

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8233

Thursday 8 January, 2015

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



new year,  
new you  
feature inside

**NO BREATH TEST FAILURES IN OBAN OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON**

# Police praise zero tolerance

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NOT ONE driver failed a breath test in Oban, Lorn and the Isles throughout a month-long festive road safety campaign by Police Scotland.

Police have described the campaign, which was launched on December 5 last year in tandem with new drink-driving laws, as a 'great result'.

The campaign, which had a major focus on driving behaviour included Christmas and Hogmanay, ended on January 5.

The Scottish government legislation reduced the legal drink drive limit from 80 milligrammes to 50 milligrammes in every 100 millilitres of blood.

Police in and around Oban set up static roadside checks throughout the period and increased patrols in the area, carrying out a number of roadside breath tests.

But as the campaign came to an end, Oban police warned it would not be complacent and would

continue with roadside checks in strategic places including Oban, Pennyfuir, Dunbeg and Tainuill.

Across the LB sub division (Argyll and Bute) only eight drivers were charged with drink driving.

Sergeant Allan Moore of Oban police said: 'Because of the new limit being implemented, it seems people are more aware of the level of alcohol in their system.'

'Whether they are having a glass of wine and thinking of driving, or even driving the morning after they have been drinking, they know there is every chance they could be over the new limit.'

Sergeant Moore described the statistic of no drink driving charges in the area as 'a great result', considering the increase in road policing activity during the festive period.

Oban North and Lorn SNP councillor Iain Stewart MacLean said he was pleased the Scottish government policy was having a positive effect: 'I think the new law has focussed minds and drivers are now not drinking at all.'

'Like the ban on smoking in public places, I believe that a zero tolerance to drink driving will become the norm.'

The low figures for Argyll and Bute were described as 'very encouraging' by Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, who has previously called for a less severe penalty for drivers caught out under the new law.

When the new limit was first introduced, he said: 'The penalty for a first offence of being over the new limit shouldn't be a 12-month driving ban, if the driver was still under the old limit. A shorter ban would be a sufficient deterrent for a first offence.'

He said on Monday: 'The zero figure for Oban, Lorn and Isles is really good news.'

'But eight in total (for Argyll) is still too many. Every driver over the limit is a tragic accident waiting to happen, or that driver's livelihood about to be ruined.'

Across Scotland, police carried out 13,346 roadside breath tests between December 8 - 29, 255 of which tested positive.



**GREAT RESULT:** Although police in Oban carried out an number of roadside breath tests during the festive period, there were no drink driving charges issued in the Oban area



**PARTY ON:** delighted revellers enjoy the lights and the music at this year's Hogmanay in Oban

# New Year's resolution to save Hogmanay in Oban

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A SHOCK announcement by the people behind the 'Hogmanay in Oban' street party will see the 2014 event as the town's last - unless new organisers come forward.

But Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish has vowed to convene a meeting of any group that wants to take over the running of the successful event.

Volunteers said the last two years have established 'Hogmanay in Oban' as a great event for the town, but that it is now time for someone else to organise the free street party.

The family event was nominated for Thistle Awards by revellers after its first year, and saw more than 2,500 people attend each of the two events.

Funding came from local businesses, BID4Oban, The National Lottery and the Oban Common Good Fund.

But only a few days after a

second successful event, organisers have decided to hand over the reins to someone else.

The small group of volunteers, including Christine Roberts, Gary MacPherson, Colin MacNiven and Louis Barrow, pulled out all the stops to put on a 'professional show' for the town.

It also promoted singers, bands and performers in the earlier hours of the event - giving them an opportunity to appear on a stage in front of a live audience.

A committee spokesman said: 'After two successful years of running 'Hogmanay in Oban', it is now time to pass it on to any other interested party who wishes to take it on.'

Graeme Bass, chairman of BID4Oban, which sponsored the event, said: 'Of course, people will be disappointed to learn that the organisers want to pull out.'

'They have done a superb job in growing the event and it has

been hugely successful.

'Hopefully, others will come forward to take on running this event for the future.'

With a boost in the number of out-of-town visitors coming to the Hogmanay party each year, councillor McCuish is keen that this very successful event continues.

He said: 'Once again, the Oban Hogmanay party was an outstanding success.'

'It is regrettable that the team which has put together this annual event now wants to stand down.'

'Over the last two years, it has built up the event. It is always well organised, and is a huge boost to the local economy.'

'I understand that many people make Oban their destination because of the Hogmanay party.'

'I feel that if this event was to stop, it would be missed greatly by locals and visitors alike. I would be happy to help to find a way to keep it going.'

## TIMESLINE

### Numbers game is up for debate

THE OBAN Times has this week invited two Argyll politicians to debate how council policy can tackle the demographic time bomb.

While MSP Mike MacKenzie believes council planning policy has exacerbated the problem, councillor Ellen Morton argues major local authority projects have given Argyll and Bute a more prosperous future.

See page four for report

### Area is a hotspot for baby boomers

ARGYLL and Bute is Scotland's baby boomer hotspot with almost one in three (28.2 per cent) people living in the area aged between 50 and 68.

According to investment provider Aegon, the county has the highest proportion of baby boomers - those born between 1946 and 1964 - in its population with 24,901 people.

### Man charged for window damage

THE SIX-foot high window at the front of the clothing outlet New Look in Oban's George Street was smashed on New Year's Eve.

Police have traced a 22-year-old man in connection with the incident and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Ferry disruptions as storms hit west

GUSTS of up to 90mph are expected to batter Scotland's west coast, Hebrides and Western Isles over the weekend.

Ferry operator CalMac has warned services from the mainland would be liable to disruption, as the severe weather takes hold from Friday morning and through Saturday.



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# Six years in jail for man who abused schoolgirls

A FORMER Oban resident has been sentenced to six years in jail after being found guilty of almost two decades of child sexual abuse.

After a trial at the High Court in Glasgow last October, 63-year-old Leslie Kinvig, who now lives in Dalross, Ross-shire was found guilty of sexually abusing two girls, one as young as eight.

The offences were all committed at addresses in the Oban area.

Kinvig was found guilty of sexually assaulting one girl between June 1981 and November 1986 when she was between the ages of eight and 13.

He was also found guilty of sexually abusing another girl between October 1991 and September 2000. The abuse began when the girl was aged just 12.

Kinvig was cleared of a charge of rape of a 13-year-old girl. Judge John Morris QC told Kinvig on Tuesday: 'The jury

convicted you of serious sexual offences against two females.

'They didn't accept the more serious charges against you.

'They convicted you of a catalogue of sex offences over a considerable period of time.'

Defence advocate Sarah Livingstone told the court: 'There is no suggestion that since 2000 there has been any offending. Not a hint of abuse or any other charges for 15 years.'

Kinvig was also placed on the sex offenders' register.

## Schools receive funding boost

TWO ARGYLL organisations are to benefit from the final round of funding from National Farmers Union Scotland's Centenary Trust.

Kilniver primary school has received £1,000 towards building and equipping a polytunnel, while Lochgilphead primary was awarded £500 to help with its visit to the Royal Highland Show.

This round of awards has seen £23,200 donated to Scottish charities, part of the funding total of £207,000.

The trust's final £8,000 will be distributed to charities in the NFU Scotland regions.

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**Fife company wins writing contract**

A COURSE to teach council officers how to write better reports has been won by a company from Fife.

Focused on Learning Limited won the contract, valued at £750 per day, to provide a series of one-day training courses in six locations between December 2014 and June 2015.

The course will teach council employees to write 'clearly, correctly and confidently'.

Courses will be delivered to council employees across Argyll and Bute, including Lochgilphead, Oban, Campbelltown, Dunoon, Helensburgh and Islay.

**Potholes drive up cost of motoring**

THOUSANDS of pounds in compensation has been paid to motorists because of damage caused by potholes.

A Freedom of Information request has revealed that a total of £23,587.04 has been paid out in compensation by Argyll and Bute council to motorists between 2009 and 2014.

Alastair Redman, Conservative candidate for the 2015 UK elections, said: 'A pothole fund would be a major step forward in helping councils to finally get our roads up to a better standard to benefit motorists across Argyll.'

**It's jingle belles as pupils dazzle and sparkle**



DRESSED TO IMPRESS: senior pupils at Oban high school brought 2014 to a close at their annual 'Jingles' dance in the Corran Halls. Among those performing were Skipinnish, Chunks and DJ Neil Gillies. Pictured are the sixth-year pupils who attended the dance for the last time

**Survey to improve autism treatment**

THE TREATMENT of autism is high on the agenda for NHS Highland as it aims to develop services to meet the needs of sufferers and their families.

The health board has published an online survey to canvass views and ideas throughout the Highlands in a bid to improve services for people with the condition.

NHS Highland is working with a number of partners including Highland council, Job Centre Plus, Autism Rights Group Highland, the National Autistic Society Scotland and carers' groups as they attempt to tailor the services to match the needs of sufferers.

NHS Highland manager, Jean-Pierre Sieczkarek, said: 'Taking five minutes to complete this survey will help ensure we can continue to deliver the best services we can for people with autism and their families.'

People interested in completing the survey can access it until January 31 at [www.surveymonkey.com/MDRC9W3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/MDRC9W3).

**A source of sound drugs knowledge**

A NEW website has been launched by a Highland campaign group to provide information about the dangers of drugs.

'The source', created by the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, gives details about illegal substances, legal highs, alcohol and tobacco.

Aimed at teachers, professionals, parents, carers, as well as young people, information can be found about the law on drugs, harm reduction and guidance for parents.

Councillor Linda Munro, Highland council's children's champion, said: 'This is a wonderful and innovative development.'

'Having a central point where young people and their parents and carers can access up-to-date, verified information relating to alcohol, drugs and smoking will improve understanding about the risks and how to keep safe.'

More information can be found at [www.highlandsubstance misuse.scot](http://www.highlandsubstance misuse.scot).

**Consultant to talk about hospitals**

AN INVERNESS consultant will talk about hospitals in the area at Lochaber History Society's first meeting of 2015.

Jim Leslie, a consultant at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness will discuss the challenges facing hospitals in Fort William and Glencoe as well as smaller medical centres across Lochaber.

The meeting will be held at the Ben Nevis Hotel tonight (Thursday January 8) beginning at 8pm.

**Gaeldom mourns loss of a gracious stalwart**

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TRIBUTES have been made to a Gaelic stalwart and former secretary of Rockfield primary school, who died on Sunday at the age of 97.

Oban's Ishbel Clark, who was born on June 29 1917 in Lochavullin Terrace, had suffered from a heart condition for a number of years but until a year ago had been living in her own home in Drimvargie Terrace, latterly moving into Eadar Glinn residential home.

A descendant of the famous Gaelic bards, the MacPhails of Tیره, on her mother's side, Ishbel too was a talented Gaelic singer and grew up in Oban in a Gaelic-speaking family.

She won the children's silver medal at the Royal National Mod in 1930 but was put off by the competitive element of the festival, curtailing her prizewinning streak into adulthood. This tendency to avoid the limelight would continue into her twilight years as she modestly turned down various honours for her work in the promotion of Gaelic.

She married Northern Light-house Board captain Donald



MODEST: Ishbel Clark

Clark in 1952 but following his sudden death in 1961 she took up a job as secretary at Rockfield primary school and quickly became a well-known figure in the school, working under three headteachers during that time.

Into her latter years, she remained a stalwart of the Gaelic language and had attended every

national Mod until the 2005 event in the Western Isles, when she was too ill to travel. For a number of years she coached prize-winning soloists, was Gaelic tutor for Oban Gaelic Choir and adjudicated at Mods across the country.

Many admirers took to Facebook to pay their respects. Recently appointed OBE and chief executive of Feisean nan Gaidheal Art Cormack described her as a 'lovely, gracious lady' and former Rockfield pupil Jim MacKay said Ishbel was 'the kindest lady a wee boy could ever want'.

Oban Gaelic Choir conductor Sileas Sinclair said: 'Ishbel was an absolute stalwart supporter of Oban Gaelic Choir. I remember going up to see her when I was in high school to get help with Gaelic songs too.'

'Ishbel always had time to give and always made sure you had it just right. What a star and she'll be sorely missed.'

Ishbel was active in Feisean nan Gaidheal and An Comunn Gaidhealach and Oban Parish Church.

Her funeral service will be held in the church next Monday (January 12) at 1pm.

**Oban magic casts festive spell over newlyweds**

A NEWLYWED couple from Fife have praised the people of Oban for going the extra mile to make sure their Christmas Eve ceremony went without a hitch.

Artist David Robertson, 69, who lived in Appin until 20 years ago, and his South African bride Penny were so keen to be married in the town that they agreed a date of Christmas Eve for the ceremony at Oban registry office.

But the couple (pictured right) said their day was made extra special by locals who had clearly embraced the festive spirit.

Registrar Gemma Cummins came in on her day off to marry the Fife couple and her husband, Paul, took photographs. Paul and Gemma's boss, Iain MacKinnon, were witnesses.

Earlier in the day, the couple were given a fare by Etive Taxis for the short trip from the Caledonian Hotel to the registry office in Albany Street and Petals of Oban managed to put together a last-minute bouquet and corsage, before arranging a lift back to the hotel for them.

Penny, 47, said: 'Oban has a



magic about it we just love, so we wanted to get married here.

'People couldn't have done any more for us. Paul even took us up to McCaig's Tower in the rain, sleet and wind to take photographs of us.'

'We are so grateful to everyone

who went out of their way to help; it was the afternoon of Christmas Eve and people were trying to get ready for Christmas but we were shown so much kindness.'

David added: 'We were gobsmacked by how helpful everyone was.'

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QUICK RELEASE: a young visitor at the aquarium

**Aquarium's a tourist catch**

TOBERMORY harbour association, a not-for-profit community company, opened a marine exhibition to visitors last year which was hailed a success.

Now the charity wants to build on its success by upgrading its catch-and-release aquarium. The cost to upgrade the aquarium is estimated at £4,500.

Using the fundraising website Crowdfunder, the group has already received a number of donations, but still needs to raise more money.

**A chance to supply answers**

TALKS about how to tackle the problem of maintaining a sustainable power supply on the island are under way.

The consultation meetings will help launch Mull and Iona Community Trust's (MICT) scheme 'Assisting Community Connections to Electricity from Sustainable Sources'.

Moray Finch of MICT said: 'If you're interested in helping to solve problems of grid constraint or would like to find out more about how you might be able to benefit directly from being part of a demonstration project, contact me on 01680 812905 or [mfinch@mict.co.uk](mailto:mfinch@mict.co.uk)'

**Teenager's brutal murder must see lessons learned in Western Isles**

THE MURDER of teenager Liam Aitchison has sparked action for better care services for vulnerable young people in the Outer Hebrides.

The Western Isles Child Protection Committee commissioned an internal review after the 16-year-old was killed by Johnathan MacKinnon and Stefan Miller on the Isle of Lewis in 2011.

Following this, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is to work with the police, NHS Highland and other groups to ensure that changes are made to ensure children living in difficult circumstances are watched over by care agencies as they reach adulthood.

Vulnerable individuals known to the children's panel between 16 and 18 years of age are being pinpointed for more adult supervision by the council, while more supported accommodation is to be provided for youngsters.

Liam, from South Uist, was murdered by his work colleagues MacKinnon and Miller after he left his home in Stornoway and spent time sleeping rough on the island.

The two killers were each sentenced to 18 years in jail before having the opportunity to apply for parole, after repeatedly striking Liam with a knife and bottle on November 23 2011.

Commenting on the tragedy, a spokesman from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: 'These were very tragic circumstances and if we can improve services by learning from it that is good practice for us.'

**Cocaine accused faces £400 fine**

A PROPERTY developer has been fined £400 after pleading guilty to possessing cocaine at Lunga Road in Oban.

Donald Birrell, 45, Ulva Road, Oban, was stopped and searched by police on September 21 and the drug, worth £25-30, was found on him in a plastic bag.

The court heard he had been given the drug by someone and had not intended to use it.

**Thieves target Kilninver barn**

A QUAD bike and a generator were stolen from the barn of a farm in the Kilninver area between last Friday (January 2) and Saturday (January 3).

Anyone who saw any suspicious activity, or any large vehicles, in the area overnight should contact PC Christopher Pringle at Oban police station on 101.

**Campaigners set for court battle over fish farm plans**

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**BATTLEGROUND: FoLE hopes to overturn planning permission granted by the council to fish farmer Dawnfresh**

CAMPAIGN group Friends of Loch Etive (FoLE) is seeking a judicial review at the Court of Session over a contentious planning application for a fish farm.

The four-day review over Argyll and Bute council's decision to grant permission for the expansion of the Dawnfresh fish farm at Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6) will take place between February 17 and 20 at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

If the court upholds Argyll and Bute council's decision, FoLE may be liable for the council's substantial legal expenses.

FoLE trustee Keith Macmillan said the judicial review was a 'huge risk' to the charity, but confirmed that money had been set aside for the council's costs and to 'cover any eventualities'.

Mr Macmillan said: 'Since its inception, FoLE has campaigned to protect Loch Etive now and

for future generations. It has challenged the right of one company to attempt to create profit at the expense of local residents and visitors.

'The accusation of 'nimbysm' in last week's *Oban Times* is totally unjustified. FoLE has campaigned equally vigorously against the Dawnfresh plans at Port na Mine (Etive 3) and Inverawe (Etive 2) as well as Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6).

'FoLE now has more than 250

members, mainly local residents and regular visitors to the Loch Etive area.'

An application by FoLE to limit its liability under a Protected Expenses Order, usually available to charitable organisations such as FoLE, was refused at the Court of Session in July last year.

Guy Linley-Adams, solicitor to FoLE, said: 'The petition asks the court to quash the planning permission given to Etive 6 and, entirely properly, the court will

hear both sides and come to a conclusion. Of course, the series of incomplete planning applications made over the last three years by Dawnfresh, which have either been altered, re-advertised or been scrapped altogether, has cost Argyll and Bute council much in wasted time and money.'

On the question of legal costs, he said: 'However, if the council wins in February, it can apply for its expenses then.'

While it is unknown how much Argyll and Bute council will incur in costs at the judicial review, Dawnfresh director Gideon Pringle said that legal representation for his company over the four days, as an interested party in the judicial review, would cost in excess of £40,000.

