mother slept after day drinking

A TODDLER was left stuck on a balcony while her mother slept after a day of drinking, Fort William sheriff court heard on Tuesday.

The 33-year-old parent of two had been consuming alcohol at a bowling event on August 30 while a babysitter looked after her then two-year-old daughter, said procurator fiscal Karen Smith.

But when the Fort William mother, who can't be named for legal reasons, returned and sent the babysitter home she fell asleep and the child made her way outside to the flat balcony and couldn't get back in.

Ms Smith told the court: 'At 6.15pm police officers received a call about a child crying and in distress. When they arrived she was only wearing a t-shirt and had taken off her nappy. Police gained entry through an insecure door and went towards the living room where the woman was slumped in a chair directly behind the balcony.'

The fiscal added that the accused, who pled guilty to leaving a child in a distressed state at a previous hearing, had initially denied drinking but police officers could smell it on her breath.

Defending solicitor, Hamish Melrose, said: 'My client started drinking at 11.30am and was repeatedly bought alcohol at the event. She was not aware of how much she was drinking because she was actively bowling. She accepts her behaviour was not good and just wants to put this behind her.'

The accused also admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner to neighbours and police officers during the same incident.

Sentence was deferred for three months for good behaviour.

### New water freight contract takes lorries off trunk road

MORE than 6,000 heavy-load journeys will be removed from Lochaber's trunk road in the next three years.

The Scottish government has awarded almost £1 million to Fort William transport company Boyd Brothers Ltd for a new freight water service, which will

see sawn timber from neighbouring sawmill BSW Timber sent to England by boat rather than on the A82 and M74.

Transport minister Keith Brown said: 'This new service will help to reduce the number of HGVs travelling on one of our most iconic scenic tourist routes.'

Stewart MacLean, of the campaign group the A82 Partnership, welcomed the announcement but said it did nothing to improve the road itself.

He added: 'It's good news there will be fewer heavy loads travelling on the fragile A82 but it won't impact the dangerous bends and

other problems on the road. We will continue to seek further improvements on the road itself.'



Lochaber Community Wind Band  
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### New supermarket good for Skye

A NEW supermarket in Portree will prevent Skye's economy plummeting, as well as giving customers more choice, according to one Highland councillor.

Currently only one food chain has stores on the island and people have been ordering groceries from other companies to be delivered, something Skye councillor Drew Millar said was 'draining money out of Skye'.

But an application by developers Rubicon Land Ltd to build a new supermarket was approved by the council's planning, infrastructure and development committee last Wednesday.

Colin Taylor of Rubicon Land said: 'We can now start work in earnest in attracting a new retailer to the town. The decision sends out a clear and unambiguous signal to operators that the Portree community does indeed want a

supermarket and this is the site for it.' Councillor Millar welcomed the approval.

He said: 'This will give shoppers the much-needed choice they have spent years demanding. It will also bring welcome jobs to the area and, perhaps most importantly, stop so many lorries coming on and off the island delivering food. That did nothing to benefit Skye other than to give consumers more choice. All the money was being sent off the isle and it was doing nothing for the local economy or jobs.'

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, called the new supermarket 'great news'.

He said: 'Not only will the competition and choice be welcome, the additional jobs are certainly great news for Skye.'

### Jailed for stealing £1,000

A FORT William van driver has been jailed for four months for stealing £1,000.

Magnus Sinclair, of 64 Lochaber Road, was delivering and collecting parcels from an address in Strontian on July 17 when he took the money from inside the homeowner's handbag, Fort William sheriff court heard on Tuesday.

But defending solicitor Hamish Melrose said the 48-year-old's 'conscience got the better of him' after leaving the property and he hid the money under a roadside bush.

Procurator fiscal Karen Smith told the court: 'After being arrested Mr Sinclair admitted what he had done and gave police officers a detailed description of where to find the money.'

But Sheriff Michael Fletcher said this was a 'serious' offence and sentenced Sinclair, who pleaded guilty at a previous hearing, to four months in prison. Sheriff Fletcher added: 'If his conscience had got the better of him he would have returned the money. I think he was trying to prevent being caught.'

### KEEP THE FAMILY WARM THIS WINTER

December bookings now being taken for Lochaber home surveys



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Mr & Mrs Young (Tain)

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## Fort William 2014 High Street Christmas Gathering

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Friday 28th Nov  
visit [www.fortwilliamchristmas.co.uk](http://www.fortwilliamchristmas.co.uk)

**Muck salmon farm ready for business**

A SALMON farm on Muck is set to become fully operational within the next fortnight.