Mr Pringle said: 'I feel that we are seeing further effects on council officials, who have become very reluctant to deal with us in case it ends up in another expensive challenge from FoLE. 'This harms us as a business

and prevents us investing in the local community.'

'Obviously FoLE hopes to win the judicial review. We consider this outcome is extremely unlikely as the grounds for the review are very tenuous.'

'But this is going to cost the council tens of thousands of pounds, regardless.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The council is fully committed to defending the decision of the planning, protective services and licensing committee.'

'It is impossible to say what the costs will be prior to the conclusion of the case, and these will be dependent on the outcome.'

Dawnfresh dramatically withdrew its planning application at the Etive 2 and 3 sites on December 19, at an estimated cost of £750,000 to the firm, and said it planned to focus on the Etive 4 and Etive 6 sites for expansion this year, following the judicial review.

**'Miracle' sea eagle's death leaves Mull wildlife officer heartbroken**

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MYSTERY surrounds the death of a 'miracle' sea eagle on Mull, and answers may never be found as the remains of the protected bird were deemed too badly decomposed for a post-mortem.

The four-year-old white-tailed sea eagle known as 'Kellan' was found by a hillwalker, during the festive holidays.

The bird was known to many as a 'medical miracle' after undergoing pioneering surgery for broken bones at Edinburgh zoo in October 2010.

The remains of the male eagle will now be sent to the Scottish Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) to examine how well the bones mended and how Kellan may have coped in the wild over the past four years.

Experts believe that Kellan was the longest surviving example of an eagle living in the wild after recuperation.

The bird had become something of a celebrity for his unusual gait when flying and had attracted thousands of followers from all over the world on a blog site.

When the bird was set free just before Christmas in 2010, onlookers were amazed by what

appeared a touching reunion when Kellan's mother flew in to greet him after his first flight back in the wild.

David Sexton, the Isle of Mull Royal Society for the Protection of Birds officer, said: 'I'm heartbroken to have had to go and gather Kellan's remains. You're

not meant to have favourites in this job but he was mine. He was a medical miracle as his injuries were so severe, we sometimes wondered if he would survive for long.'

But the SSPCA vets were simply magnificent and they rebuilt him back into a working,

flying, living eagle. He made medical history. He was defiant and a fighter and he deserved his second chance back in the wild - where he belonged.

'I last saw him alive in 2013 and immediately knew it was him as he had quite a distinctive flight profile with his once-broken

wing held at a slightly different angle.'

'It was hard to spot but I knew him so well and I was just thrilled he was still going strong. He took off and soared up above my head before flying away over a distant mountain ridge.'

'He clearly survived well for another year and at nearly five years old he was well on his way to becoming a full breeding adult.'

'I suspect that may have been the cause of his death, although we will never know for sure as his remains were too far gone for a post-mortem.'

'He was found close to another active sea eagle nest and as a near adult male he wouldn't have been welcomed by the resident male and there may have been a fight over the territory.'

'He was a gutsy young eagle with his full, long life ahead of him and I wouldn't be at all surprised if he went into battle.'

'As soon as I heard that my heart sank; I knew it was Kellan and knew my dream of finding him one day paired with a female was over.'

**MIRACLE OF FLIGHT: Kellan, the sea eagle, was found dead after four years in the wild**



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**Take a trip back in time as school show hits high notes**

THE CORRAN halls will host this year's Oban high school dance show, which will take the audience on an odyssey 'through the decades'.

The audience will be transported back to some classic tunes from decades including the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s.

A mixture of dance styles including ballet, hip-hop, contemporary and Highland will be included in the performances.

The high school gymnastics squad will provide entertainment as well as the sports leaders and teachers, who will bring their own unique style to the occasion.

Highland dancers of all ages are encouraged to go along half an hour

before the start of the show, wearing a kilt or some tartan, to take part in the opening Highland Fling.

The Oban high school pipe band and local primary six and primary seven dancers have also been working with dance leaders from the high school on a routine to be included in the show.

Tickets are available from this Friday, January 9, from the high school, priced £5 for adults and £3 for concessions.

Performances are on Wednesday, January 14 at 7.30pm, and on Thursday, January 15 with a matinee at 12.15pm and evening performance at 7.30pm. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, if available.

**Move to debate population decline in Argyll and Bute**

THE 'ALARMING' population decline in Argyll and Bute may make the debating chamber of Holyrood.

Highlands and Islands list MSP Jamie McGrigor has tabled the motion after attending Argyll and Bute council's population summit in Dunoon last year.

'The first available slot for the debate is January 22, although the final decision on when - or indeed if - the subject will be discussed won't be taken until closer to the time.'

Mr McGrigor said: 'I am keen that the issue of Argyll and Bute's alarming population decline remains very much on the national and local political agenda as we enter the new year. If this debate goes ahead, there are many issues I want to raise, with transport infrastructure being one of the key ones.'

So far the motion has attracted the support of eight Conservative MSPs, along with five from the SNP and two from Labour.

**A costly caravan bust-up**

A WOMAN who caused more than £2,600-worth of damage to a caravan in Tobermory has been fined £300.

Appearing on Tuesday at Oban sheriff court was Christine Coyne, 31, of Assynt Road, Inverness.

The court heard the accused had paid the owner back £2,645.32 following the incident on July 19 last year, when she broke a mirror and coffee table and damaged the ceiling during a row with her partner.

**Banned motorist disqualified again**

A BANNED driver, who was spotted by police driving in Oban's George Street on December 10 last year, has been further disqualified from driving for a total 18 months.

Shaun Frame, of Corran Brae, Oban, was seen by police getting into a car after leaving a bar in the town around midnight.

He was stopped and breathalysed but this was negative.

In the course of their inquiries, police discovered the 28-year-old man had been disqualified from driving until January 27 2015.

Frame claimed he thought the disqualification had come to an end at the beginning of December.

He pleaded guilty to the charge and to having no insurance.

As well as disqualifying him, Sheriff Douglas Small placed Frame on a supervision order for a year, with the condition that he carry out 200 hours' unpaid work.

**Woman ordered to repay cheque fraud**

A WOMAN who forged the signature of someone she was caring for on cheques worth a total of £150 appeared at Oban sheriff court in Tuesday for sentencing.

Marlene Armstrong, 57, of Dalintart Drive, Oban, had pleaded guilty to an earlier hearing to forging the cheques between May 3 and June 6 last year.

The court heard she had been employed by the sons of a former employer to look after their mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's and dementia.

She had got into debt and rather than involve her family had forged the cheques.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on Armstrong until September 29 for her to be of good behaviour and to pay back the money, which she said she had saved up.

**Not so happy New Year for speeders**

POLICE continue to catch speeding drivers along the A85, with New Year road users flouting the speed limits at Arrivain and Tainuill.

Last Thursday (January 1) a 25-year-old motorist was clocked travelling at 50mph in the 30mph zone through Tainuill village.

The following day a heavy goods vehicle, which was limited to 40mph by traffic law at Arrivain, was seen travelling at 62mph by police.

Both the motorist and the HGV driver have been reported by police to the procurator fiscal.

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# Jenna's proud to follow in the footsteps of her mentor

A FORMER pupil of the late Oban Highland dancing teacher Eilidh MacInnes organised a memorial concert for the school's annual dance show.

Jenna MacInnes, 18, stood in for her mentor last year to keep the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance running as Eilidh battled cancer.

And before her death in August last year, at the age of 44, Eilidh (pictured right) asked her former pupil to continue the school, which is now simply known as the MacInnes School of Dance.

The school's annual dance show on December 16 became a memorial tribute to their former teacher, with dances choreographed by senior members.

Jenna, a pupil of Eilidh for eight years, said: 'It wasn't a difficult decision to take on the school; it



was such a privilege. It is nice to know that she trusted me to keep it going. While the school is still going there is a part of her that lives on.'

The dance show at Glencruitten

church hall raised £250 for the Oban-based DMI Cancer Trust, which supports cancer charities locally.

The school's annual award for best competitor went to Argyll champion Katie MacPherson.

Most improved was Rowan Gemmill and dancer with most potential was Eilidh MacAulay.

Jenna, who works in her father's pub Coasters, has ensured the dancers were able to sit exams this year and is enthusiastic about the year ahead.

She added: 'There is a lot of pressure on me as a teacher because Eilidh was so good at it.'

The school has received a grant from Costa Coffee after two of the dancers performed at the cafe's opening at Station Square on the day of the Argyllshire Gathering last year.



POIGNANT TRIBUTE: the MacInnes School of Dance at the memorial dance show Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

## A HOLYROOD POLITICIAN AND A LEADING COUNCILLOR SET OUT THEIR CONTRASTING VISIONS ON HOW ARGYLL SHOULD TACKLE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

# Doing the little things right will bring prosperity

Mike MacKenzie, MSP, Highlands and Islands

ARGYLL and Bute council has at last begun to wake up to the two most significant challenges it faces: having both an ageing and a declining population.

For years we have been exporting young people and importing older people. Argyll is a great place to retire to but obviously not as good a place to live in for working-aged people.

This intensifies the national demographic trend of an increasingly ageing population; a trend that promises much pain for the council's budget.

Equally important is the related problem of population loss, Argyll and Bute being one of the very few areas of Scotland and the only part of the Highlands and Islands where the population is decreasing.

At the recent economic summit in Dunoon, organised to address this issue, Argyll and Bute council at least acknowledged it did not know where the solutions lie and therefore invited speakers from across the country to share their wisdom in an effort to find answers.

This problem finally became apparent to the council last year when it found itself facing a significant cut to its budget; the third biggest cut in Scotland.

The reason for this is that the formula which distributes funding among Scotland's councils is based on population. Significant population decline means significant decreases in budget.

General registers of Scotland predict that Argyll will continue to lose population for many years; a grim prospect for a council already struggling to make savings.

Despite acknowledging that it does not have the answers, our council is perhaps less willing to admit that it is its own policies, its own culture and practice over many years, that have contributed significantly to the scale of the predicament it now finds itself in.

I have sympathy with many of our councillors who struggle under these circumstances. They are elected to serve their communities and yet they find themselves instead serving the corporate interest of the council. These two responsibilities are unfortunately not always the



Mike MacKenzie, MSP

same thing. Despite signing the Single Outcome Agreement some years ago, our council culture has not yet fully awoken to all that is implied in this, for the agreement carries a clear commitment and responsibility for the socio-economic well-being of the region.

Rather than just delivering services and administering

its regulatory functions, our council now has a more general responsibility for our prosperity and our economic success.

One of the benefits of being a regional MSP is that I have the opportunity of seeing how other councils operate across the Highlands and Islands.

These councils face similar challenges and opportunities to a

greater or lesser degree, but most do not suffer this disconnect between the council's corporate interest and the public interest to the same extent that we do in Argyll and Bute.

There are therefore lessons to be learned from other councils. Orkney Islands council, although by no means perfect, is nevertheless an exemplar. It applies its corporate muscle most effectively for the benefit of its many small businesses and its population at large.

For example, it runs a number of museums, recognising that this complements the activities of other heritage attractions and contributes greatly to the area's success as a tourist destination.

The recently extended pier at Hatston outside Kirkwall allows cruise ships to berth alongside but Orkney was the UK's top cruise ship destination long before this pier was built.

The fact is cruise ships go to Orkney not because they have a nice new pier but because of the quality of the visitor experience. When cruise ships dock, the council provides shuttle buses to take them into town. In the town itself are a number of visitor guides employed by the council.

Orkney Islands council also provides significant support to the local abattoir recognising that high quality locally-produced food contributes to the quality of the visitor experience as well as allowing a number of award-winning local butchers to export their produce. This in turn helps ensure fairer prices for farmers, farming being another important part of the local economy.

The hard-pressed Western Isles council provides similar support yet Argyll and Bute sees this kind of support as outside its remit.

There are lessons from Shetland too, where Shetland Islands council recognises the importance of maintaining sustainable rural communities as well as vibrant towns.

The rural hinterland of Shetland is still very much working communities, reminding me of Argyll when I was a boy.

Planning policy actively promotes the building of individual houses in rural areas and the maintenance of acrofting settlement pattern assures that new houses complement the existing built environment and nestle appropriately into the natural environment.

There are two basic factors

which limit Argyll and Bute's success; jobs and homes, but our council cannot solve these problems on its own nor do so by financing high profile projects, especially not in this age of austerity and diminishing budgets. Instead, it will have to accept a new role in facilitating the aspirations of others; to start and expand businesses, to run social services, to build homes.

Success will come not from headline-grabbing initiatives but from lots of little things; things that the council often currently actively impedes through a stultifying culture which has the default setting of saying 'no' to the normal aspirations of working-aged people.

Success will come when it treats the individuals that make up our communities, our organisations and our businesses as respected partners and willingly assists them in attaining their goals.

Success will come when Argyll and Bute council recognises that it cannot afford to fund large and grandiose projects but applies its scarce financial resources as seed funding, pump priming the activity of others, supporting them and helping them succeed in their aspirations.

# By working together, we will create a bright future

Ellen Morton, deputy leader, Argyll and Bute council

EVERYONE involved in the life of Argyll and Bute matters to its future. Every one of us can make a contribution to delivering prosperity for our children, our families, our older people and our communities.

Our communities include the council's 4,900 employees. They are the council's strength, committed to providing quality services and building strong bonds with our communities.

Argyll and Bute is a wonderful place to live, work and visit. Prosperity is there to be created. It needs everyone involved in the life of Argyll and Bute to turn opportunity into success by supporting economic growth and attracting people to this wonderful area.

Argyll and Bute is a multiple award-winning council that delivers services to the highest standard to a highly dispersed population, across its extensive geography and in challenging financial times. We often welcome representatives from other councils who are interested in our projects or in learning from our experience in dealing with successful industries operating in Argyll and Bute such as aquaculture, tourism, whisky and renewables.

We are taking action to drive forward positive economic growth: a £30 million investment in regenerating our towns, a £20 million investment in creating a renewables/marine/life science hub around Oban, a £25 million investment in new schools, a £23 million investment in our road infrastructure.

Our economic development teams have supported people to start up more than 100 new businesses and help 400 people into jobs last year alone. We have identified more than £900,000 of funding for local organisations, including groups run by and for people in local



Councillor Ellen Morton

our partner agencies, including NHS Highland, the emergency services, the voluntary sector, other public agencies and local communities. This key partnership strength provides the shared focus to deliver sustainable prosperity for Argyll and Bute.

This will be developed further by an economic forum, established following the economic summit we held last year. Working together means drawing on all expertise, resources and examples of best practice available and the economic forum will bring together representatives from all sectors.

We have already approached a potential chairman and are preparing to advertise for business members. We are being helped in this by our partners at Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise.

There are already marvellous examples of local businesses taking their skills out into the world - Bute Fabrics export to Hong Kong; Loch Fyne Oysters have customers in the USA, and the Scottish Association for Marine Science in Oban is globally renowned.

As well as opportunities and plans in place, we have ambitions and ideas: we are working with technology companies and national government to support broadband rollout and increased mobile phone signal coverage in our area.

What about bringing civil service jobs to Argyll and Bute?

We have spoken with government ministers highlighting the benefits of bringing government jobs to Argyll and Bute. We have ambitions to bring the UK's first seaport to Campbeltown - watch this space!

I would encourage everyone to join us in working to bring success to Argyll and Bute for the benefit of all our communities so that in five or 10 years' time, you can look proudly at a vibrant, flourishing Argyll and Bute and say - 'I helped to create that'.



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gov.uk/selfassessment



HM Revenue & Customs

# Teresa finds her guardian angel

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

AN OBAN woman came face-to-face with her 'Christmas guardian angel' this week, after *The Oban Times* launched an appeal to find the unsung hero.

Teresa Russell, 66, had turned to her local newspaper after she was rescued from oncoming traffic when her wheelchair lost power on a busy Oban road just before Christmas.

In the frantic hurly-burly of the dash to safety on Soroba road, Teresa forgot to ask for the name of her intrepid rescuer.

She wanted to thank her mystery 'guardian angel' for rushing to her aid on December 17 and turned to *The Oban Times* to track him down.

James Gray from Kinetic Studios in Oban realised that the fluorescent-jacket-wearing hero described in *The Oban Times* article was his colleague Garry Whitton, and contacted the newspaper.

However, video technician Garry, 35, was modest about the rescue. He said: 'When I read the story it was a bit weird because I don't consider myself a guardian angel.'

'I just think that's what anyone would have done in that situation.'

'If you see someone needing help, especially someone in a wheelchair, you help.'

Teresa, who is a volunteer at

Lorn and Islands Hospital in the town, was on her way to the hospital when her wheelchair lost power as she was attempting to cross Soroba road. The lights had just turned green and she was stranded in the face of oncoming traffic.

Garry rushed to her aid when he saw her plight. She said: 'Garry might say "It's what anyone would have done", but the traffic didn't stop. I'm just so grateful to him.'

Garry added: 'Don't get me wrong, it's nice to be thanked but I just assume everyone wants to help others, especially people in distress. I guess I was just in the right place at the right time.'

'My boss was quite pleased when I told him about it as I was on my way to work when it happened. He didn't give me a pay rise though, as Teresa said. I'll suggest it to him.'

Teresa finally got to know the identity of her 'guardian angel' when she met Garry at *The Oban Times* on Tuesday.

By a strange coincidence, Teresa realised she knew Garry as a childhood friend of her son.

Teresa said: 'I didn't recognise him because of his beard, but I know him now, and know his mum well too.'

'I actually met his mum the other day in the street, not knowing she had raised a guardian angel.'

'I'm so grateful to *The Oban Times* for taking up the mantle and finding him for me.'



ANGEL DELIGHT: Teresa gives her 'Christmas guardian angel' Garry a belated Christmas present to show her thanks 16\_t02teresa01

## Robbed Taynuilt owner warns other local businesses to be on guard

A TAYNUILT businessman has been forced to increase security after thieves targeted his premises for the second time in six months.

And now Douglas Baird, who owns Corachie Clematis Winter Fuels, is warning others to do the same after two power saws and a compressor worth in excess of £1500 were stolen from a storage shed on his premises on January 5.

Thieves used a fence post to wedge a roller door up and enter the shed, forcing Douglas to strengthen the door and invest in further security measures.