Owner Marine Harvest recently took on six members of staff on the remote Hebridean island - which has a population of around 30 - and is currently installing a new 300-tonne feed barge which will complete the work.

The firm is building five new homes on the island to house staff, which are also close to being finished.

Fusion Marine has supplied 10 fish pens for the site, which now hold the smolts and are said to be working well.

Steve Bracken, business support manager of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'The people of Muck have made us feel very welcome. The great thing about the island is that the fish do not have to be taken that far at all to be gutted, only across to Mallaig. It is also an excellent location because there is great water flow.'

Scottish salmon production is currently at its highest level in a decade. On Muck, 60 per cent of the finished product will be distributed across the UK, with the rest going worldwide.

**Catwalk beckons for Showstoppers**

A LOCHABER drama group will be swapping stage costumes for the latest fashions to raise money for charity.

Members of Showstoppers will be strutting their stuff at M&Co, Fort William, tomorrow night (Friday) with all proceeds divided between group funds and Lochaber charity Star for Harris. The show starts at 6.30pm.

**Prehistoric basket washed up by tide**

A RARE archaeological find has been washed up by the tide on North Uist.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is attempting to excavate and assess the item - thought to be a prehistoric basket - with the help of Historic Scotland and the local community.



COMMITTED: Members of the Rotary Club of Lochaber joined staff at Invernevis House care home to re-launch the 'memory box' project for dementia sufferers

**Memory box project re-opened**

NHS HIGHLAND and the Rotary Club of Lochaber have re-launched a 'memory box' project to aid dementia sufferers.

Kicking off last Monday, it will see crates filled with items such as books, antiques and photographs being circulated around Lochaber care homes to stimulate conversation and exercise the minds of those living with the condition.

Each box will have a theme, such as school days, war and music.

Rotary club president John Harvey said: 'The club is committed to this project which will help

enhance older people's quality of life. Essentially we are looking for items that stimulate interest and 'strike a chord'. We would like to ask the public to help us fill the boxes by donating any memory-provoking items that they can spare - simple things like old cinema tickets, theatre programmes, invoices and flyers from local shops can lead to long and pleasurable conversations.'

Anyone wishing to donate items should hand them to a rotary club member or leave them at the offices of David Mee Architect, 3 Cameron Square, Fort William.

**OFFICIALS CLAIM CASH HANDOUT BREAKS EUROPEAN RULES**

**Row breaks out over Corran Ferry subsidy**

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

CLAIMS by Highland council officials that the local authority could be breaching European law by subsidising the Corran Ferry have been dubbed 'a smoke and mirrors act'.

Members of the community services committee warned the route between Corran and Ardgour was still running at a loss, despite fare increases, and if Highland Council continued to fund the £115,000 deficit it could break state aid rules by distorting competition.

At the committee's meeting last Thursday the group voted to consider three options to plug the gap - raise fares, render the service or transfer it to Transport Scotland.

But this sparked outrage in the communities served by the ferry, including Ardnamurchan, Ardgour and Moidart. Tony Boyd, leader of campaign group Free Crossing for Corran, said: 'It's a smoke and mirrors act by the council. I've researched it all and the law says aid is compatible with the rules if the positives outweigh distorting competition.'

'This is a lifeline service for us and if the fares keep going up people will leave the area. If keeping our young people here isn't a positive I don't know what is. I'm completely lost for words.'

Community services chairman councillor Graham Mackenzie said: 'We are committed to doing the best we can for the people in the community, within the legal framework.'

Former Highland Council leader Michael Foxley also

insisted there was no breach of state aid rules. He said: 'If the service is small, unprofitable, remote in location and not marketed beyond UK borders it is not likely to invoke or infringe state aid rules.'

'The committee was told there was absolute clarity that subsidising the Corran Ferry would infringe state aid rules - this is not true. Our communities and businesses to the west of the Corran Narrows bring many millions of pounds of salmon, shellfish, timber and tourism into the Highland economy.'

'This is a lifeline service and needs to be subsidised by the council. If not, it is support for all rural roads, schools and services to be withdrawn?'

A further report will be discussed by the community services committee next year.

**High school plaque marks end of Commando trail**

THE FINAL panel of the Achnacarry 'commando trail' has been unveiled outside Lochaber high school, revealing hidden treasures of World War Two.