Douglas, who set up business in the Taynuilt area in 1988 and lives nearby, said: 'I'm absolutely gutted. One of the worst things is the intrusion.'

'It's horrible to work hard at your business and then to know someone with total disregard can come along and do this.'

'It also just shows you how insecure things are even when you think they're secure.'

In June last year, thieves broke in and took lawnmowers, leading Douglas to believe the items were stolen to order.

He continued: 'As the recession is biting, perhaps people are taking more extreme measures and theft might become more regular.'

While almost resigned to the fact that his items are gone and will now need to be replaced by his insurers, Douglas hopes others will not fall foul of thieves in the same way.

He added: 'Hopefully I can give a bit of guidance to people in the same situation.'

'Make sure if you have a roller door that it's secured at the bottom as well, as ours now is.'

'We had a dummy camera and that didn't faze them.'

'We will be looking at alarm and surveillance systems.'

Police Scotland said that enquiries into the theft were ongoing and urged anyone with information to call 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## High loch waters rock the new boat

A NEW safety boat was almost washed ashore over the festive period when the water on Loch Awe reached a critical level.

The LochWatch patrol boat dragged its mooring and was found off its station.

Iain MacKinnon, chairman of safety charity LochWatch Loch Awe, said: 'The anchor system was weakened by recent exceptional high water levels in Loch Awe following days of torrential rain and a squall dragged the boat. The patrol boat remains operational.'

## Widow's plea for the return of a 'treasured' Christmas memento

**EUAN PATERSON**  
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THE WIDOW of a Taynuilt man, who died suddenly in November last year, has pleaded with thieves to return one of his most treasured possessions taken from her home on Christmas Eve.

Jessie Servant's late husband Leslie, a retired water bailiff on the River Awe and stalwart of the Taynuilt community, had been given a four-foot high, solid oak salmon sculpture as a Christmas present from his grandson the previous year.

But a year later, the unique gift made by Kilmore's Roni Mac-



COUPLE: Leslie and Jessie Servant on a recent trip to Iona

donald, has gone missing from Jessie's Inverawe home and subsequent enquiries by the Servant family suggest the carving has been stolen.

A distraught Jessie said: 'I haven't reported it to the police because I didn't think there was any point. I didn't think I would ever see it again.'

'But I would just like to appeal to whoever has taken it to return it. It has sentimental value more than anything.'

'I keep telling myself to be realistic and that it's just a piece of wood but it was made for Leslie and he was so delighted with it.' Jessie, who lives on the private



MISSING: the salmon sculpture

Inverawe road, says she has never had anything stolen from the property, even in the days when the couple left their shed key in the lock.

'At first I thought it was someone's idea of a joke, or that it had been moved but no one knows anything about it.'

'It's the last thing I needed right now, especially with it happening at Christmas.'

'If I ever get it back, I will be cementing it down.'

The weight of the salmon sculpture means two people are required to lift it and anyone who took it may have needed a van to remove it.

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**West Ardnamurchan**

ABRIDGED minutes of West Ardnamurchan community council's December meeting:

Concerns were raised over the lack of nursing cover in Kilchoan recently. Rosie Curtis told the group three new doctors had been appointed to the area and would be starting in the next few months. Ms Curtis also said former health secretary Alex Neil MSP recently told communities on Mull how successful the West Ardnamurchan model had been operating. Members said the model was good but not operating as they expected.

No work had been carried out on the road surface at Portuairk/Sanna turning at Caol Muile and blocked culverts were still awaiting clearance.

An update was received about broadband fibre roll-out. A member of the public confirmed following the introduction of the fibre network only users within 2km of the exchange would see a significant improvement in speed.

Concern was raised that no action had been taken following a recent landslip at Camus nan Gael.

A member of the public asked why the proposed electric car charging point had not been installed, the community council was to find out.

The next community council meeting will be on Monday February 2 at the Kilchoan Community Centre.

**Tiree**

AIR PASSENGERS travelling from Tiree were held up last Monday as both the weather and technical issues delayed two separate flights off the island.

Passengers on the 9.50am flight to Oban were delayed due to a technical issue with the aircraft.

A spokesman at Oban Airport confirmed there was an 'unspecified technical issue' with the aircraft for the journey and said normal service had resumed by the afternoon flight.

Meanwhile the 1.20pm Tiree to Glasgow flight was held up because of heavy fog at Glasgow Airport.

The plane from Tiree was one of many due to fly to Glasgow that were held up on the day because of fog, including from Orkney, Belfast and Dubai.

Both flights on the Tiree routes are provided by Hebridean Air Services on behalf of Argyll and Bute council.

**Eigg**

PEOPLE who grew up on Eigg are returning to the isle to raise their own children, pushing the population towards 100 for the first time in decades.

The 2011 census showed 83 people lived on the Hebridean island but Maggie Fyfe, secretary of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, said the population had jumped to 95 in the last four years.

She added: 'There's 95 at the moment so it's headed towards 100. A lot of our young folk have come back. They go away then when it's time to raise a family they want to come back. There's a freedom living here that you don't get growing up in other places so when people have children they want them to have the same freedom they had.'

Eigg has been owned by the heritage trust since 1997, before which many residents left the island due to problems with absentee owners.

**Western Isles**

THE WESTERN Isles Development Trust has appointed a director to serve each of four Hebridean communities following a vote.

They are Keith Dodson for Lewis, Andrew D Dick for Uist, the Bays of Harris Steering Group for Harris and the Barra and Watersay Community Ltd for Barra.

**Barra**

BUDDING authors on the Isle of Barra are awaiting the results of a writing contest.

Primary four to six pupils of Eoligarry school submitted 100-word stories to the Young Writers Competition and are patiently awaiting the announcement of winners this term.



**Achaleven pupils jump in with festive fundraiser**

Pupils and staff at Achaleven primary school in Connel had a wonderful time raising awareness and money for Save the Children at their annual Christmas Jumper Day recently. Everyone brought in a jumper or t-shirt that could be decorated and glued, tinselled, glittered, painted and baubled into festive styles, raising £29

**Inveraray accordion and fiddle club**

THE DECEMBER club night of Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club was badly affected by the 'weather bomb' over the whole country but a surprisingly good number turned up to hear the guest artists Duncan Black and Marie Fielding.

Fyne Folk started the evening with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles, Nick MacFarlane on accordion and Agnes Liddell on keyboard.

After lovely Gaelic waltzes and pipe marches, Colin Sutcliffe gave two nice selections on his melodeon.

A newcomer to the club, Donald Anderson, delighted the audience with selections on his Irish pipes and then Archie MacAllister on fiddle, with Agnes on keyboard, entranced with his playing.

Johnny Fisher came next on accordion, assisted by Archie and Agnes, and then it was time for the guest artists to play through to the interval.

What a performance - Skinner marches, reels, Gaelic waltzes, Strathspeys



BEST: Musicians Marie Fielding and Duncan Black

for country dances and a glorious fiddle solo from Marie with Duncan on keyboard. Soon it was raffle and tea time and Jake MacKay opened the second half on 'moothie', followed by Jim Harvie, from Aberfeldy, on accordion with Agnes again on keyboard, for excellent

pipe marches. Duncan and Marie returned for the rest of the evening for a wonderful session of fiddle and accordion music. Surely one of the greatest, if not the greatest combine of accordion and fiddle in Scotland today.

The audience would not let them depart at 11pm and

so demanded an extra encore. The weather may have deterred some but those who were there had a memorable night of music.

On January 14 the club takes the form of an Old New Year Ceilidh, with artists from in and around Taynuilt.



The Quiraing: voted number one tourist attraction on Skye

**Staffin landmarks top website charts**

A NORTH Skye community proved popular with tourists in 2014, as four Staffin landmarks topped the charts on the world's most popular travel website.

Right at the top of Trip Advisor's most highly

rated Skye attractions is Quiraing, scenic rock formations with more than 400 glowing reviews.

Staffin's popularity is echoed elsewhere in the chart, with the hugely popular Old Man of Storr at number seven,

the Trotternish Ridge is at 10 and the Kilt Rock comes in at 14.

Hugh Ross, local development officer for Staffin Community Trust, said: 'Staffin's landscape is renowned the world over from tourists to Hollywood

film makers and we're delighted the scenery captivates so many people who use Trip Advisor. It could be a welcome economic boost as the positive feedback can only help promote the community to other potential visitors.'

**MORVERN lines**

**Hasty planning**

JUST who is in charge of local government these days - paid officials or councillors?

Judging by a decision taken in Inverness by the Highland Council's south planning committee just before Christmas, it is obviously not the democratically elected members as the following well illustrates.

One of the items on their agenda was an application by the new owners of a local estate to determine the fate of a 200-year-old manse and schoolhouse at Kingairloch, recognised by historians and visitors as one of the finest examples of its date and kind in Lochaber. Ignoring too the effect its replacement would have on the internationally acclaimed landscape of Camus na Croise Bay, the official recommendation was to demolish this well-known landmark associated with Robert Louis Stevenson and his best-selling book 'Kidnapped', and to replace it with something straight out of a Lego catalogue.

The reasons were, firstly, as it had not been listed by Historic Scotland it could hardly be worth saving and secondly, it was in such a poor state of repair as stated by the applicants' agent, that it would have to go.

In respect of its condition no mention was made that since the last occupiers had moved out less than 10 years ago, it had been abandoned and had deteriorated.

What the officials did not point out and the local members failed to discover for themselves, was that Historic Scotland does not now have the manpower to visit many regions of the Highlands and islands to list buildings which they know and freely admit are worthy of protection and, more importantly, once an application is lodged a building cannot be listed retrospectively.

There were 13 separate objections giving a variety of well-balanced and reasoned arguments in favour of retaining this charming and culturally significant building. To no avail. Clutching at a sheaf of straws produced by the applicants and the officials, our councillors, who are elected every four years to do their best for the communities they are supposed to represent, mouthed a few hastily chosen platitudes, rolled on their backs at the first shot and that was that.

Earlier that morning the same councillors, excelling themselves with their powers of oration, gave their approval for a £10 million retail park in Fort William despite being recommended for rejection from planning officials.

Admittedly the latter attracted a petition signed by several hundred voters making the 13 objections to the first pale into insignificance, but that was to be expected given the number of people who live in Fort William and who, unlike those around Kingairloch, are free to sign such petitions.

What is the point of being an elected councillor who then cannot challenge the officials who may be looking for the least line of resistance? Previous councillors did and were able to save some fine buildings in the Highlands for the nation. Councillors had the power to save this site but chose not to. Ignoring local representation, no matter how small, sets a dangerous precedent in our democratic process and where it occurs those involved should be held accountable when they next seek re-election.



The charming and important Kingairloch manse and school which should be saved for the nation

**The Oban Times and RMS Titanic**

DO ANY readers have a copy of *The Oban Times* for the third week of April 1912?

According to an oft-quoted story which has been going the rounds for many years, the announcement of the sinking of the RMS Titanic on April 15 that year was reported in *The Oban Times* as, 'Argyllshire man drowned in the Atlantic'.

Denounced as an urban myth and a quote from another newspaper, I tried to get to the bottom of the tale in the editorial offices last week. Unfortunately the archives are no longer available before 1938 so I am no wiser.

Another tale popularising *The Oban Times*, which isn't denied, is of a guest in one of the smartest hotels in London asking for a paper to be delivered to his room the following morning.

'What newspaper would you like Sir?' asked the concierge, 'the Times please; ah Sir,' said the man who must have had Argyllshire connections, 'would that be *The Oban Times* or the London Times?'

**Porpoises in Loch Linnhe**

ON CHRISTMAS Day two small porpoises, thought to be a cow and calf, were seen at close quarters in Loch Linnhe off the Morvern peninsula a few hundred yards south of the Garbh Shlios.

Both were travelling south at a leisurely speed in their usual undulating manner.

Was their presence so late in the year, or early in the next, a sign of global warming and things to come?

The porpoise has several names in the Gaelic language, 'Muc-biorach' and 'peileag' to name two. The etymology of the former seems to be taken from the Latin, 'Piscis porcus', the hog fish or 'Iasg-mugra', the water pig and the latter 'A pheileag, sar iasgair a chuain', the boar of the wave.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



With the thermometer reading a balmy -1°C, some hardy Killin folk took to the River Lochay to raise money for the community-run Falls of Dochart Retirement Home. The generosity of the onlookers was outstanding and a large amount was raised. A special thanks was given to Anna Nicolson for arranging the event. Photograph by Ron Allner

**Killin**

KILLIN again hosted a fantastic evening of entertainment this year at the Falls of Dochart with live music and dancing in the street as the village brought in the bells at Hogmanay.

Children held a lantern parade through the main street to the Falls and at midnight there was an amazing fireworks display.

Thanks went to Charley Grant and his helpers for a wonderful show.

Photograph by Ron Allner.



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**Pupils enjoy first free school meals**

PRIMARY children in the Highlands have been enjoying free school meals since the start of term on Monday (January 5). Pupils in primary one to three classes are entitled to the optional service as part of a Scottish government funded initiative. Parents of pupils at schools without catering facilities will continue to provide lunches for their children, but will be reimbursed monthly. Eigg, Elgol, Canna, Invergarry, Inverie, Muck and Rum primary schools are among those unable to provide meals.

**Zero tolerance on domestic abuse**

A HIGHLAND police campaign against domestic abuse has encouraged more people to report acts of violence. The division launched its annual crackdown last week and saw a rise in reports of incidents in the first three days. Detective inspector Maggie Miller, of the domestic abuse investigation unit, said: 'At the launch of the campaign we made the message very clear - domestic abuse will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form. There is never an excuse to commit abuse in the family home.'

**Enrolment dates for new pupils**

CHILDREN starting primary school in August 2015 must be enrolled during the last week of January. Enrolment will take place at primary schools in the area between January 26 and 30, with infants aged five or before February 29 2016 all eligible. Parents and guardians wishing to enrol their children should visit [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment). Those interested in bilingual Gaelic medium education for their children should visit the same webpage or contact the council's Gaelic team by telephoning 01463 703663 or emailing [gaelic@highland.gov.uk](mailto:gaelic@highland.gov.uk).

# Fort food bank serves up 600 meals over the festive season

**'Tremendous generosity' of public allows Lochaber charity to go the extra mile and hand out gifts alongside usual donations**

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
[ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk)

LOCHABER food bank dished out more than 600 meals over the festive period with volunteers saying the 'tremendous' generosity of the public allowed them to go the extra mile. The Fort William charity fed 68 people in December and managed to give gifts to families in need thanks to people adding chocolate, perfume and other presents to the usual donations of food and toiletries. Food bank manager Alec McConachie said: 'It was absolutely tremendous to see. I could tell people really thought about what they were donating. We had a collection in Tesco for a week and we had volunteers going over every day to keep up with the donations but, more than just the food, people were handing in wee presents for kids as well as perfumes, aftershaves and chocolates. It was great to be able to do that wee bit extra for the ones that are

struggling and make a hard time a bit easier and that's thanks to the extra thought people put in when donating.' But as the number of people using the lifeline service continues to rise, Mr McConachie said there was still some confusion about how food banks work. He added: 'We're holding a meeting next week to let people know why we do things the way we do. Some people have been saying we should have collections everywhere and aren't sure how people qualify for the packages so we want to clear it up; everyone is welcome.' The meeting will be held in the food bank on High Street from 7pm on Tuesday (January 13). Lochaber food bank has now fed more than 500 people and given out almost 5,000 meals since it opened in 2013. To donate, volunteer, or to find out more contact Mr McConachie on 07778 503276 or visit between 12 and 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



**GENEROUS:** Lochaber food bank volunteers included gifts with food packages to help those in need. From left: Pat Leslie, Alec McConachie, Donald Elder and Roia Wilson

## MP demands end to A82 road 'farce'

THE ATTITUDE of the Scottish government towards the A82 Fort William trunk road is a 'farce' according to Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy. Mr Kennedy believes the Glasgow to Inverness route has suffered from a lack of investment which is affecting Lochaber's economy and employment opportunities.

He has written to new Scottish government transport minister Derek MacKay MSP to demand funding for improvements on the road. Mr Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'As a member of the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce I am all too aware that the poor state of the A82 is having significant setbacks for

the growth of local business and jobs. 'Why is it then that the SNP government has been able to splash out money on a second Forth road bridge and high-speed rail between Edinburgh and Glasgow but failed to prioritise Highland infrastructure?' The Liberal Democrats are committed to the A82 route

action plan. It is a farce that the Scottish government has yet to come on board. 'It is a new year and the Scottish government has a new transport minister. I hope it uses this opportunity to finally take a new position towards the much-needed A82 upgrade.' Meanwhile, a Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We

are committed to significant improvement programmes for the A82 and to deliver on them for communities along its length, with around £57 million committed since 2007.' Transport Scotland also confirmed that work to re-align the A82 at Glen Gloy, between Fort William and Fort Augustus, will begin in March.

**Assault probe**

POLICE are investigating an assault on Benbecula, after a woman was reported to have been injured at an address in Griminish. Officers were called to the property at 4.20 am on January 2. A 51-year-old man was detained by the police.



# keep warm this winter



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and draughts will be reduced, making the overall temperature in the house more comfortable. Studies have shown that an average, semi-detached house can reduce almost 20 per cent of energy usage by investing in double-glazed windows. According to the Energy Saving Trust, swapping single-glazed windows for double-glazing can make annual savings around £170 per year on energy bills.