Eight interpretation panels are now dotted around the Fort William and Spean Bridge area, telling the story of the vast number of soldiers based at the top-secret Achnacarry commando training centre.

The project is a partnership between Lochaber archaeological society and the Commando veterans association (CVA), with the idea that the public can walk



to all eight sites and scan the barcode located on each panel with their smartphone.

This leads to the CVA website, where more pictures and information can be found.

The panel at Lochaber high was unveiled by CVA chairman Joe Murtagh and will eventually be moved to a new garden being

PRIDE: Lochaber archaeological society chairman Robert Cairns, left, and Commando veterans association chairman Joe Murtagh unveil the final panel of the Lochaber commando trail

built outside the school.

It is part of a journey by Lochaber archaeological society to unlock the area's long-lost wartime secrets.

Society chairman Robert Cairns said at the unveiling last Friday: 'This is the second part of a big overall project. The first part involved a dig at Achnacarry where we found mortar bombs, live grenades and approximately 12,000 bullets.'

'The idea of the panels is to let everyone see exactly what went on around the commando base during the war.'

**Call for road cash not speed cuts**

A PRESSURE group has called for crucial investment on the A82 road, instead of reducing speed limits.

Members of the A82 Partnership have criticised a lack of funding by Transport Scotland on the trunk route north and south of Fort William, claiming it would take 375 years to match levels spent on the A9 Perth to Inverness road.

It follows an announcement that parts of the A82 between Glasgow and Inverness are to have their speed limit reduced to 50 miles per hour.

Three sections of the route, from Tarbet to Inverarnan, Onich to Fort William and Glen Gloy to Letterfindlay Lodge - totalling more than 25 miles - will be downgraded from the current 60 miles per hour limit, with Transport Scotland declaring them 'generally not representative of a national speed limit'.

Brian Murphy, chairman of the A82 Partnership, said: 'It is regrettable that, rather than investing in the A82, it is applying a speed restriction. With billions being spent on the glamour projects on the A9 and the

A96 it is surely time that the A82 is recognised as part of the national network and brought up to the standards required.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'We do understand the importance of the A82 to communities in the area and we are in regular discussion with them about our plans for the maintenance of the route with £57 million invested since 2007. We are taking forward work to improve the route between Tarbet and Inverarnan with ground investigations taking place over the next couple of months.'

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FURRY FRIENDS: left to right with Sandie Robb are primary one pupils Zane Gibb, Cruz Cameron and Maisie Anderson

**Furry friends join in lesson**

CAOL primary school had some unusual guests when pandas, armadillos and other creatures paid a visit.

Sandie Robb of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland brought the toy animals along to the school last Thursday when she gave children an introduction to different wildlife.

**Objectors win fight against pontoon**

CONTROVERSIAL plans to install a new pontoon on an idyllic Skye beach have been withdrawn following hundreds of objections.

Locals and visitors to Elgol reacted in horror to the proposal and more than 500 people from all over the world joined a social media campaign to reject the plan.

The plan by Highland Council involved installing a floating pontoon on the sandy beach, to be used in the busy summer season then moved elsewhere during the winter.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Highland council undertook a public consultation on a proposal to install a pontoon at Elgol harbour. The response to the consultation resulted in the clear rejection of the proposal. Consequently, the council has decided not to take the project further.'

Rosalind Lamond, who helped to set up the Facebook campaign, said: 'We're delighted it won't be going ahead. Thanks to everyone who spread the word and shared our campaign.'

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# Sick days off above 36,000 for council

But local authority says it has implemented new strategy to tackle the problem of absenteeism and long-term illness

LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

COUNCIL employees took a staggering total of 36,033 days off sick from work last year.

Figures just released for 2013/14, show that Argyll and Bute staff on average were missing from work through illness for two working weeks.

With the average annual council salary of £28,800, the absence bill for the local authority has been described as 'eye watering'.

On average, council workers in Argyll and Bute took 10.6 days off in 2013/14, double the 5.3 days recorded in the private sector.

This places the council's absentee rate just above the Scottish national mean figure of just under nine days, but well below the worst affected local authorities.

However, while the figures for staff sickness in Argyll and Bute are improving, particularly the number of teachers taking a day off, the local authority has racked up almost half a million sick days in the last five years.

Injury, back problems, infections and digestion problems are among the most common reasons for short term absence rates, it was revealed.

Although long-term absenteeism among council workers and teachers has improved over the past year, it has more than doubled in the last five years with

227 staff members being absent for more than 28 days.

The main reasons given for long-term absence are stress, medical treatment and digestion problems.

But some council insiders argue that the widespread geography of Argyll makes it very difficult to provide sickness cover given the reduction in staff numbers since austerity measures were imposed by the UK government.

One worker, in a front line service, said she was at her wits' end having to cover for people who were off with a 'sore back' or a 'cold' without anyone else coming in to help her.

She said: 'The truth is I cannot do my job and everyone else's in the time I have. Sometimes it is easier to stay off sick myself rather than face a task I cannot do.'

Insiders say increased stress is the root cause of employees taking days off.

Dave Watson, of union Unison, which represents public sector workers, described the rise as an inevitable consequence of massive job cuts.

He said: 'We have carried out surveys and found sickness had gone up in areas where jobs had been cut but there had been no reduction in workloads.'

'Those left behind have to plug the gaps, resulting in increased levels of stress.'

An Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman said it 'mitigated staff absence by supporting staff

to return to work'. She continued: 'We have introduced a trigger system to manage absence and the use of occupational health services to support the process.'

'Managers are provided with training on this specific policy.'

One of the sectors with a high rate of lost days through sickness is care services, which includes home carers and care home workers, who are among the lowest paid on the council's books.

However, council said there was a precautionary factor to the relatively high absence rate.

She said: 'Many of the staff in this service work with people who may have poor health or are elderly, and therefore they cannot take the risk of working with clients when they have a viral illness such as a cold.'

'They are, therefore, more likely to be absent when staff in other roles can still attend work.'

But Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, cabinet secretary for education and lifelong learning, said: 'These figures should worry the administration of the council and senior managers.'

'Staff absence at this level is about unhappiness.'

'The council must look on its staff as its main resource and treat them better.'

'This problem of staff absence effects the delivery of services from the council.'

'The council must face reality and support staff much better than it does at the moment.'

## A SOLEMN SALUTE



SERGEANT Mike Wood of Oban police salutes the war memorial on Oban's Esplanade during the town's remembrance service on Sunday.

Sgt Wood, a former Royal military policeman, led the police

parade during the march to the war memorial in the Corran Halls in his last remembrance service in a police uniform, as he retires from Police Scotland later this year. Representatives from a variety of services and

organisations met at the war memorial on Sunday in what was one of the best attended services in recent memory.

For more on Remembrance Sunday, see page 10

## Haggisfest should prove a tasty treat

OBAN could soon lay claim to be Scotland's go-to town for St Andrew's Day celebrations.

As part of Oban Winter Festival this month, organisers have laid on a series of events to mark the patron saint's day and are encouraging people in and around Oban to get involved.

Events include a grand ceilidh, haggis hurling and a sponsored run, the Tartan Dash, where competitors must dress in tartan to take part.

But the main event is the inaugural Haggisfest, pitting seven butchers from across Argyll and Bute against each other in a cook-off at Oban Distillery.

For more, see page 11

## Innovative charity picks up top award

ARGYLL outdoor charity Stramash has been honoured at the Scottish rural parliament in Oban after winning the national Rural Innovators Award.

Stramash, which had previously won the Argyll and Bute stage to qualify for the national final, saw off competition from six other finalists, including rural business and employment category winner Isle of Jura Community Shop.

The organisation provides the only outdoor children's care apprenticeship scheme for young people in Scotland and runs an outdoor nursery as well as offering outdoor pursuits.

## Head-to-head for competing bands

TWO TRADITIONAL Three bands will go head-to-head for Live Act of the Year at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

Skerryvore and Skipinnish have both been nominated in the category alongside Peatbog Faeries and Gavin Marwick's Journeyman Spectacular.

Music fans are now being asked to vote for their favourite in each of the 16 categories before November 28.

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## Eye to eye

with John Wallace

### Hope For The Future

One of the most exciting aspects of eye-care is how technology for investigating eye conditions is developing. I have talked about this many times. Even more exciting is when a new treatment for a visually devastating chronic condition such as age related macular degeneration (ARMD) is being developed. For several years it has been possible to treat wet ARMD. This is when fluid leaks into the retina at the back of the eye resulting in a devastating loss of vision. Treatment involves injections of drugs which seal the leaky vessels behind the retina.