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**Eye to eye with John Wallace**

**A New Year Resolution**

That's the festivities finished. The holidays are over and the harsh reality of life returning to the "normal" daily grind for the next few months looms large over us all. For many of us health becomes a forgotten issue. The imperatives of daily living are such that minor health issues are simply ignored until they become significant difficult to treat problems. I regularly meet patients who have major vision problems which could have been prevented if they had sought advice sooner. There are many things we can all do to maximise our chances of keeping our eyes healthy and ensuring clear comfortable vision. Possibly the easiest to suggest, and probably the hardest to achieve, is to stop smoking. Smoking is linked with the development of macular degeneration and of cataracts. Both of which can result in severe visual impairment. Improving our diet can significantly benefit ocular health. Eating several portions of oily fish and green vegetables like spinach and broccoli every week can help reduce the discomfort of dry eyes and, in combination of smoking cessation, can reduce the risk of macular degeneration significantly. It may seem strange to suggest using sunglasses in Argyll. UltraViolet light is a significant risk factor for cataract, retinal damage and tumours of the eye. Because we are situated in an area of high UV light levels (it's reflected from the sea and the mountains) we really should wear protection in the form of sunglasses. Treat yourself to some polarised lenses and you will gain an additional benefit of seeing the many potholes present in our roads as well as protecting our eyes. The easiest way of ensuring maximum vision and healthy eyes is to have regular eye examinations. In Scotland adults are entitled to detailed eye examinations, funded by NHS Scotland, every two years.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
**Wallace Optometrists**  
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Morrison Construction, Argyll and Bute Council, hub

# new year, new you?



## Make a resolution that lasts

**N**EW YEAR'S day will have set in train for many the introduction of some rules and regulations. Known as resolutions these are acts of self improvement or a desire to start acting differently from New Year's Day. The traditions of resolutions start somewhere around the

time of the Babylonians more than 2000 years before Christ. At that time society's tradition was to return borrowed objects and pay off debts. In Roman times the year beginning in January - named after the god Janus - prayers were said for prosperity. By the Middle Ages knights took the Pea-

cock Vow at the end of the Christmas season to reaffirm their commitment to chivalry. Almost 50 per cent of the population make resolutions with 60 per cent of those people believing they will keep their oaths. However, recent research has shown that fewer than 20 per cent have kept resolutions for longer

than a month. One way to succeed is to take a little bit of help that is on offer. Leading psychologists tell us that those with the best chance of success for keeping resolutions are those who tell people about them and seek support. A 2007 study by Richard Wiseman from the University of Bristol

involving 3,000 people showed men achieved their goal 22 per cent more often when they engaged in goal setting. Setting small measurable goals such as, a pound a week, instead of saying lose weight, while women succeeded 10 per cent more when they made their goals public and got support from friends.

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In 2015 why not spend a week on Skye at Scotland's National Centre for Gaelic language & culture? Our courses include Gaelic language & song, traditional music, photography and exploring the history and culture of Skye. For Easter 2015, we will be running a special course for native speakers of any level who seek to improve their reading, writing and speaking skills. Some of our courses are shown here but for a full list and further information, please visit our website. Thigibh a chèilidh oirn!

**30/3/15 - 3/4/15**

Gàidhlig - Gaelic Levels: 1,3,5,7&9

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### Slimming World's eating plan gets a New Year makeover

FOR anyone looking to lose weight in 2015, Slimming World has streamlined its Extra Easy plan and a Slimming World Consultant from Oban says this means local slimmers will be able to achieve their New Year resolution with ease. Gillian MacCorquodale, who runs the Oban Slimming World group at Glencruitten Church Hall is excited about the changes. She says: 'The plan is now simpler to follow and members will find it even easier to get off to a great start with their weight loss.'

## Fèis Latharna

Traditional music tuition for children and young folk in Oban and Lorn. Traditional music lessons are held each Saturday during term time between 10am - 1pm in the Glencruitten Road Church Centre, Oban.

Please contact Ewen MacPherson (07733001283) or Janie Garvin (01631 563987)

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## Young driver disqualified

A YOUNG driver has been disqualified less than a year after receiving his licence after he tried to overtake two lorries and a car near an accident blackspot in Lochaber.

David Menzies, of Achindarroch in Duror, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving at Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, when the court heard another driver had to stop suddenly to avoid a collision as the 20-year-old tried to overtake the vehicles.

Fiscal deputy Fraser Matheson told the court Menzies had moved to the north carriageway, approximately one mile south of Fort William, when James Higgins had to brake sharply and veer to the side of the road to avoid Menzies car, causing bruising to himself and his passenger.

He added: 'Mr Higgins managed to stop what he thought

would be a collision but due to the speed of the vehicles a collision is what occurred between Mr Menzies and one of the lorries.' No serious damage or injuries were caused during the incident.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell said the supermarket worker put the accident down to 'bad judgement and lack of experience' as he had only passed his driving test four months before.

But sheriff Richard Davidson said growing up in Lochaber Menzies should be 'well aware' of the nature of the road.

He added: 'He will be familiar with the number of fatal accidents which occur between here and the Ballachulish bridge.'

'This is a serious matter and it's extremely fortunate that there were only minor injuries.'

Sheriff Davidson imposed a two year driving ban as well as a £1,250 fine.

## Fallen soliders remembered during Christmas day football game

FALLEN soldiers were remembered with a football game in Fort William on Christmas day, to recreate the festive truce of the first world war.

Members of the town's Royal British Legion Scotland branch gathered at the King George V park with family and friends for a minute's silence and a kick about as a reminder of the matches thought to have been played between troops on Christmas 1914.

REMEMBRANCE: Fort William's Royal British Legion Scotland branch arranged a commemorative football game



## Drink driver's five-year ban

A MALLAIG man has been told he must not get behind the wheel of a vehicle for five years after he drove a truck under the influence of alcohol and without a licence or insurance.

Allan Morrison, of Blaven View, was also ordered to pay £2,000 in fines when he was sentenced in Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, after being remanded in custody since December.

At a previous hearing, the

court heard the 38-year-old drove his tipper truck down the A830 in Mallaig, where he skidded on a roundabout and crashed into a bollard on the evening of December 4 2013.

Sheriff Richard Davidson told the accused: 'It is with some hesitation I'm prepared to deal with this financially but don't be in any doubt, if you come back here on a driving complaint you will be going to jail for a long time.'

## Mallaig school still closed

MALLAIG primary school and its adjoining nursery remained closed to all pupils as *The Oban Times* went to press.

The school was shut on December 18 as a safety measure for children due to structural damage on its chimney and has not re-opened since.

A spokeswoman from Highland Council said: 'Whilst an assessment of the necessary work has taken place over the holiday period, it has not been possible for this work to commence.'

'It is anticipated that the school will be closed for up to three to five days.'

'Highland Council regrets the inconvenience that this will cause for parents, carers and children, but the safety of pupils and staff is paramount.'

Parents are asked to check the council's school closure website [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures) and the school closures phone line on 0800 564 2272 PIN number 04 2560 for updates.

# New year honours for Skye music and Gaelic stalwarts



MBE: Ann Lampard



OBE: Arthur Cormack

TWO SKYE residents have been celebrated in the New Year Honours list.

Ann Lampard, of Scullamus in the south of the isle, was awarded an MBE for services to music, while Arthur Cormack, chief executive of Feisean nan Gaidheal, was made an OBE for his work in Gaelic education.

Ms Lampard, who was head of voice at the Junior Royal Academy of Music before setting up her own Song School on Skye, described the recognition as 'an amazing honour'.

She added: 'It's incredible that people doing ordinary jobs to the best of their ability are being recognised.'

'I find it very humbling that this kind of recognition can come because I get to do a job that I love every day.'

Mr Cormack's achievements

include winning a gold medal at the Royal National Mòd in 1983 and chairing Bord na Gaidhlig.

He said: 'Nothing I have ever done for Gaelic, or for traditional music, has been done in isolation but with lots of committed colleagues, paid and voluntary, and always a very supportive wife and family. I thank them all and hope they'll share this with me.'

Also appearing on the honours list this year is Harriet Dempster, Highland Council's former director of social work.

Ms Dempster received an OBE for services to child welfare, which include working as a practitioner, researcher and lecturer in a number of policy posts.

The social worker retired from the local authority in 2010, but continues to work with children's organisations.



FUN FOR ALL: High Street ceilidh organisers Isabel and Linda Campbell join the musicians

## Lochaber hits the right notes with Hogmanay celebrations

DESPITE rain and high winds, Lochaber residents enjoyed a successful new year's eve, from afternoon through to the bells.

A ceilidh in the town's High Street kicked off the celebrations, with entertainment from the Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band, Laura Robertson, Owen MacRaid, Lochaber Pipe Band, and Mòd gold medallist Robert Robertson to name a few.

Organiser Linda Campbell said: 'We all had a ball, it was a

great afternoon. It was a shame the weather was so awful but the singers and entertainment more than made up for it.'

In the evening, crowds flocked to Kilmallie Community Hall, Corpach, where the festivities were broadcast live by BBC Alba and Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band was among the list of performers.

Meanwhile, in the Nevis Centre, adults enjoyed the Fort William venue's first over 18 Hogmanay event, despite some

complaints about the ban on children. Organisers said a number of factors contributed to the decision not to host children, including unauthorised alcohol being discovered in previous years. Danny Conlon, assistant manager at the Nevis Centre, said: 'It's was a really good night with a great, chilled out, atmosphere. It different to what we've had in the past but we thought we would try it this way and we think it went well.'



ENTERTAINMENT: Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band led celebrations in Kilmallie Hall

### A82 overnight closures

McLaughlin & Harvey

Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui are scheduled to take place each night from **Monday 12th January to Thursday 15th January**.

**The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.**

Diversion routes between these hours will be northbound via the A83 at Tarbet, A819 and A85, and southbound via the A85 at Tyndrum, A819 and A83.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This is to allow essential work to be carried out safely on the A82 Pulpit Rock improvement project.

Closures can be subject to change, therefore please refer to the Transport Scotland website for the latest information:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a82-pulpit-rock>



### Mountain festival climbs to new heights say organisers

ORGANISERS of the Fort William Mountain Festival 2015 have promised their forthcoming event is 'an experience not to miss', with five days of films, guest speakers, workshops and exhibitions.

The Highland Mountain Culture Association is running the programme in various Lochaber venues from February 18 to 22.

Highlights include a 'padding night' in Fort William's Nevis Centre, where blind adventurer Dean 'Deano' Dunbar will talk about more than 80 watersports challenges he has competed in over 17 years.

Mountain climbers will be able to take part in training workshops at Kinlochleven's Ice Factor climbing centre, while winners will be announced for the Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture and, for the first time, the prize's junior category.

Mike Pescod, chairman of the Highland Mountain Culture Association, said: 'Celebrating the landscape that surrounds us in Fort William is the inspiration behind the mountain festival. It's not just for adventure addicts, anyone who appreciates the landscape will find something for them. It's guaranteed to inspire, entertain and educate.'

### Shock at memorial vandalism

VANDALISM to a war memorial at Glen Nevis visitor centre has left the group which erected it feeling 'shocked'.

The plaque, unveiled in memory of a World War Two Spitfire pilot who crash landed at the location, was found partially ripped off its mounting on Monday morning less than two years after it was put in place.

The police have been informed of the incident, which they believe took place sometime between November 12 2014 and January 5 this year and said they were investigating the incident. The Archaeological Society of Lochaber laid the monument at a special ceremony on May 16 2013.

Robert Cairns, chairman of the society, said: 'I'm just annoyed that someone has desecrated a war memorial.'

The memorial was placed in tribute to Canadian John McDonnell, who was flying for the Royal Air Force when he crashed on May 16 1947.

His body is now buried in Tomnahurich cemetery in Inverness.

### Kind Kath's old card appeal

A KIND-HEARTED Fort William woman is recycling Christmas cards for charity.

Kath Johnston turns old cards into gift tags to sell in British Heart Foundation shops, including the town's High Street store.

Last year, Mrs Johnston created more than 10,000 tags and raised £1,000 for the charity and has asked the people of Lochaber to donate their old cards for recycling.

Anyone wishing to donate can leave cards at the Alexandra Hotel reception, marked for Ken Johnston, or deliver them directly to 119 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore.

Mrs Johnston can be contacted on 01397 703689 or kathkenjohnston@aol.com.

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### THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS DOOR TO DOOR CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms were posted to various residential properties in Argyll & Bute during the months of October to December.

These forms required a response from either the householder or individual residents.

During the months of January and February canvassers will be visiting properties to collect forms from those households and individuals who have not yet made a return.

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A FORM AND NOT MADE A RETURN YOU MAY RECEIVE A VISIT FROM ONE OF OUR CANVASSERS.**

**IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN STILL USE ONE OF THE METHODS BELOW TO MAKE YOUR RETURN.**

Internet: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

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Further details of how to do this will be on the Form sent to you recently.

David C Thomson  
Electoral Registration Officer

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Cause for celebration

Cheers! That is the traditional salutation when raising a glass to toast a special occasion. The glass is filled with some form of alcohol beverage to mark the moment.

And the festive season's drink drive results are a genuine cause for celebration. Over a five-week campaign, Police Scotland reported that not one single driver had failed a breath test in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, despite extensive road checks.

This encouraging trend was reflected throughout Argyll with only eight people falling foul of the new drink drive limit introduced by the Scottish government at the beginning of December last year. Surely, this is something to which we can all raise a glass.

## Columnist calls it a day after 10 years

ASHE put down his Glasgow Letter pen for the final time. Oban Times columnist Neil Murray reflected on how the city's Gaelic community has changed.

For the past 10 years, Neil has been keeping readers up to date with the Highland and island associations and the Glasgow Gaelic social scene, including the rise of festivals such as Celtic Connections and Piping Live.

Raised in Partick by Gaelic speaking parents from Lewis, the 68-year-old also considered how attitudes towards the language have changed.

The former Eastbank Academy deputy head teacher, who lives in Jordanhill, said: 'Glasgow has changed so much since I was a boy in Partick.'

'There were huge Gaelic communities in the city but now the population of Gaelic speakers has spread.'

'I remember as a boy walking with my mother down Dumbarton Road and how it seemed to take ages because she would be blethering to folk in Gaelic.'

'People would laugh at you in Glasgow when you spoke Gaelic outwith that community but now it's trendy. You have a Gaelic school that takes in about 90 kids to primary one every year.'

Neil took on the column in 2004 after meeting then editor Stewart MacKenzie through shinty.

He set out to cover as many Glasgow functions where Gaelic and traditional music were the focus and, as he is quick to point out, he has never missed a week with his column - even during a three-week holiday in Canada.

Asked about his highlights, Neil refers to the rise of the Celtic Connections and Piping Live festivals, which are now major events on the Glasgow city calendar.

'Celtic Connections [held in January] started as something to go to after Christmas when folk are meant to be broke and miserable and we love it,' he said.

'I was writing about it in its early stages and no-one imagined it turning into the event it is today. All of a sudden, it is mega. I am looking forward to attending the festival without a notebook.'

'I have also enjoyed seeing people like Julie Fowlis coming through, from when she was a young girl with Dochas, and I have seen some great performances from Fred Morrison and Skipinnish.'

While there has been an explosion of young Gaels and traditional music in Glasgow's west end in recent times, Neil reflects on a dwindling attendance at some traditional ceilidhs in the city.

He added: 'The age profile at the association ceilidhs is a concern because the younger ones are not going. They are listening to bands in the pubs.'

Neil, a member of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir for 40 years, continues to sing with the choir alongside his wife, Catherine, who has been by his side at every gig, ceilidh or concert he has reported on.

He is also looking forward to following his beloved Partick Thistle on a Saturday.

A Glaswegian at heart, Neil says: 'Writing the Glasgow Letter I have had the opportunity to meet lots of nice people who make you proud to be from this part of the world.'



CHANGES: Neil Murray is standing down as Glasgow Letter columnist

I have had the opportunity to meet lots of nice people who make you proud to be from this part of the world

Neil Murray

### Your Letters

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

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

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

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

### Press Policy

WEATheObanTimesdoourutmosttomakesurethatallour reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



## Ready with the typewriter - 1985

This week's flashback photograph features former reporter Catherine Gillies pictured at the typewriter in The Oban Times office in 1985.

The offices of the newspaper were at that time in John Street, Oban. There were four editorial staff members employed in the town, namely Catherine, Lesley Menzies, Archie MacKenzie and editor Stewart Fairlie.

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  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Slow down when passing pedestrians

Sir  
May I use your letters page to make a plea to some cyclists who cycle at considerable speed on pavements/canal paths and single track roads.

The plea is for them to be more safety conscious, particularly when passing pedestrians who wish to share their enjoyment of these places.

If more cyclists had a bell or horn on their bicycles to warn pedestrians of their presence, that would be a help.

But like many cyclists, many pedestrians are wearing earphones so using a bell will not alert them to the cyclist's presence.

This is where cyclists need to use common sense. If the pedestrian doesn't appear to hear their bell or their call of warning, the cyclist should slow right down to walking pace or dismount, pass the pedestrian and then continue to cycle.

This would avert 'an accident waiting to happen'.

With the speed cyclists have passed me, giving me a fright as I was not aware of their presence till they went whizzing by me, I fear the accident will be of a serious nature.

Most of the cyclists who have gone whizzing by like this have had earphones in so I presume they are unaware just how quiet their cycles are to the pedestrians - even the ones like myself who do not wear earphones when walking.

I am not saying all cyclists behave in this way but enough of them do to make me write this letter. So, cyclists please slow down when passing pedestrians on our local walk-ways.

Betty MacLachlan, Spean Bridge.

### An Oban team fit for purpose

Sir,  
As we look forward to a new shinty season, last year's battle for the National Division title will still be fresh in the memories of Oban Camanachd and Fort William supporters.

Whilst disappointed with the result of the game versus Fort William, as a supporter of Oban Camanachd, I congratulate both teams on their display, which was a fine advert for shinty, played in a sporting manner and as good as any premier game or cup final played this season.

Such was the interest in the game, former Lochside player Billy MacLaughlan made the long journey from Manchester where he now resides to attend the

game. Those members of the Camanachd Association who were present must have been pleased with the setting; Mossfield Stadium looking its best bedecked in sunshine and one of the biggest crowds to attend a shinty match in Oban for years, all adding to the occasion.

Both teams are deserving of an opportunity of playing in the premier league voted in at Camanachd Association AGM, to increase the league from eight to 10 teams.

The game proved that Oban has a team fit for the purpose and shinty in Oban would benefit as would the premier league itself.

Finally, well done to the players' management team and committee of Oban Camanachd for steering the club in the right direction and for the magnanimous gesture of donating all proceeds of the gate monies to the Ryan McPhail Memorial Fund which does such good work for local clubs.

Nigel Evans, supporter of Oban Camanachd Club.

Change needed at CalMac  
Sir,  
With all the problems in recent months on the efficiency of ferries and general communications with

island people and their requirements, it is now clear Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) needs to transfer its main communications to Skye and Oban.

Oban should serve the southern areas and Skye the northern areas, with good communications between the two. It now remains to be seen if CalMac will see the maths and logic in doing this very practical and overdue move.

Angus Campbell, South Uist.

### Back small businesses

Sir,  
The economic recovery remains fragile and we must pull out all the stops to help businesses, especially small businesses, flourish and grow.

Let's start by reducing the heavy regulatory and tax burdens on small businesses. It's also time for the rates system to become more transparent, fair and relevant. The voice of small, local employers must also be heard in the debate about vocational education reform. Let's recognise our businesses are essential to the health of our communities and give them the support they deserve.

Rory MacKail, chairman, Argyll and Isles branch, Federation of Small Businesses.

### Islay Letter

#### Festive celebrations

THE FESTIVE season throughout the island has been marked with a series of events where the accent was on celebration.

With the arrival of Advent all local churches held a number of special services as a celebration of the holy birth in Bethlehem's stable. These included evenings of carol singing, a Christingle celebration, a festival of nine lessons and carols as well as watchnight services and carol singing in the local hospital and eventide home on Christmas morning.

An indoor ice rink attracted the crowds who enjoyed the fun and experienced a few falls in the process.

Christmas trees were evident in all the major villages and Frederick Crescent in Port Ellen sparkled with the lamp post Christmas lights arranged by the South Islay Development group which received generous sponsorship from local companies and supporters.

Churches and primary schools presented their Nativity offerings and primary school children also mounted their popular pantomimes which played to packed houses.

The New Year was welcomed with impressive fireworks displays at Port Charlotte and Bowmore and the colourful pyrotechnics drew gasps of admiration from the supporters attending both events. Augmenting

the Rhinns display was the local pipe band led by Pipe Major Nigel Morris.

The Bowmore display was financed by generous and civic-minded local residents and the generosity of the supporters saw more than £500 in donations shared between the Fire Brigade Benevolent Fund and the Islay hospital.

The bells of the Round Church greeted the New Year, piper Lindsay McArthur's selections reverberated along the village's main street and piping sisters Katie and Lucie MacNiven provided more music at the local harbour.

This led to the more energetic among the onlookers to dance their cares away in the village square. Ilich certainly know how to party!

#### Locum minister

RETIRED Church of Scotland minister the Rev Anne McIvor is acting as locum over the next few weeks in the vacant parishes of Kilarrow, linked with Kildalton and Oa and the isle of Jura.

She is no stranger to these parts having been the minister of the then linked parishes of Kilarrow and Kilmenny from 1996 to 2003.

She went on to minister at Law in Lanarkshire before returning to Argyll as minister of Gigha and Cara. This was her last charge and she is now spending her retirement in

her native Kintyre. During her island locumship she will be resident at the Kilarrow manse at Bowmore.

#### Choristers resume practises

AFTER a seasonal break Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, under the direction of Arlene McKerrell, resumes its weekly practises tonight (Thursday) in the Bowmore hall at 7pm.

The choristers are most keen to welcome new members to their ranks.

The ability to read music or speak fluent Gaelic will not be an issue as prospective choristers will receive help and support in these areas.

So, get singing and suas leis a Ghàidhlig!

#### Thanks

I AM MOST grateful to all who visited, phoned or wrote to me after being hospitalised following a viral infection and pneumonia.

I am now much improved although I have been advised not to consider walking the West Highland Way or scaling one of the Paps of Jura - for the time being!

Thanks again and a good New Year to you all.  
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.



## Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

A DH'AINDEOIN NA H-AIMSIRE agus dorchadas a' gheamhraidh, nuair a thèid a' Bhliadhnn' Ùr seachad tha an latha a' tòiseachadh ri fàs nas fhaide mar a bhiodh daoine bho shean daonnan mothachail.

Bha sin, agus gealltanais diomhair neo-aithnichte bliadhna ùr na mhìsneachadh dha feadhainn aig nach robh 's dòcha ach beatha gu math doirbh. Nach duilich na seann rannan agus abairtean Callainn, mar na cleachdaidhean, a bhith a' dol a' cuimhne agus a' sealladh.

Leithid latha na Seann Bhliadhnn' Ùire, air an treas latha deug den Fhaoilleach. Tha mòran fhathast a' chuireas beannachd bliadhnn' ùire ort chun an treas latha deug, ach an dèidh sin a' chanas gum bheil i a' fas ro shean!

Bha cuid de na cleachdaidhean annasach, agus theagamh gur math gum bheil iad air a' dhol às! Latha na Seann Bhliadhnn' Ùire ann an 1951 chlàr Calum MacIllEathain iomradh bho Iain Dòmhnallach air cleachdadh a bh' aca ann an Lochabar. 'Chan fhaigheadh duine a-staigh do thaigh mur a gabhadh e rann aig an doras. Bhiodh an duine air cùl an dorais agus theireadh e riutha: 'Gabh do rann ma fàigh thu a-staigh' agus badan de chuilleann aige.

Is a h-uile duine mar a bha e a' gabhail an rann is a' dol a-staigh, bha e ga bhuailadh air sna luirghean, agus mar a' tigeadh fuil às theireadh iad: 'Cha bhì an duine ad fada beò.'

Cha toir drip ràith na Nollaige is Bliadhnn' Ùr fada a' dol seachad, ged a' mhaireas cuimhne air ùrachadh eòlais le càirdean is caraidean le ionndrainn. Chan eil san ionndrainn sin ach pàirt beag de mhathair-adhbhar an dubhachais a bhios mòran a' fulang toiseach gach bliadhna nuair a tha an aimsir dualach a' bhith dona agus na h-oidhcheannan fada.

Agus dha daoine a' fuireach leotha fhèin 's e fìor dhroch chompanach a th' ann an aonrachd! Sin a bu chuireadh gun robh mi a' cur nur cuimhne air an t-seachdain seo chaidh tadhal air nàbaidhean a dh'fhaodadh a bhith leotha fhèin, ach 's e fìrinn na cùise gum bheil feum aig daoine air taic is càirdeas fad na bliadhna agus nach bu mhat an t-amas Bliadhnn' Ùire leithid sin de cheanglaichean a chumail ri nàbaidhean!

Chan eil nàire sam bith orm a bhith a' toirt tarraing gu tric air nàbaidh anns a' chòilbh seo oir tha mi a' creidsinn gu làidir gum bheil bun agus leigheas air aimhreit ann an conaltradh agus càirdeas eadar daoine, agus far nach bi còmhraidh cha bhì aonta neo sith.

Dìreach dà mholadh bhuamsa ma-tà airson na bliadhna seo, càirdeas agus conaltradh le nàbaidhean agus thig coigrich gu bhith nan eòlaich cuideachd!

NEW YEAR resolutions come and go because they demand self-discipline.

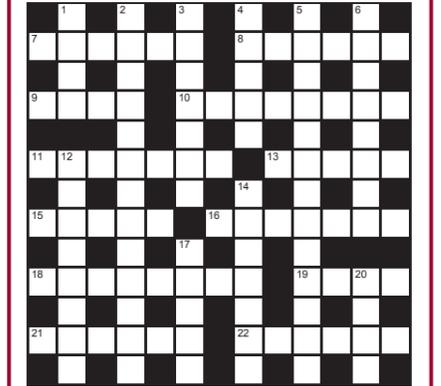
Last week I suggested that you call and support lonely neighbours, and I now propose that you make a continuing commitment to all neighbours.

In the words of the old song, 'a stranger's just a friend you do not know!'

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

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## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Across                      | Down  |
| 7 Force (6)                 | 1 Green fruit (4)                                       |
| 8 Type of talk? (6)         | 2 Man of law (6,7)                                      |
| 9 LP player (2-2)           | 3 Foreshadown (7)                                       |
| 10 Uniformity (8)           | 4 Foam (5)  |
| 11 Benefits of a merger (7) | 5 Game of catching (9,4)                                |
| 13 Spread (5)               | 6 Aubergine dish (8)                                    |
| 15 Drink heartily (5)       | 12 Childlike (8)  |
| 16 Soft squidgy seat (7)    | 14 Animal with a white tail also a Canadian river (3,4) |
| 18 Used to be Siam (8)      | 17 Cover with colour (5)                                |
| 19 Fail miserably (4)       | 20 American shopping centre (4)                         |
| 21 Deep dish (6)            |   |
| 22 Wrap up (6)              |   |

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Crackin Craic

All photos by Stephen Lawson

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One of the winners of Hogmanay in Oban, Nicky MacInnes, plays to the crowd



Oban's answer to One Direction - The Works



A good crowd turned out to enjoy all the acts at Hogmanay

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<b>Paddington</b>	Sat, Sun	12:30
<b>Taken 3</b>	Fri, Sat, Sun Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu	15:30, 18:10, 20:40 18:10, 20:40
<b>The Theory of Everything</b>	Fri, Sat, Sun Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu	17:50, 20:30 15:30, 17:50, 20:30
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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

<p><b>INVERARAY ACCORDION AND FIDDLE CLUB</b> Argyll Hotel, Inveraray <b>Wednesday 14th January at 8.00pm</b> Guest Artists Friends from Taynuilt Old New Year Ceilidh Supporting players most welcome</p>	<p><b>HOME-START LORN BURNS SUPPER SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY</b> IN THE WATERFRONT RESTAURANT, OBAN 6.30P.M. FOR 7.00 P.M. TICKETS £15.00 includes Supper and Entertainment <b>Contact: Aileen Binner on 01631 566749</b></p>	<p><b>Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.21 (plus VAT)</b> This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page Please ask for details</p>
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Ceol An Aire with lead singer Malcolm Kerr, centre

# 'Excellent' second Hogmanay as organisers bow out

HOGMANAY in Oban was, for the second year running, a spectacular event with more than 3,000 people taking part over the evening.

**Fantastic acts**  
There were a whole host of fantastic acts performing during the course of the evening including The Works, Crackin Craic, Ceol An Aire, Charlotte Lawson, Ballet West Outreach, Nicky MacInnes and Perfectly Flawed, as well as the headline act Brian Hughes and His Band.

The inclement weather did not seem to deter

visitors, from as far away as the USA and China, taking part in the event.

Organisers said it was a good event with a peaceful crowd.

A spokesman said: 'It was a great atmosphere with everyone enjoying themselves.'

'More than 400 tickets were given to people from outside the town.'

'We would like to say a big thank you to all the sponsors which were local businesses which gave of their own money to make the show happen. We are also indebted to the

funders who supported the event.

'We have had two years of good fun organising the event. But it is now time for someone else to take on the job of organising the event for future years.'

BID4Oban chairman Graeme Bass praised organisers. He said: 'The weather smiled upon us. Hogmanay in Oban brought a real buzz to the town with people still looking for spare tickets for the show right up until the last minute.'

'The party spirit in

the town lasted well into the night.

'I'd like to thank the organisers for all their work in putting on the event. It certainly puts the town on the map every year.'

**No trouble**  
Police sergeant Alan Moore said: 'There were more than 2,000 people at the Hogmanay event in the Corran Halls car park and no criminal incidents recorded.'

'It was a well attended event and a credit to the community that everyone was well behaved.'

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

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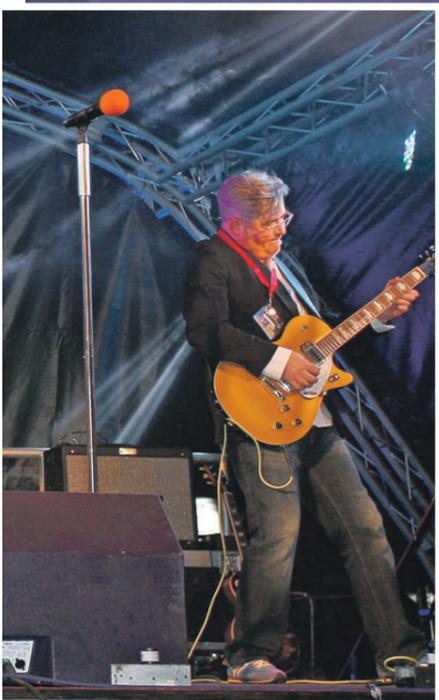
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Oban's young hopefuls, Perfectly Flawed, show off their talents to the crowd



Oban's rock god Colin MacNiven hits the high notes with band The Works



Oban high school pupil Charlotte Lawson showed off her big voice

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**THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS**

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

**TUESDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are

Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

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

& Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

**THURSDAY:**  
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100, Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

**FRIDAY:**  
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie

Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn

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

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



# Review of the Year 2014

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



Linzi and baby Georgia 16\_131baby01

## Baby born on Easdale for the first time in 80 years

A BABY was born on the island of Easdale for the first time in 80 years in July.

Georgia Grace Monro made a quick appearance after her parents, Linzi Ferguson and Dave Monro, were leaving the house for Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban.

Linzi went into labour at 9am on July 22 as the couple reached their front door. Dave sent for their neighbour, Dr Doerte Pfuetzner and soon after a midwife, paramedics from Oban and two air ambulance paramedics joined them in the tiny living room.

After Georgia was born, three hours later, Linzi was taken to Paisley for post-natal checks. 16\_131baby01



July

## Games baton changes hands in Argyll

There was a fitting handover of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton at Oban's McCaig's Tower, as Kyle Dods, a Commonwealth Games competitor from Delhi in 2010, passed the relay baton to aspiring athlete Ben Coates. The 15-year-old athlete has won Scottish junior titles in sprint hurdles and has ambitions to compete at a future Commonwealth Games. The baton came to Argyll on Sunday, July 13 and was taken on a 175-mile route from Appin to Dunoon 16\_129baton03

## Former Celtic star marks cancer battle fifth anniversary with final Nevis trek

FORMER footballer John Hartson brought 120 supporters - dubbed Hartson's heroes - to Fort William to tackle Ben Nevis in July.

The 39-year-old and his wife Sarah, from Spean Bridge, led the Brave Hart Ben Nevis Challenge to mark the fifth anniversary of John's cancer battle and raise funds for his cancer charity, The John Hartson Foundation.

The couple - who had celebrated the birth of their third daughter Paige Faith - are regular visitors to the area, home of Sarah's parents Katherine and James McManus.

The ex-Celtic Football Club star spent a lot of time in Spean Bridge as he recovered from his

gruelling treatment for testicular cancer, which had spread to his lungs and brain, in 2009.

Inspired by the beautiful Highland landscape, he pledged to scale Ben Nevis when he was well.

On July 14 2010 - exactly a year after he was fighting for life and on his daughter Lina's second birthday - John made his dream come true and completed the first Brave Hart Challenge, with 70 supporters, raising thousands of pounds for his charity foundation.

The walk was followed by a party in the Nevis Centre to thank everyone in the area for their support while raising more vital funds for the work

of the foundation. John, who also starred for Arsenal, West Ham and Wales, said: 'I'd like to thank our wonderful supporters who travelled from all over the UK to join us and complete this amazing achievement which has raised thousands of pounds to help people who have cancer and their families.'

'I've been up Ben Nevis four times now and it doesn't get any easier.'

'So I'm full of admiration for all these inspirational people who have done it with me.'

'While I've enjoyed each time and loved meeting everyone, next year we're looking for a new challenge which we hope will appeal to even more people.'



John Hartson and his wife Sarah, who is originally from Spean Bridge, before setting out on the fifth Brave Hart Ben Nevis Challenge for the last time as they are to take up a new challenge this year



## Jim Murphy gets on his soapbox in Oban

Scottish Labour leader Jim Murphy was in fighting mood in Oban on July 4. The political heavyweight, who was chosen as Scottish Labour leader in December, stood on a makeshift soapbox at Oban railway pier to mount a robust defence for the Better Together campaign as the independence vote loomed on the horizon. He drew heavily on his parliamentary ringcraft as passers-by landed a few telling questions about independence 07\_128murphy08



MacPhee & Partners staff before climbing Ben Nevis with weatherman Sean Batty, centre

## TV weatherman and Fort staff raise cash for appeal

STAFF at the Fort William branch of an estate agency and law firm joined popular weatherman Sean Batty on a charity climb of Ben Nevis.

The MacPhee & Partners team embarked on the challenge with the TV personality as part of the STV Appeal and raised £850 for children in poverty.

Amanda Meikle from MacPhees said: 'It was really good. We had a nice day for it and the STV crew were great company.'

'Sean had been spending time with some of the junior shinty players first thing in the morning before the climb and he seemed like a really nice guy.'



## Crackdown on overloaded island delivery vehicles

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) put the brakes on an age-old practice of overloading island bound delivery vehicles, on July 1, after receiving complaints from other haulage companies.

CalMac tightened up procedures on vehicles classed as 'light goods vans' and, by weighing them before boarding, those exceeding the 3.5-tonne limit were turned away with the threat of police action.

Hauliers revealed to *The Oban Times* that breaching the limit had previously gone unchecked and unpunished.

They claimed it has been common practice, which enabled them to carry more essential merchandise to the islands.

Traffic waiting to board CalMac ferries in Oban formed large queues after the company tightened up procedures for weighing vehicles before boarding. 16\_127calmac01



The statue of Skye Terriers was unveiled at Armadale Castle by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne. The statue was made by Georgie Welsh, a Wiltshire-based artist

## Princess Royal unveils Skye terrier statue

SKYE terriers were out in their biggest number to witness the Princess Royal unveil a statue of their breed at Armadale Castle.

The largest gathering of Skye Terriers for many years met at Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye to witness the unveiling of a statue to this very rare

breed by HRH The Princess Royal. Apty named The Homecoming the unveiling of the statue of two life-size Skye Terriers was witnessed by more than 40 of the 'wee dug's' and their owners, who had travelled from as far away as the USA to join in the celebration of the breed in its native homeland.

## Sheep race fun at town's refurbished Cameron Square

SHEEP with teddy bear jockeys racing down Fort William High Street ensured the first event at the newly refurbished Cameron Square was one that wouldn't be forgotten.

Visitors thought the locals were 'baa'arking mad at the charity event organised by the Lochaber Rural Education Trust - the first to make use of the square which coincided with the official opening and raised more than £2,000.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of the Lochaber area committee, declared Cameron Square open before the first of six much-anticipated sheep races began.

The day's festivities also featured a children's fancy dress parade, face painting and performances from Lochaber Pipe Band and Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band.