For those suffering from dry ARMD which is a chronic gradual loss of vision due to increasing age there has been little that could be offered other than advice to stop smoking and to eat a healthy diet. Recently a drug company announced it was entering clinical trials following successful pre-trials where stem cells were injected into the retina. These amazing cells allowed the retina to regenerate and in some cases there was not only a halt to the progress of dry ARMD but also a reversal with improvements in vision.

It is going to be several years before this form of treatment is widely available. The main difficulty would appear to be the problem of placing the stem cells in the retina in the correct position so as to not cause any further damage to the eye.

While we wait in anticipation of the treatment we should all be trying to avoid doing anything that can increase the risk of ARMD. We can't help getting older but we can eat healthily and not smoke. We can use sunglasses to protect our eyes from damaging UV which is also linked to retinal damage. If there is any sudden change in your vision please consult your optometrist urgently.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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### Lifeboat launched for stricken yacht

A YACHT with two people on board ran aground last Thursday morning off Eilean Mor, near Dunstaffnage. Oban's lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald was launched at 9am to go to the aid of the yacht and found on arrival that the two crew had been taken off by other boats in the area. The lifeboat returned to its berth having established everyone was safe and there was no immediate danger to the yacht. Two days previously, the lifeboat was launched to help a RIB with four people on it after engine problems at Inninmore Bay, south-east of Lochaline in the Sound of Mull. The lifeboat got to the rigid inflatable at 6.20pm on the Tuesday and took the four people on board. The RIB was then taken in tow towards Lochaline where it was berthed at 7pm and the passengers put ashore.

### Payback order for uninvited visitor

A MAN who turned up drunk at his former partner's home and didn't take kindly to being refused entry, has been made the subject of a community payback order. At Oban sheriff court on Tuesday, Kevin Hobbs, 26, Croft Avenue, Oban, pleaded guilty to banging on the front door, putting his foot in the doorway to stop it closing and shouting and swearing at his ex-partner on September 30. He also pleaded guilty to punching a hole in a door in the same house on September 25.

Hobbs, who was already on a community order for a similar previous offence, was given an 18-month supervision order, told to carry out 200 hours' unpaid work in the community and order to pay £100 compensation.

### Biker hit 97mph on slippery road

A BIKER who was clocked at 97mph near Bridge of Orchy on the A82 was pursued by police at speeds of up to 100mph through Glen Orchy. Peter Lorandffi, 35, from Leamington Spa, pleaded guilty at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday to speeding on August 1. The court was told police were manning a standard speed trap when they heard the roar of the bike. It was a very wet day, the court heard, with a lot of standing water on the road. Lorandffi was banned from driving for six months and fined £650.

# NHS targets 'fed-up' GPs

**EUAN PATERSON**  
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NHS HIGHLAND has targeted 'dissatisfied' GPs in the north of England as it seeks to plug a worrying gap in its front line healthcare service.

The health board is desperate to fill 24 vacancies across the region, offering 'Golden Hellos' to some potential recruits and commissioning a marketing company to launch its recruitment campaign south of the border.

Marketing has so far included an illuminated van bearing stunning Highland scenes being driven around Liverpool during a recent GP conference and adverts on billboards and on buses in Leeds.

The recently-launched campaign, which focuses on pilot areas including Kintyre, Mid Argyll, Arisaig, Mallaig and the Small Isles, has received £1.5 million from the Scottish government.

Gill MacVicar, the health board's director of operations for north and west Highland, said the campaign was already paying off, with six expressions of interest received.

Explaining Scotland had been 'saturated' with recruitment drives, she said: 'We know there are some dissatisfied with the English health system and some are even leaving the country; New Zealand and Australia are powerful advertisers. 'We are saying to them: if you



IDEAL TONIC: an advert used by NHS Highland to attract dissatisfied GPs to the West Highlands

are looking for a change - and a lot of people are - then here is something a bit different.

'The GPs that move here say there is much less pressure and they get longer with patients.'

Port Appin surgery, one of the last providers of an out-of-hours service in the region, announced last week it was opting out, partly because of the difficulty in selling the old-fashioned lifestyle of the rural on-call doctor.

Ms MacVicar said: 'GPs need to prove continual professional development and that is difficult to do as a single practitioner. There is also the 'goldfish bowl' effect where they may not be on duty but are at people's beck and call and that can be difficult for them and their families.



BALANCE: retired GP Dr Iain McNicol believes rural GPs can work on call and have quality of life

'Doctors now expect down time. They're no longer on call for 100 hours; they are trained for shift work.'