Crowds lined the High Street to watch Fort William's first sheep race 20\_127square04



# Review of the Year 2014

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



## August

### Teenager takes centre stage at tattoo

A talented Lochaber teenager took centre stage at last year's Highland Military Tattoo. Sandy Watson, 17, of Roy Bridge, was chosen as the lone piper for the Fort George event, which returned to the region after a three-year absence as part of Homecoming Scotland 2014.



Allan and Tanya Ross with the prize winners of the Harris Ross Texas Scramble in aid of their son at Fort William Golf Club

### Star for Harris charity still on course to raise vital funds

A TEXAS Scramble golf match raised more than £6,500 and showed the continuing support for an infant who lost his battle with cancer. Alan and Tanya Ross set up the Star for Harris charity and have gone on to do incredible work alerting parents to the early signs of cancer. To date, their fundraising has seen more than two million cards, giving information on the early signs of cancer, delivered to families. Tanya, a school teacher, said: 'The charity is about getting an early diagnosis for childhood cancers and making sure children and parents who are in hospital are as comfortable as possible.'



### Oban high school pupils make the grade

Oban high school students were among 140,000 across Scotland who received their exam results in August. It was good news for Oban pupils, pictured from left, Emma Storr, Alasdair Jordan and Kyle McKechnie, who were jumping for joy after getting the grades they needed to get into university.



### Trunk road revamp promised

A MILLION-pound investment to restore a stretch of the A82 severely damaged by a landslide almost three years ago was announced.

Temporary traffic lights had been in operation at Glen Gloy, near Spean Bridge, since the slip damaged the riverbank supporting the road in November 2011.

Transport Scotland had been trying to find a way to repair the road without shutting it completely and in August was ready to appoint a contractor with work expected to start early in 2015.

As well as repairing the riverbank, the 300-metre stretch is to be realigned to take away two bends on the narrow road.



### Care home staff scale Ben Nevis for funds

Staff of a Lochaber care home took on Ben Nevis to raise money for a new sensory garden. The Invernevis House team made the climb, raising around £1,000

### Colonsay water shortage makes a splash worldwide

A WATER shortage on Colonsay splashed worldwide, after a charity ice bucket challenge cut off the island's water supply.

The island's 135 residents were swept away in a tidal wave of publicity, with the news reported in online sources in the United States, Australia and the Far East amongst other countries.

The challenge involved people having buckets of cold water poured over them and nominating others to do the same, as well as making a donation to a

charity of their choice. Colonsay, which is just eight miles long, has a mechanism in place where the water system cuts out to stop wastage and then has to be reset manually, which happened on Saturday, August 27. Following the reports in the national press, the story went global, with a family from the island commenting on Facebook to say that they arrived in Hong Kong for a holiday to find the news reported in a local newspaper there.

### Islay's 'Not the WRI' pledges to carry on

A REDOUBTABLE Women's Rural Institute (WRI) group on Islay vowed to carry on after being closed down by the first male leader in the national organisation's history.

In an act of defiance, the group labelled themselves 'Not the WRI,' continuing to hold their meetings despite losing their official status as an SWRI. The Rhinns institute, a member of

the Scottish Women's Rural Institute Federation of Islay, was established in 1940 in the village of Portnahaven but was forced to close when the Islay federation was disbanded by SWRI boss Raymond Pratt. Group member Marjory Lewis said: 'Staying together is a testament to the community spirit in Portnahaven. We didn't just sit back and do nothing.'



The Jacobites make their way from Spean Bridge Commando Memorial to Highbridge

### Jacobite 'troops' bring battle back to life

JACOBITE 'troops' brought to life one of the first battles of the 1745 uprising at Highbridge near Spean Bridge.

Crowds of tourists gathered to take photos and watch as Na Fir Dileas (The Loyal Men) set off from the Commando Memorial in full garb, for the half a mile walk to the now-ruined bridge.

Highbridge was the scene of a famous ploy when a group of just 12 clansmen tricked a party of 85 government troops into believing they were surrounded on August 16 1745.

The redcoats surrendered after the clansmen darted from tree to tree to give the impression they were a sizeable band.





# Review of the Year 2014

The Oban Times  
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## GP sets Ben race record

GP FINLAY Wild, left, became the first athlete to win the Ben Nevis Race five times in a row. The runner was just 13 seconds ahead of his closest rival as the crowd cheered him to the end after completing the 10-mile challenge in one hour, 34 minutes and 43 seconds. Looking remarkably fresh at the Claggan Park finish line, Wild said: 'It was hard going up and a couple of boys had quite a lead for a while. I was quite a bit slower than last year, I haven't been on top form recently but I've won it five years in a row now so I've got that record and I'm really pleased about that.'



## New St Columba's head teacher

A former Oban pupil, whose first teaching post was at St Columba's primary, returned to the school as head teacher. Michaelina Maclellan, 30, who lives in Dunbeg, began her career at the old St Columba's campus on Glencruitten road in Oban, before teaching at Rockfield primary for seven years. Speaking to The Oban Times in September, Miss Maclellan said she was very impressed with the staff and pupils at the school and planned to be there long-term.



Oban man Hector Macdonald was forced to push the boat out, after flooding left his work lorry trapped in Glencruitten road, taking a speedboat out for a paddle along Lochavullin road.

## September and October

## Pensioner rebuilds shop



Kellie Cooper and Claire MacAlpin were honoured at the Law Awards of Scotland.

## Lochaber duo's law awards

TWO LOCHABER women were honoured with law awards, winning against competitors from across the country. Claire MacAlpin and Kellie Cooper, both of Fort William based legal firm MacPhee and Partners, won titles at the Law Awards of Scotland in Glasgow, being recognised for their talent and hard work over staff of major national firms. Miss MacAlpin, from Onich, won trainee of the year for her work in family, civil and employment law while Mrs Cooper, from Glencoe, said she was 'absolutely delighted' to be named paralegal of the year at the ceremony, after joining the company in 2006 as a trainee executive assistant with no previous legal experience.

## Shoppers' concern over street cyclists

THE DECISION to allow cyclists to ride their bikes on Fort William High Street has been branded 'an accident waiting to happen' by shoppers. A traffic order came into force on Monday September 1 allowing cyclists to use the street, which has been pedestrianised since 1995, but some locals say it will be dangerous for children and the elderly, particularly during the busy summer months. One Fort resident, Betty Liddell, said: 'I think it's ridiculous. There's lots of kids about and they could easily be knocked down by the bikes. I wouldn't have it at all if it was up to me.'

A council spokeswoman said the decision was made 'as part of an ongoing plan to revitalise the town centre.'

## Pitch agony for shinty referee

THE LIFE of a shinty referee can be a pain at times - but nothing like the agony suffered by Robert Baxter in Oban in October. The 43-year-old whistler from Dunoon took a hit to a delicate area of the groin early in the second half of a crucial league decider between Oban Camanachd and Fort William. As the referee lay motionless on the ground on the Mossfield turf, the mirth turned into genuine concern for his welfare. Mr Baxter, who works for AJG Parcels and is originally from Tighnabruach, said the pain was 'unbearable' and that he would be reinvesting in a cup for protection.

A PENSIONER is using his life savings and spending his retirement rebuilding a lifeline shop for Ardnamurchan. Allan MacGillivray, 71, bought the Acharacle Community Store 29 years ago but when he passed it on to his daughter Wendy Burgess and her husband David in 2010, rather than take it easy, he promised he would build new shop to replace the 50-year-old crumbling building, which serves the whole peninsula. But as the determined grandfather's applications for grants were rejected he decided to dig into his own hard-earned savings for the £70,000 plan and do most of the labour himself to keep costs down. Mr MacGillivray said: 'The shop is not big enough for purpose. I've expanded it over the years and done some work on it but its time has come. We need a new one.'



Allan MacGillivray, 71, is building and paying for a new shop from his life savings.

## West Highland flood chaos

TORRENTIAL rain brought havoc to the West Highlands in October with landslides, road closures and rivers bursting their banks. Oban's major retail park and industrial estate were submerged in several feet of water on October 28, when high tides and overflowing drains flooded Lochavullin Road and the adjacent Lochavullin free car park. Flood water lapped against the windows of stricken cars.



Tree trunks blocked the A82 as water poured down the hillside at Glenrich.

## Landslips block main road

LOCHABER'S A82 trunk road was closed for more than 24 hours from October 26 to October 27 when torrential rain caused two landslips at Corrychurachan, five miles south of Fort William. The incident left 60 people trapped for five hours though no-one was injured. A number of vehicles were blocked between the slips which were half a mile apart and those who weren't stuck faced a diversion of 161 miles to get in and out of Fort William. Fort William and Ardnamurchan area inspector Donald Campbell said the people trapped had 'good spirit and patience' while engineers from BEAR Scotland and the Forestry Commission cleared the blockage but even after the road re-opened it was to single file traffic because of concerns about damage on the Corrychurachan Bridge.



Lochside's youngest and oldest pupils, Aaron MacLellan and Shannon Gall about to bury the school's 50th anniversary time capsule.

## School's golden milestone

PAST and current pupils of a Fort William primary school celebrated 50 years of learning with a special ceremony. Children, staff and parents gathered at Lochside RC primary school to mark the golden anniversary which featured a mass, time capsule and balloon release. The morning mass of thanksgiving included readings from Monsignor James MacNeil, father Roddy McAulay and father Michael MacDonald. Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy also made a speech as he was one of the first pupils at Lochside.



First home, Rob Friel, at the end of Tour de Ben Nevis with second place Ewan Thorburn.

## Bike race record smashed

MORE than 300 bikers from across Britain gathered in Lochaber for the sixth annual Tour de Ben Nevis and Rob Friel smashed last year's record with 10 minutes to spare. The Nottingham man conquered the 72km circumnavigation of Ben Nevis in three hours and 19 minutes last Saturday, cycling from the start point on Fort William High Street to Kinlochleven and Nevis Range. Local rider Ewan Thorburn, Fort William was second to finish in three hours, 21 minutes and 40 seconds and Roslynn Newman from Kinlochleven was first lady home in five hours, 11 minutes and 34 seconds.



James Whyte, Barna Tot and Sean Grant celebrate Fort's first victory in nearly a year.

## Fort FC celebrate first win of the year

FORT William FC boss Calum MacLean promised his team 'won't finish bottom' of the Highland League this season, following their first victory in 11 months. In a sensational 4-3 win over Lossiemouth at Claggan Park, Sean Grant's winner in the dying minutes secured all three points following two earlier strikes from Gordy McCarroll and one from Andrew Hardwick, in a result which pulled Fort off the foot of the table. After the game MacLean, said: 'I was absolutely delighted with the character and resilience my team showed. 'To come from behind twice and then fight back from Lossie's late equaliser showed the great team spirit we now have.'

Andrew Hardwick, in a result which pulled Fort off the foot of the table. After the game MacLean, said: 'I was absolutely delighted with the character and resilience my team showed. 'To come from behind twice and then fight back from Lossie's late equaliser showed the great team spirit we now have.'

## Quick efforts avert disaster

A MAJOR fire at a Fort William sawmill in early October was prevented thanks to the efforts of emergency services and a safety visit to the site by firemen just three weeks before. Two fire engines from the town station were sent to Corpach when a 15-ton machine at BSW Timber, one of the largest timber yards in Europe, went up in flames. The 'quick efforts' of Fort

William fire crews meant the blaze was put out before it caught hundreds of tonnes of wood chip nearby. Luckily, fire service group manager Pat McElhinney and watch manager Chris Findlay had recently been on a safety visit to BSW Timber which meant they were well versed on the location of water supplies at the site, as well as potential risks and hazards.



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Ferguson Transport and Shipping was named Scotland's environmental haulier of the year. From left: Comedian Des Clarke, managing director of Ferguson's Alasdair Ferguson, sales manager Derek Howie and TV presenter Mary Rhodes

## Ferguson Transport wins national haulier award

A FAMILY-RUN haulage company in Lochaber has won a national award for making the business as energy efficient as possible. Ferguson Transport and Shipping was named Scotland's environmental haulier of the year at the Scottish Transport News awards in Glasgow early in November, for efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the company's road, rail and sea vehicles including preventing idling and

reducing the number of vehicles travelling empty. Alasdair Ferguson, managing director of Ferguson's, said: 'We are delighted to be recognised in this way and receive this very prestigious transport industry award. This reward is a great credit to our directors and employees in appreciation of their forward thinking, planning and for current and future investments that we are making within the industry.'



## Oban chocolate shop in European top 10

Forget Paris, London and Rome; Oban is home to one of Europe's best chocolate shops, according to travel website GoEuro. The Oban Chocolate Company was listed in a European top 10 of chocolate shops in December, an accolade that shocked owner Helen MacKechnie (pictured), who has been running the business with husband Stewart for 11 years. 'It took a while to sink in,' she said. 'We are the only business listed from the UK. There are lots of great chocolate shops in the UK now, so just to be recognised at a national level would have been amazing.'



John Grieve has retired as leader of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, but is far from being a man of leisure, as he is staying on as a volunteer

## Rescue team leader retires

THE LEADER of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team (GMRT) has retired from his position, but will remain a fully active 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 such as climbing and hiking accidents. 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. 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.'



Mark Haldenby, back row, second from left, with his family and friends who helped to organise the fundraising day at Caol community centre 20\_148strongman01

## Lochaber unites to support strongman

HUNDREDS of people from Lochaber united to support a local strongman battling a rare form of cancer.

A special event held at Caol community centre saw the public raise more than £3,000 for Mark Haldenby, who was diagnosed

with Hodgkin's Lymphoma two years ago and was due to undergo a stem cell transplant in his fight to beat the disease.

Other athletes in the area, led by Stuart Whyte from Fort William, organised the event to raise money for Mark and his family,

featuring a 14-man strongman contest, food and drink stalls, music, a raffle and auction.

Mark said: 'My treatment has been hard but I've got a beautiful family and great mates who have been backing me. 'It's just one big family.'



Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team's Dougie Gibson with the young deer hind he rescued

## Kind Dougie rescues deer

A KIND-HEARTED volunteer took time out of his day job to rescue a deer caught in a fence near Morar.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team's Dougie Gibson helped to free the young hind's hoof after

coming across it close to where he was working on an engineering project.

Mr Gibson then helped to calm the animal down before it ran happily up the hills without any serious injury.



Lochaber Phoenix boxers before this year's home show

## Boxers turn on the style at club show

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club hosted an explosive home show at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, with victories from both juniors and seniors.

A spokesman from the club said on the night: 'We're obviously delighted with our boxers' performance but would love to thank the huge number of

people who came to support our club. Everyone's enthusiasm in cheering our boxers on and supporting them really creates a great atmosphere.'



'STATION Staffy' Angus was giving it big licks with his owner Liz Gaffney on his safe return to Dalmally railway station after a Facebook campaign was launched to track down the missing pooch. Liz Gaffney and co-owner Graham Waites suspected their pet was 'dognapped' from his home at the station. Liz and Graeme adopted Angus after his owner was killed in a motorcycle accident. After going missing on Tuesday, November 11 and following a campaign on Facebook, he turned up near their home in 'suspicious circumstances' on November 16. 16\_147dog01

## November and December



## Not just any old rag

The Oban Times proved it is not just any old rag when it was awarded the Fasanta Design Award for 2014. Staff members, left to right, reporter Louise Lee, reporter Steven Rae and production assistant Eilidh Orr modelled outfits on the festival's community catwalk on Saturday November 2. The models made the outfits themselves, with a little extra help from work colleagues and family members. Each item was made from Oban Times newspapers and was either woven, pleated, decoupaged, scrunched and tuiled into shape. 16\_145obantimes1



## Festive cheer for tenants of 40 new Oban homes

Residents of 40 new houses in Oban, who were given the keys to their new homes in December, described it as a great early Christmas present. Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) completed the new homes, a mixture of one and two-bedroom flats and terraced houses, for rent in the Glenshellach area of Oban. The £5 million development, called Catalina Avenue, was funded by grants from the Scottish government, Argyll and Bute council and ACHA. Pictured are ACHA chairman Keith Brown, councillor Roddy McCuish, ACHA residents Mary MacIntyre and son Izyan Khan and ACHA chief executive Alistair MacGregor at the opening. 16\_149ach01



A DISABLED Oban woman praised a 'Christmas guardian angel' who came to her rescue when her electric wheelchair cut out while she was crossing the town's busy Soroba Road. Teresa Russell, 66, was crossing the road at the traffic lights by Oban high school at 9.30am on December 17 on her way to her voluntary 'meet and greet' job at Lorn and Islands hospital. Suddenly, her wheelchair lost power, leaving her stranded in the middle of the road and panicking when it began to roll towards oncoming traffic. She wanted to trace the mystery man in an effort to thank him for his kind actions. 15\_152teres01



## Tesco Oban boosts playpark fundraisers

Fundraisers for the new Oban community playpark were seeking input to the final design of the first and second stage after securing a major grant of more than £85,000. Friends of Oban Community Playpark were seeking opinions on the final design of the adventure play area for five to 15-year-olds and an upgrade of the garden. But the eight-week build must be finished by summer 2015 to meet the criteria of the Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund, which granted £85,725. Tesco Oban store manager Kenny McCallum and staff handed over the cheque to young Oban community playpark supporters Alex Elliott and Erik Turnewitsch on Saturday November 23. 16\_148tesco1

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## New NFUS food policy manager has farming in the blood

THE NATIONAL Farmer's Union Scotland (NFUS) has appointed a Kintyre farmer's son as its new food policy manager.

John Armour, whose family farms near Campbeltown, joins the team in the full-time permanent post as part of the union's influential policy team.

In the past 18 months, the role has been developed and John will continue the good work already done in this field by Kylie Barclay, who has moved on to pastures new.

John, 23, said: 'It is a great privilege to be joining the union. Growing up on a dairy farm has meant that I've always had a direct tie to NFUS and I value the important work done to improve the lives and business opportunities available to Scottish farmers.'

'After studying International Politics at university this is a fantastic opportunity for me which utilises a skillset I've developed through the combination of university study and hands-on farming experience.'

'My specific remit of representing our members' interests in supply chain and food retail discussions is a thrilling prospect and I look forward to grappling with the key issues affecting the supply chain, and to working with everyone at NFUS to effect positive change to benefit the whole of the Scottish agricultural community.'