NHS Highland has also discovered that GPs considered other factors such as housing, education and prospective employment for their partners when deciding whether to come to the Highlands.

But retired Appin GP Dr Iain McNicol, who previously ran his own out-of-hours service, believes rural GPs can have the best of both worlds.

He said: 'People would only phone me in the middle of the night if they really had to. They knew I was there if they needed me, which reassured them, but also that I needed some quality

of life. I can see how NHS 24 works in the city because doctors there have an unremitting battle but in rural areas it's a different situation - I don't see why doctors here can't cover on-call until 10pm and then handover to NHS24 after that. It would help keep people at home and help them feel more secure.'

Asked about the changes at Appin surgery, Dr McNicol said: 'It is inevitable change. Why should the doctor there be the only one in Argyll doing on-call?'

The recruitment campaign features a dedicated website, nhshighland-rural.scot.nhs.uk/why-rural, which details GP vacancies and explains some of the benefits of practising in the Highlands' rural communities.

## Crewman was asleep as boat ran aground

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A FISHING boat had £18,000-worth of damage done to it after a crew member fell asleep at the helm and grounded the FV Diamond D off Ardnarmurchan in the Sound of Mull.

The rest of the crew and skipper were asleep below decks on May 24 when they were awoken suddenly by the grounding of the prawn boat. Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday.

The skipper ran to the wheel-

house where he found 20-year-old Kenneth Brown 'dancing about in a panic'.

The boat was so badly damaged that it began to take on water and Tobermory's Royal National Lifeboat Institution lifeboat was launched to its aid - at a cost of around £7,500, procurator fiscal Eion McGinty told the court.

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton explained that the Diamond D fished out of North Shields in the winter, but moved to prawn fishing grounds on the west coast in the summer.



Brown, of North Shields, had taken the helm from the skipper having slept for a couple of hours after leaving Oban the evening before. He pleaded guilty to failing to keep a proper look-out and navigate safely.

'He has quite honestly said he fell asleep - he just dozed off,' said Mr Thornton, adding that there was no suggestion of alcohol or drugs being involved.

GROUNDING: damage to the FV Diamond D

Photo courtesy of RNLI lifeboat

The Diamond D was taken for repairs to Mallaig and was back fishing by July and Brown, a fisherman of two years, was still employed by the same firm, said Mr Thornton.

'He deeply regrets this error,' said his solicitor. 'He feels he has let down his employer and is glad no one was injured.'

Fining Brown £650, Sheriff John Herald said: 'To be fair to you, you have been honest from the start but I have to balance this against the amount it cost your employer.'

## New panel will oversee school closures

A CAMPAIGN group in Argyll has welcomed the formation of an independent panel to make final decisions on school closure proposals.

Applications are now open for the panel and candidates from the Highlands and islands are being encouraged to apply for approximately 10 positions.

Currently, Scottish ministers can 'call in' a local authority proposal to close a school and then make a final decision in relation to the closure.

The new panel will take over responsibility for reviewing the cases called in by ministers and reaching a final determination.

Argyll Rural Schools Network (ARSN) was formed in 2010 to campaign against the council's proposal to close 25 schools and group secretary Philip Rowland welcomed the formation of a panel.

He said: 'It is a step forward because it is opening up the process, rather than the issue of school closures becoming

an entrenched battle between the council and parents. It is positive that methods of debate and discussion will not be solely controlled by the council.'

The panel will be able to consent to a closure, with or without conditions, refer it back to the local authority to consider again, or refuse consent.

The Scottish government is introducing the changes through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in spring 2015.

### Sorry saga as dentist pulls out of Oban hospital unit

A MULTI-million pound dental unit planned for Oban has faced another major setback, writes Steven Rae.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) was informed on Friday that the unnamed dentist planning to set up practice within the Oban Dental Access centre has pulled out of the deal.

The centre, located in Lorn and Islands hospital, has not been fully operational since it was completed in September last year.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Roddy McCuish said: 'This is obviously another blow to Oban. I would urge all parties to get round the table to discuss this matter as soon as possible to get it sorted out.'

'There is obviously a case for this dental centre in Oban but it's of no use unless it is operating at full capacity.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, who serves the Oban North and Lorn ward, said the news had left her 'bitterly disappointed'.

Elizabeth Reilly, assistant clinical director for dental services in Argyll and Bute, said: 'On behalf of Argyll and Bute CHP, I would like to apologise to the people of Oban and surrounding areas for the fact that we have been unable to secure a lease for a tenant in the dental access centre.'

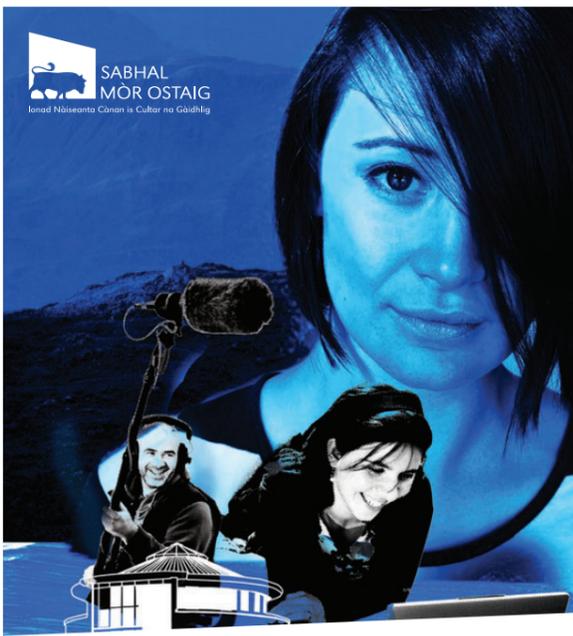
'The CHP is now looking at the options that are available to us in order to try and secure a tenant as soon as possible and we will continue to keep the public informed with any developments.'

### Leader-in-waiting gives her blessing to broadband rollout

DEPUTY First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed on Monday that 30,000 homes and businesses in the Highlands and islands can now benefit from fibre broadband.

The service, delivered through the £410 million Digital Scotland rollout, is now live in more than 120 locations.

Stuart Robertson, director of digital at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), said: 'This public investment is creating a brand new fibre network right across the Highlands and islands, and will change the way people in many of our remote, rural and island communities use broadband, opening up new opportunities.'



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## Trio of new boys sign on for Fort William

FORT William have bolstered their ranks with a trio of new signings and a fourth expected to put pen to paper this week.

Full back Ryan MacDonald has re-joined for his second spell with Fort, alongside midfielder Scott MacLean and striker Scott Davidson, all on loan from Clachnacuddin.

Attacker James Whyte is to complete a permanent deal this week, after spending last season at Linlithgow Rose and completing a successful three-game trial.

Manager Calum MacLean is keen for the new boys to get some games under their belts in spite of the weather, after the postponement of last Saturday's match against Cove Rangers - the second consecutive home tie to be cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch.

### Football

He said: 'The rain has been torrential and the pitch can't handle it. It's frustrating but hopefully we won't get too many more postponements.'

### Big squad

'We're delighted to welcome the new boys; we are especially short of goalscorers with Nick Stein being out the past four games. We have a big squad which gives others the chance to cement their place.'

'It will be a bit of a headache for me but a good headache.'

Fort will travel to face Buckie Thistle this Saturday.

MacLean added: 'We did well against them last year and played earlier this season when they won 2-1 by a dubious penalty. I'm hoping for some kind of points.'

## Climbing event raises £600

A CLIMBING event in Kinlochleven raised more than £600 for Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team.

Organisers donated some of each entry fee from the 58 competitors to the rescue team when they took part in the Scottish Mixed Masters at the Ice Factor on November 1.

Scott Grosdanoff from Kingussie lifted the men's title and Anna Wells of Dundee was the ladies' victor of the day.

### Climbing

Kevis Shiels, organiser, said: 'The Scottish Mixed Masters once again witnessed some breath-taking climbing from individuals who travelled from all over the UK to attend. In addition to showcasing some highly competitive climbing, I'm very pleased that Ice Factor Kinlochleven has helped raise over £600 for Glencoe Mountain Rescue.'



## Fort William back in the Orion Premiership

GOAL: Daniel Stewart is congratulated by Brian Simpson, No 10, after opening the scoring for Fort William in last Saturday's National Division play-off game against Oban Camanachd at Mossfield Stadium. See page 24 for more photos and report. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



ON THE BALL: the primary four and five boys enjoyed their first week of football coaching 20\_146schoolfooty01

## New coaching sessions for budding footballers

BUDDING young footballers have a new coaching opportunity, thanks to staff at Lochaber Leisure Centre.

The group met in Lochaber high school for

the first time last week and training will be held on a Wednesday evening. The primary four and five session meet from 5-6pm with primaries six and seven playing from 6-7pm.