NFUS chief executive Scott Walker said: 'John will continue to build on



John Armour, NFUS food policy manager

the success of his predecessor in being an active advocate for the farming industry in the supply chain. Ensuring that the country's farmer's voices are heard in a rapidly changing retailer environment is critical.

'It is important that we press for fair contracts and fair prices in the domestic market and look to maximise export market opportunities.'

'Assisting our chicken members as the industry goes through restructuring; securing a cereal summit to look at bringing new malting capacity to Scotland in order to increase the local demand for our barley and tempting Scottish shoppers with fresh, tasty Scotch lamb at 12 venues around the country were but three of our food policy actions last year.'

# Crofting generates millions for Scottish economy, says report

AN estimated £86 million was generated by Scottish crofts over 12 months, according to a Scottish government report, which translates to £17.7 million in total income once costs are deducted.

The Economic Condition of Crofting 2011-2014, published last month, is the first report to estimate the revenue generated by crofting following the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

It estimated that the average revenue per household was around £4,900 for an average 11.7 hours of work a week which, once average business costs of £3,900 (excluding

any land and housing liabilities) were deducted, was an average £1,000 a week.

Scotland's crofting minister Aileen McLeod said: 'The picture overall is positive, with the number of active crofts rising and crofting making a significant contribution to the Scottish economy.'

The report indicated that crofting businesses that had chosen to diversify received a significant portion of their income from other activities and the most common, around half, ran a B&B.

Being brought up in a crofting family was the most fre-

quently cited reason (68 per cent) for going into crofting but other reasons included a family croft becoming available (37 per cent) and the crofting lifestyle (33 per cent) being the attraction.

More than 150 new crofts were created between 2011 and 2014 but there was concern that households had an older age profile compared to all households in the crofting counties or Scotland as a whole.

A third of all adults in crofting households were over the age of 65, compared to 25 per cent of adults in all households in the crofting

counties or 21 per cent for Scotland.

'The big challenge for crofting that is highlighted in this report is the need to attract more new entrants and young people,' said Ms McLeod.

'It is vital that everyone with an interest in crofting works together to achieve this, to safeguard the future of crofting and ensure it thrives in the years to come.'

There was also a view among respondents to a survey, by SAC as part of the report, reflecting the views of crofters and wider stakeholders about the main challenges within crofting, that there was an

issue with the number of inactive resident tenants who were reluctant to release land to a new or active crofter.

There was a fear of losing a croft and a reluctance to relinquish tenancies in case the next generation of a family wished to return to work the croft, a feeling that was particularly strong where crofts had been held by the same family for many years.

While measures taken by the Crofting Commission to tackle absenteeism were seen as having a positive impact, it was too early to tell how much of an impact the 2010 Act had had.

# Auctioneer appoints new directors



United Auction's new directors

UNITED Auctions has appointed six new directors as part of its succession planning.

The livestock auctioneer company has promoted auctioneers David Brown, George Purves, John Roberts, Matt Stevenson and Donald Young to group sales directors while Christopher Sharp becomes administration director.

The new team of directors will have a greater role and responsibility in shaping and achieving the strategic objectives of the company.

Along with Donald Morrison, area managing director for Argyll and the islands, these appointments augment

existing experience. They will work alongside group joint managing directors Neil McLean and Robin Tough, and executive chairman David Leggat, who have led the company since completing a management buy-out in 2007.

Together, the new executive team represents some 170 years in agriculture.

Mr Leggat said: 'We're pleased to see this experienced group joining the board to further strengthen the business going forward.'

'It's testament to how seriously we take our professional training and development programme that we're able to look within the company

to find leadership talent with the right skills, contacts and knowledge at this level.'

The team will continue their current remits as well: David Brown and John Roberts deal with the commercial and pedigree cattle sales, including the prestigious Stirling bull sales; George Purves and Matt Stevenson lead UA's sheep sales with Mr Purves heading up prime sheep sales and Mr Stevenson in charge of store sheep sales while Donald Young manages the north of Scotland.

Christopher Sharp has a BA (Hons) in Business and heads up the group's admin function.

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## Small Woods management events this spring

**Argyll Small Woods Cooperative** was set up in 2014 to support and encourage small scale woodland management in Argyll. Membership is open to woodland owners and workers whose primary purpose is to generate sustainable income from small woodlands.

The **Cooperative** is running a series of knowledge sharing and training events in 2015 focussing on small scale woodland management, covering how to access suitable equipment, network of contractors suitable for this type of work, potential markets for produce and providing advice and training.

**Monitor Farm woods - we've looked at the farm - what about the farm woods?**

**Date: 27th January 2015. Glenbarr farms, Kintyre. Free**  
This event will introduce participants to the management options for conifer plantations, shelterbelts and native woodland.

**Hardwood assessment - Dunollie estate**

**Date: 12th February 2015. Oban bay Hotel and Dunollie Estate. Free**  
This event will introduce participants to the process of inspecting and grading hardwood timber, methods of sale and how to access the market.

**5 day NPTC - Maintenance, Cross-cutting & Felling Small Trees**

**Date: 9-13th February 2015. Subsidised cost £400.00**

**2 day Lantra Maintenance and cross cut chainsaw course**

**Dates: 14th to 15th February and 15th to 16th February. Subsidised cost £115.00**

**Glenraigs Farm - Woodland Planning - the basics**

**Date: 26th February 2015. Glenraigs farm, Kintyre. Free**  
This event will introduce participants to small woodland planning covering thinning regime, stability, inventory and putting a forest plan together.

**Glenraigs Farm. Thinning for wood fuel**

**Date 12th March 2015. Glenraigs farm, Kintyre. Free**  
This event will demonstrate the process involved in thinning a plantation for wood fuel. The event will take participants through planning for thinning and demonstrate the process of manual felling and extraction using small scale harvesting machinery.

**If you would like to book a place on an event or would like more information on joining the Argyll Small Woods Cooperative - contact:**

Neil Donaldson  
T: 07810810818  
E: mail@donenvironmental.co.uk

## Princess Royal to attend 150th anniversary bull sales

UNITED Auctions has announced that HRH the Princess Royal is to attend its 150th anniversary Bull Sales in February.

Princess Anne will be appearing on the first day of the first week of the event in Stirling in her capacity as patron of the Beef Shorthorn Breed Society.

This will be the first time a member of the royal family has visited the Bull Sales at the Stirling Agricultural Centre.

During her visit, she will view the show of Beef Shorthorn cattle and meet breed officials and Shorthorn enthusiasts.

The world-famous event, now known as the Stirling Bull Sales, started in 1865 at the Perth Market in Mill Street.

David Leggat, executive chairman at UA, said: 'It will be an honour to welcome Princess Anne to Stirling to mark 150 years of the bull sales and we're absolutely delighted that we can celebrate this special occasion with our staff and customers.'

At the February bull sales, 1,150 pedigree bulls and females will be on show and sale.

The event will be held from February 2 and 3 and will continue on February 16 and 17 at the Stirling Agricultural Centre.

## Special meeting to decide future of Caledonian Marts

A SPECIAL general meeting of the 3,000-member shareholders of Caledonian Marts has been called for tomorrow (Friday).

This follows a letter to shareholders from board chairman James Cullens stating the company needs to be recapitalised because of a build up of debtors due almost £6 million.

There is understood to be £3.75 million of debt which Mr Cullens has said to shareholders is 'irrecoverable' and will have to be written off in the end-of-May accounts.

The board has recognised that management reporting, financial control systems and credit control processes have not been appropriate and as a result the debt has been allowed to build.

Shareholders at the special meeting face either accepting a new class of member shares to create additional capital to reduce borrowings and providing sufficient working capital or selling the business, including its main asset, the market building at Millhall, on the outskirts of Stirling.

A meeting is then due to take place in the Oban Livestock Mart on January 13 to discuss the future of the company operating at the mart, which it currently leases.

## Dramatic increase in barley production over 100 years

A HUGE archive of agricultural data, released by Scotland's chief statistician, has revealed that barley production in Scotland has increased tenfold over the past 100 years.

Production has gone from about 190,000 tonnes in 1914 to more than two million tonnes in 2014.

Yields per hectare have more than doubled from 2.4 tonnes per hectare to 6.3 per ha.

And people across the world who toasted the New Year with a wee dram can thank Scottish farmers for keeping whisky cabinets well-stocked - as barley is a key ingredient in iconic Scotch Whisky.

Rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead said: 'Barley is a strong crop in Scotland, favoured by the brewing and distilling industries, with a substantial amount - 600,000 tonnes - being used by them last year. That's 30 per cent of the overall amount of barley produced in 2013.'

'Over the last 20 years, the barley area has represented around 70 per cent of the area of all cereals grown in Scotland, and around half of all crops. 'As we enter the Year of Food and Drink, this just exemplifies how important our whisky production is not only to the Scottish economy, but to our deserved reputation as a land of food and drink.'

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Open Meeting to be held Tuesday 13th January at 6.30pm within OBAN LIVESTOCK CENTRE to discuss the future of Caledonian Marts continuing to operate at Oban Mart, due to comments in the press last week we feel it necessary to clarify the situation on the way forward for Caledonian Marts in the Oban area.

It is in everyone's interest to come along and listen to what we have to say.

Chair of the meeting: Duncan Buchanan.

Guest Speakers:  
John Cameron, Balbuthie.  
James Cullens, Chairman, Caledonian Marts

In attendance: John Kyle, James Renfrew, Alastair Logan & Ronnie Maccormick.

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63 Skoda Octavia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Grey, 11,250 Miles.....	£14,500
13 Skoda Octavia SE TSI, Blue 16,600 miles.....	£11,500
13 Dacia Duster Ambience, 1.5 DCi, Grey, 3600 Miles.....	£11,950
13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles.....	£7,250
61 Renault Pzaz 1.2 SDR Red, 8,500miles.....	£6,250
11 Renault Megane dyn hatchback, 1.6 silver, 6,300k miles.....	£7,750
11 Renault Kangoo Exp, 1.6 Auto, Grey, 16,000 miles.....	£6,750
10 Citroen Berlingo 1.6 XTR HDI, Silver, 28,000 miles.....	£6,500
59 Renault Scenic Dyn, DCi 105, Blue, 52,000 miles.....	£6,500
58 Honda CRV 2.0 SE Auto, Blue, 55,000 miles.....	£8,500
58 Renault Scenic Conquest, DCI, Orange, 62,000 miles.....	£5,500
57 Citroen Berlingo Desire 1.6 Deisel Grey, 90,000.....	£3,500
57 Suzuki SX4 DDIS, 5 Dr Hatchback, 1.9 Diesel, Blue, 54,000 miles.....	£4,495
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# west coast recruitment




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An exciting opportunity within our Company has arisen for a Gas Engineer / Plumber. The successful person must hold a recognised gas industry qualification. Duties will include fault finding and repairs as well as servicing on domestic gas appliances. The successful candidate will be provided with a company vehicle and can expect to carry out a wide variety of other maintenance tasks on our customer's houses throughout Argyll & Bute.

**Multi-trade Operative / Handyman** **Islay**  
 Salary £18,107 - £23,816 per annum, plus O/T & Standby

A new opportunity has arisen for a Multi-Skilled Operative who can carry out a variety of jobs to repair and maintain our customer's houses on the Island. We are looking for a responsible person from a trade background who can do minor roof repairs, basic joinery, basic plumbing, minor wet trades etc.

**Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 23rd January 2015**  
 Interviews for both posts will be held in Ardrishaig & Bowmore respectively in early February 2015.

For further information about these posts or for an informal chat please contact Phil Burn, Operations Manager on 01546 605 824 or email philip.burn@aha.co.uk.

For full details and to apply visit our website at [www.aha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.aha.co.uk/recruitment)  
 If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team: Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@aha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@aha.co.uk)



**Caledonian MacBrayne**  
Crewing (Guernsey) Limited

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For a full job description please visit our website at [www.calmac.co.uk/corporate-calmac](http://www.calmac.co.uk/corporate-calmac)  
 If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 664-5B no later than 22 January 2015 to: e-mail: [vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk](mailto:vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk), or **David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited**  
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An experienced bookkeeper is required to be responsible for processing the accounting transactions of the businesses, customer and supplier contact and support, general administration and invoicing at Ormsary Estate in Argyll.

The successful candidate should have a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office (especially Excel) and experience with accounting software. A relevant qualification would be desirable but is not essential if sufficient experience is demonstrable. The successful applicant will have strong verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work individually and as part of a small rural management team.

An attractive employment package including pension is offered for this position. Ormsary is a diversified estate with excellent local community and schooling facilities.

Apply with CV and references to:  
 Mrs Barbara Cutler, Finance Manager, Ormsary Farmers, Ormsary Estate Office, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8PE or email to [Enquiries@Ormsary.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@Ormsary.co.uk).

**Full time Accounts Assistant/ Bookkeeper** for Crinan Boatyard Ltd, Crinan, PA31 8SW

We are looking for someone to start as soon as possible who is fully experienced in the use of Sage Line 50 Accounting and preferably Sage Job Costing.

For further details please submit your current CV and a cover email to [john@crinanboatyard.co.uk](mailto:john@crinanboatyard.co.uk)

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**Part-time Driver wanted on a self-employed basis at the Oban & Lorn Reuse Initiative at Moleigh Recycling Site.**

Full, clean, driving licence essential.  
 Hours: 14hrs per week over two days (Tuesdays and Thursdays)  
 Rate of Pay: £10 per hour  
 Must be fit and able to collect and deliver furniture and other household goods.

Contact Julie Fairbrass 01631 569174 or [julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk](mailto:julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk)  
 Closing date 16th January 2015

**51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.**

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Management Society 2010

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER**  
**No. HC124, 2014, DRAGONS TOOTH, BALLACHULISH**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in terms of Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 of the following particulars in relation to The Highland Council Tree Preservation Order No. HC124, 2014, Dragons Tooth, Ballachulish which was made on 19th December 2014.

- The reasons for making this Order are these areas of woodland are an important amenity feature on the south side of the A828 road from South Ballachulish to Oban and in relation to the existing golf course and housing. The Order will allow the Council to maintain this feature and to encourage appropriate longer term management.
- Certified copies of the Order have been deposited for inspection, free of charge, at the offices during the hours mentioned below:-  
 (a) Fort William Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL (Mondays to Friday from 0930-1630hrs).  
 (b) Development & Infrastructure Service, Council Buildings, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX (Mondays to Fridays from 0900-1700hrs).
- Objections and representations in respect of the Order may be made, in writing, to The Highland Council at Development & Infrastructure Service, Council Buildings, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX (Ref: GS/TPO HC124), not later than 28 days from the date of the service of the Notice of the making of the Order or the date of publication of the Notice by advertisement as the case may be. Objections and representations shall state the grounds thereof, and shall specify the particular trees or groups of trees in respect of which the Order is made.
- The Planning Authority shall, before deciding whether to confirm the Order, take into consideration any objections and representations duly made in accordance with the said Regulation 4.
- Section 161 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended states that a Tree Preservation Order takes effect on such date as may be specified in the Order but expires 6 months after it is made unless it has, within that period, been confirmed by the planning authority without modification or subject to such modifications as the planning authority consider expedient.

Stewart D Fraser, Head of Corporate Governance, Council Buildings, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/04546/FUL	Ardtoe Marine Laboratory Ardtoe, Acharacle	Demolish existing sheds and construct steel framed single and two storey structures
14/04628/FUL	Land 55M SW of 9 Columba Court Lochyside, Fort William	Proposed housing development (10 units)

Time period for comments is 14 days  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)**  
**THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
**(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**

**Construct and operate a run-of-river hydro scheme (Nevis Range) that abstracts water from the Allt Choille-Rais Burn 1900M east of top gondola station, Nevis Range, Fort William**  
 Application Reference: 14/03043/FUL  
 Applicant: Nevis Range Development Company Ltd

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 26(b) of the above Regulations, The Highland Council hereby gives notice that planning permission to construct and operate a run-of-river hydro scheme (Nevis Range) that abstracts water from the Allt Choille-Rais Burn by the Nevis Range Development Company as described above, has been granted by the Council.

A copy of the planning permission is available through the Council's web based eplanning portal online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 14/03043/FUL) or by appointment during normal office hours at the Planning and Development Service of The Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William PH33 6XY

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

**COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION**  
 REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
 SESSION 2015/2016

Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016 should be registered for education during the week commencing 12 January 2015.

Parents concerned should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

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If your child is not registered to attend preschool education within Argyll & Bute Council area you should produce your child's birth certificate when registering for Education. A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or from Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 708580).

Cleland Sneddon, Executive Director, Community Services

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY**  
 Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)  
 Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 9th January from 3.00pm - 5.00pm in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban  
 He can be contacted by e-mail - [roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or by telephone 01631 567854.

**Lodge St. Modan No 985**  
 The Installation Meeting of RWM Elect Br Robert Cruickshanks will be held on Saturday 10th January 2015 at 3pm in the Masonic Hall, Taynuilt  
 Installing Masters  
 James McInven PM 141  
 Kenneth Johnson PM 141  
 Peter Barr PM 985  
 Harmony to follow.  
 The Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st January 2015 at 7.45pm  
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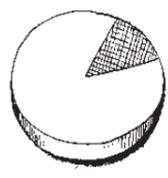
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**PERSONAL NOTICES**

**Thank you**  
Wilson and Grace would like to thank family and friends for gifts, flowers, cards and e-mail messages received for their Golden Wedding Anniversary. To the management and staff at the Caledonian Hotel for an excellent family meal enjoyed by all.

**Looking for the Last Will & Testament**  
For Mr. Iain Hill (John), formerly of The Bothy, Cour, Carradale, By Campbeltown, Argyll. Born August 20, 1938, Died November 27, 2014 @ Oban Hospital, Scotland. Predeceased by wife Gwenda Ruth Hill 1996 in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada where Mrs Hill resided prior to her death. Please e-mail family member in Canada at: charted@bell.net

**Thank you**  
Mr & Mrs G.W. Rennie thank their friends for the many cards and gifts received and hope that it can be accepted that under present circumstances a response may take some time!

**Thank you to staff of Lorn and Islands Hospital**  
Mr & Mrs G.W. Rennie would like to thank the hospital staff and in particular the day shift of Ward B who so successfully organised an intimate Xmas lunch for two who were admitted over the festive period. The lunch was magnificent and the chef is also to be congratulated. It was very much appreciated and again thanks to all.