### Youth coaching

To book a place contact Lochaber Leisure Centre on 01397704359.

## Rotavators turn them over to top ten pin league

THE ROTAVATORS have achieved a lead in the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league.

Following week five in the Nevis Centre, they are the only team in the handicap division with the maximum of five points. Rotavators are also neck and neck at the top of the scratch division as only themselves and The Creeps have the maximum 25 points.

The top scratch individual game this week came from Colin Pinkett of Council who rolled 178.

Other good games came from Pam Weller, Alleycats, with 176. Tim Attack of Ardtoe/Nevis Radio with 171 and Steven Burns, The Creeps, with 170.

Kevin Lane, British Legion

### Ten pin bowling

Fort William team C, had the top handicap game with 239. Tim Attack also had the top two game scratch series of 339 and the top two game handicap series of 469.

It was a successful week as Ardtoe/Nevis Radio rolled the top scratch team game of the week with 586 and the top handicap team game of 827. Not to be outdone, Alleycats had the top two game scratch team competition of 1,158 and Council won the top two game handicap team series of 1,594 - all season highs so far.

The highest scratch average is currently held by Pam Weller on 152 followed by Brian Johnston, both of Alleycats, with 150.

## Two new races to be introduced Athletics

ATHLETES in Lochaber will have two new races to look forward to next year, as No Fuss Events continues to add to its calendar.

As well as the usual biking contests, 10 Under the Ben and Scottish Enduro, and the annual triathlons, the No Fuss team has planned a new 22km loop which will be split into race and transition stages, allowing runners to challenge their personal speeds and take in the iconic Lochaber scenery.

Frazer Coupland from No Fuss Events said: 'You go as hard as you can on the race stages and take it as easy as you like on the transitions, the best thing about the Runduro is that you can go round the whole route with your friends, even if they are faster, or slower, than you.'

'With eight very different stages, everyone has the chance to be a winner.'

The second event is a runner's equivalent to the mountain bike race, Tour de Ben Nevis.

Participants will take on a 68km circumnavigation of the Ben, travelling through some of the most rugged and isolated areas in Lochaber, featuring river crossings, sustained climbs and long descents.

## Convincing win for Lochaber swimmers Swimming

LOCHABER junior swimmers celebrated an overwhelming victory over visiting Dingwall Amateur Swim Club, winning 405 to 299 at the biggest gala held in Fort William in 20 years.

The event at Lochaber Leisure Centre saw 45 local swimmers take on their guests last Sunday and achieve 92 personal bests.

Organiser Steven Martin said: 'It was an incredible performance by the local swimmers who only started training seriously a year ago, their improvement has been immense.'

'There is a rematch scheduled in Dingwall in May 2015, so training starts right away for this as Dingwall are convinced they can erase the 100-point gap in six months' time.' Lochaber winners: Jenna MacLean, Evie Clark, Jude Kyle, Hannah Corner, Anna MacDonald, Millie Jackson, Aimee MacKay, Ayla Barr, Moirmia Reid, Dora Shepherd, James Thomson, Lyall Morris, Alan Hamilton, Jack Hamilton, William Cann and Connor Cann.

## Winter league Athletics

LOCHABER Athletic Club's winter league will begin this Sunday. The season kicks off with the Canal Bank Race with registration at the Moorings car park, Banavie.

Following the race, the group's annual general meeting for this will be held at Lochaber Yacht Club from 7.30pm, all welcome.

## League to split Indoor football

THE ALI Young indoor football league is to be split in half to stop fixtures running into next summer.

As of next week the group will be split into the top seven and bottom seven, cutting the games from 26 to 19.

Players also agreed this will make the contest more competitive as teams will be fairly matched in skill.

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WEATHER		TIDAL INFORMATION	
<b>Thursday</b>	Cloudy with rain showers Winds strong south easterly Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.	Tide tables for Oban during the week from <b>Thursday, November 13, 2014</b> are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)	
<b>Friday</b>	Heavy rain Winds moderate east south easterly Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.	<b>Date</b>	<b>am</b>
<b>Weekend Outlook</b>	Cloudy on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds moderate easterly Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.	<b>Thur</b>	<b>pm</b>
		<b>Fri</b>	
		<b>Sat</b>	
		<b>Sun</b>	
		<b>Mon</b>	
		<b>Tues</b>	
		<b>Wed</b>	
		Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)	