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**BIRTHS**

**DONNELLY** - To Adam and Gillian (MacKay) on December 30, 2014, a daughter, Cara Rita. First grandchild for Brian and the late Rita, Glasgow and tenth for Allan and Tricia, Oban.

**DEATHS**

**CLARK** - Peacefully at Eader Glinn Care Home, Oban on Sunday, January 4, 2015, Isabella MacLean Clark, aged 97, formerly of 7 Drimvargie Terrace, Oban. Eldest daughter of the late Angus and Marion Stewart, Oban, beloved wife of the late Captain Donald Clark, NLB. Much loved aunt, great-aunt and great-grand aunt. Funeral will take place on Monday, January 12 at 1pm at the Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban and thereafter to Pennyfur Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

**FARNELL** - Suddenly, at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on December 21, 2014, aged 72, Frederick Maurice Farnell (Fred), beloved husband of Norma and greatly missed by Winstone (the Dog). Funeral will take place at Dalavich Parish Church on Thursday January 15 at 1.00 pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / Donations if desired for Dalavich Parish Church.

**HAY** - Suddenly but peacefully surrounded by her family, at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on Wednesday December 31, 2014, Mary Catherine Hay nee Beaton, aged 64, Isle-of-Iona, a loving mum and gran. Funeral will take place at Iona Parish Church, Isle of Iona on Tuesday January 14 at 11.45 pm. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**HINCHLIFFE** - John Brenton 1924 - 2014. Yacht Naibheag, Royal Highland Yacht Club, formerly of Dunstaffnage and Loch Aline. Peacefully in hospital on December 27, 2014 aged 90 years. Beloved husband of the late Beryl. Much loved father of John, Nicholas and Paul, father-in-law to Frances, Christine and Rachel. Grandfather to Heleni, Yolanda, Sophie and Emma and great-grandad to Freyja. Funeral service at the Haltemprece Crematorium, Willerby, Near Hull on Tuesday January 13 at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be given to the RNLI and Dementia UK, at the service. Enquiries to Ronald Cogan & Sons, North Ferriby, 01482 631740

**LAWRIE** - Donald. Peacefully with family at Lynn of Lorne Care Home on December 27, 2014. Funeral service will be held on January 12 at 1pm, in Appin Parish Church. All Family and friends very welcome. Family flowers only.

**LEITCH** - Peacefully at The Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on January 2, 2015, Catherine Leitch (Kay) A dear wife and mother. May she Rest in Peace.

**MACDONALD** - Lachie. At Antrim View, Port Ellen, peacefully passed away on January 3, at Islay Hospital surrounded by his family. Beloved husband, father, gramps and great gramps. Sadly missed.

**MACDOUGALL** - Very suddenly at Achnacroish Farm, Gregor MacGregor MacDougall, aged 58. Much loved and missed by all family and friends.

**MACKECHNIE** - On December 30, 2014, peacefully at her home Treetops, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Alice Margaret Maclean. Widow of the late Neil, Ardachol Farm. Loving sister of Florence, aunt and great-aunt. Sorely missed by family and friends. Funeral service was held at Balure Cemetery on Thursday, January 8, 2015.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully at Strathcarron Hospice on Monday December 29, 2014, in his 71st year, Roderick Brian MacKinnon (Roddy), beloved husband of Mary and dear father to Mairi and Shona. Sorely missed.

**MUNRO** - Douglas Stuart (Lonehead) at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh on January 4, 2015. Douglas beloved husband of Isabella Munro (Donn) and dad of the late Violet. Funeral service at Lonehead Parish Church on Monday January 12 at 2pm thereafter interment at Loanhead New Cemetery, Hunter Avenue, at 2.30pm to which all are welcome.

**RITCHIE** - Peacefully, after a short illness, on December 20, 2014 in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Jane Fitzgerald Ritchie, aged 96 years, formerly of Lady Margaret Drive, Corpach, Fort William. Deeply missed by her surviving brother James and his wife. Also by her ten nephews and nieces and their families. Funeral was held on Tuesday December 30, 2014 in Kilmallie Free Church of Scotland, Caol. Jane was laid to rest within Kilmallie Cemetery. Arrangements by John McLellan Funeral Directors.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**CAMPBELL GIBSON** - Memorial celebration for Deirdre Campbell-Gibson. Died December 14, 2014, to be held in Kilmelford Village Hall on Saturday January 17 at 1.00pm. Collection at the door in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**DUNLOP** - The family of the late Carleton Dunlop would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and particularly for their attendance at Carl's funeral. Thanks also to doctors, district nurses, carers, and staff at Oban Hospital for their high standard of care, Rev Dugald Cameron for his words of comfort, Hamish Hoey and Son Ltd for their dignified funeral arrangements and to all who donated to Oban Lifeboat Station.

**MCCULLOCH** - The family of the late Robert McCulloch would like to thank sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and expressions of sympathy following the death of their father. Thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service, and to the members of Lodge 180 for their presence and support. Duncan Forgie's eulogy summed up our father's life perfectly, and Ken Moncrieff's rendering of his favourite tunes was very apt. Thanks also to the doctors and staff of Lorn and the Islands Hospital, to Catriona and the staff of Hoey's for their sympathetic and efficient arrangements, and to the Royal Hotel for an excellent buffet. Finally, a heartfelt "thank you" to all those who travelled from far and near to be with us in the church and at the graveside.

**SIMPSON** - The family of the late Joey Simpson would like to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy received following our sad loss. Thanks to those who cared for Joey at Oban and Connel surgeries, The Lynn and on Ward B.

Thanks to Rev Chris Fulcher and Donald MacKinnon for a comforting service. Ian MacInnes for funeral arrangements and then Glen for catering. Special thanks to Dugie MacLean and Fire Service members (past and present) for their assistance and touching tributes paid. Finally our thanks to Iain Hurst for playing Joey's favourite tunes, and to the friends who visited him over the past year, which we much appreciated. Joey's collection for Erskine Hospital raised £665.

**SINCLAIR** - The family of the late Donald M. Sinclair would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers following their recent sad loss. Special thanks go to Michael MacDowell and Brian Logan for all their help. Thanks to Islay Hospital, Drs MacTaggart and Jackson for their care and compassion. Thanks to Jean and Craig MacAffer, funeral directors, for their caring and efficient funeral arrangements, to the Rev. Morrison for his touching service, to Elizabeth Biermann who read a very fitting poem, to Jean Campbell, the organist, to Jean Lucas and Angela Dunbar for the beautiful singing and to James Carmichael for his piping. Thanks also to The Islay Hotel for an excellent purvey and thanks to all who attended the service and graveside and to all who travelled from the mainland. The sum of £513.00 was collected for the General Ward at Islay Hospital.

**SMITH** - Nan and family of the late Alex Smith would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the beautiful cards and sympathy expressed so kindly, also staff at Oban, Lorn and Isles Hospital, Hoey's undertakers for the compassionate and efficient funeral arrangements and Donald MacKinnon for the comforting service at Oban Parish Church.

**YEOMAN** - Hamish, Tommy and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards, flowers and messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Chrissie. Special thanks to the doctors and nurses at Lorn Medical Centre and Ward I, Lorn & Islands Hospital for their care and attention. Also grateful thanks to Father James MacNeil and Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd. The sum of £299.29 was collected and donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**MEMORIAM**

**BRIGHTMORE** - In loving memory of my dear father, Eric who died January 8, 2009 and my dear mother, Mary, who died January 21, 2000. Loved and remembered everyday.

- Catherine, John, Clair and John, Corpach.

**CAMPBELL** - With love we remember Christina Campbell (Chrissie) who passed away January 12, 2004. A very much loved wife, mum, gran and sister. Loved and remembered every day.

- Duncan and all the family. **CAMPBELL** - Jean Campbell who died December 31, 2013. One year has passed and it's not any easier, we think of you everyday.

- Ann Marie, Malcolm, Catherine and Bethannie. We Miss you loads Nana. -From Lee, Megan and Amy.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of Eileen, much loved mum of Phillip and precious daughter of Margaret and sister of Colin and Karen. Taken from us January 6, 2008. Also remembering loved ones gone before.

To us you were so special, What more is there to say, We only wish with all our hearts, That you were here today. Sorely missed.

-The family, 14 Corran Brae, Oban. **MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dearest niece Eileen Susan who died January 6, 2008 aged 41. A daily thought, A silent tear, A constant wish, That you were here. Cherished memories. -Auntie Eileen and cousin Rhea.

**MACGILLIVRAY** - In loving memory of my dear mother May (née Wilson), who died January 1, 1995. Gone are the days we used to share but in our hearts you are always there. The gates of memory will never close, we miss you more than anyone knows. With tender love and deep regret, we who love you will never forget. - Inserted by her loving son Jim and Helen.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of a dear brother and uncle Jimmy, who passed away January 3, 2013. To us you were so special, So good, so kind and true, Precious are the memories, We always hold of you. Very sorely missed. -Cathie and family, Coll and Blantyre

**MACKINNON** - In loving memory of Alasdair MacKinnon, Strontian, who passed away January 5, 2014. Sadly missed by - Neileen and family.

**MACKINNON** - In loving memory of Lorna who passed away on January 24, 2010. As you were, you will always be. Treasured forever in our memory.

-Mum, Kirsteen, James, Rachael and Iona xx. **MACLELLAN** - Treasured memories of Christopher Allan, taken from us on January 1, 1991. Always in our thoughts and prayers.

-Inserted by the MacLellan family Eriskay and Oban. **MACPHAIL** - Proud and precious memories of our son and big brother Ryan, tragically taken on January 7, 2003.

At sixteen years your life here is done, It's hard to believe you were just having fun, Growing to a man but still a wee boy, To all our lives you brought us great joy. Love and Miss you Ryan. -Mum, Dad, Jenna and Jason xxx

**MCLEISH** - Morag. Mum, no words, no verse could ever say how much I miss you every day. A loving thought, a silent tear, forever wishing you were here. - Christine and family.

**MATHESON** - Remembering Molly our dear mother who passed away on January 7, 2014. Lovingly remembered every day.

- Ruby and John xx **MORRISON** - In loving memory of Johnny who passed away January 3, 2008. Sadly missed by all. - Catherine, John, Karen, Alan and families. Forever in my thoughts. - Mum

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, George, who passed away January 6, 2011. There will always be heartache as well as special memories. - Love Margaret, sons George and Lorne and daughter-in-law Helen.

Also remembering with love my dad Colin and mum Maggie late of Clachan Farm. Never Forgotten. -Margaret

**SIMPSON** - In loving memory of my beloved husband John, who died suddenly on January 6, 2011. Always in my thoughts. - With love from Fiona.

**STODART** - In loving memory of our dear brother Malcolm Livingston, sadly taken from us on January 10, 1972. Forever in our thoughts - From brothers and sisters, Glasgow.

**YOUNG** - Flora J. January 9, 2005. Fond memories of a loving Mum and Granny, on her 10th anniversary. RIP - Catriona, Callum, Lorna and Iona xxx

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**Thought for the week**

**Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value**

ALBERT Einstein wrote 'Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value'. These inspiring words were contained within a lovely illustrated calendar I received recently.

Yes it is easy to agree with but to really make it work all year, now that takes commitment. Recently it has been difficult to appraise what value means any more.

£400 for an X Box that somebody else, a cyber stranger, stops you from enjoying or £3 to buy chlorine tablets to prevent the spread of the deadly Ebola virus. That was all in one day last week!

Recently, due to a lightning strike, homes were affected for days when the power supplies were cut off then restored. Phone lines too were not working and then gratefully reconnected. But in this internet driven society when your modem's gone it can be five days till a replacement arrives.

Of all the gifts that I had given recently perhaps the most relevant was the loan of my modem to allow someone to keep working from home and the younger members of the family to text their friends again. During my holiday period it was of little value to me but the smiles as it re-established connections for that family at this most special time of the year.

Being aware of the needs of others and so becoming of value to them means sometimes we need to step back and just listen or observe. Not hurry by on the other side as in the well known parable of the Good Samaritan. Do not fret it will rarely be money that is the answer more often just making your self available to share, encourage or advise. Go on, give it a try!

Wishing you only the very best for 2015.

Pam Gibson  
Presbytery of Argyll.

**Obituary**

**June Anderson**

JUNE Anderson, former secretary of Banavie School has died aged 87 after a long illness. June initially became secretary to the headmaster of Yeovil school in the 1940s where she also taught education.

She then became secretary to the headmaster at Bryanston public school and then on to work in the City of London as secretary to a hospital consultant surgeon. She met Derek in 1953, married and had two daughters Fiona and Margaret (Midge).

When Derek was appointed senior safety officer for the Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills in 1962 they moved to Corpach and June was employed to work alongside Walter Cameron, headmaster of Banavie School, as school secretary.

June is best known for her roles in amateur dramatics and won numerous awards from her teens onwards for productions and monologues. Her best role was in Blythe Spirit as Madame Arcati, an eccentric medium, which raised many a laugh.

June continued to work as a secretary and book keeper until her late 70s when she retired. She leaves two daughters, eight grandchildren and three great grand children. FW

**Obituary**

**Robert McCulloch (1913 - 2014)**

Robert 'Bobby' McCulloch was born at 11 Combie Street, Oban on January 24, 1913 to John Thomson McCulloch, one of nine brothers, and Agnes MacInnes.

His father, a master plumber, had premises in John Street, and his uncle, Tommy McCulloch, was also a plumber. Bobby was the eldest son and he attended Rockfield primary and Oban high schools and enjoyed the Boys Brigade. He left school at 14 years and initially tried plumbing but wanted to be a joiner so became an apprentice with D & J MacDougall, a well known local firm.

But tragedy struck when his father died at the age of 40, when Bobby was only 16. Times were hard and it was left to Bobby and younger brother Peter to support the household. Bobby married Margaret Stevenson on September 8, 1939 in the Parish Church Manse with the Rev Willie MacDonald officiating. They had three children, Anne born in 1940 and Jack in 1941, when the family home was in High Street, and when Robert was born in 1947 they had moved to the prefabs. At the prefabs everyone had a nice garden, none more so than Bobby, although he often said he would 'rather have been fishing'.

In 1942 Bombardier Bobby McCulloch joined The South Notts Hussars Regiment. He saw a lot of active service, and witnessed many battles in trying conditions. In the Normandy Invasion he was a forward observer.

He was very proud of his service to his country, though rarely spoke about it, however, in recent years on a visit by the Princess Royal to Oban he took great delight in informing her that her grandfather, King George VI, had inspected the troops, including Bobby prior to leaving for Normandy.

Bobby was an expert craftsman, working on many of the islands and remote areas, as well as the town during the building of St Columba's Cathedral on the Esplanade, where he was in charge of making the hand carved individual doors. His talent at work did not go unnoticed and he became a clerk of works in the Argyll County Council.

He played shinty and was interested in many sports. He was a member of Oban Commercial Lodge 180 and many of his brethren were present at his funeral on December 22.

His office was Lodge Architect, ensuring the fabric of the building was in good hands. He was an honorary member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Argyll and the Isles. DF

**The Oban Times**

& West Highland Times THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB Tel: 01631 568000 Fax: 01631 568001 www.obantimes.co.uk

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**GRADUATIONS**



Michelle Hervo graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University with a 2:1 in BA Hons Fashion: Design and Production. Michelle is the daughter of William and Veronica Hervo and granddaughter of William and Jean Hervo and Sheila and the late William Simmonds and is a former pupil of Caol Primary and Lochaber High School.



Annmarie Graham (née Campbell) graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. Annmarie is now working as a Staff Nurse in Kincardine Community Hospital, Stonehaven.



Maria Carita Lopez previously qualified with a Master of Arts with Merit from Glasgow University and recently qualified with Master of Music with Merit from Newcastle University. Daughter of Dante and Morag Lopez, Caberfeidh, Oban.

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# Fort William notch four wins in a row for the first time

## 'It was quite sweet going there and beating Clach on their own patch'

FORT William recorded a historic victory at the home of rivals Clachnacuddin on Saturday, reaching a new club record of four consecutive wins.

Manager Calum MacLean says his side 'are not fearing anyone' after the 2-1 win, which saw goals from Sean Grant and Kenny MacKenzie.

The match was originally scheduled to take place as a home game at Claggan Park, but was called off on Friday due to a waterlogged pitch.

However, the fixture was promptly switched to take place at Clachnacuddin's Grant Street stadium to the relief of Fort's players and staff, where the sides were due to meet the previous weekend.

It was Fort's first match in more than a month following a spate of postponements, but MacLean said this did not stop his players' recent momentum.

He said: 'It was quite sweet going there and beating Clach on their own patch.'

'The football has been great to watch lately and the club has been revitalised.'

'I said from the start that we had a great squad and it wouldn't take long for things to click.'

Fort once again showed their

### Football

never-say-die attitude to take all three points through MacKenzie's goal with just six minutes left, just as the match looked like it was heading for a draw.

Grant had opened the scoring for the visitors six minutes into the first half with a spectacular 25-yard free kick, before Clachnacuddin levelled on 60 minutes.

Sean Ellis and Stuart Vance, who joined Fort last month on short-term deals until mid-January, both made their long-awaited debuts as substitutes.

MacLean said: 'The pitch was heavy and it wasn't a day for playing nice football. It was more of a battle.'

'We probably shaded the first half.'

'[Clachnacuddin] didn't really look like scoring but in the second half they upped the tempo.'

'The last 20 minutes we started to look dangerous and when we scored it knocked the stuffing out of them.'

The victory also saw Fort William win a prize dedicated to the late Simon Shields, a former player for both clubs who died of lung cancer in 2011.



FOUR IN A ROW: Fort's matchwinner Kenny MacKenzie (left) is challenged by Clachnacuddin's Blair Lawrie in the monumental 2-1 victory at Grant Street.

Fort and Clachnacuddin compete for the Simon Shields memorial trophy in their first league fixture every season as a tribute to him.

MacLean paid tribute to

Shields and ex-chairman Harry MacKenzie, who passed away in December.

He said: 'Harry was a lovely gentleman and we wanted to win for him.'

'The trophy was also a big thing.'

'I told the boys before the game I would rather have the trophy than the three points.'

'Simon was just a top bloke and

a great player who would run through a brick wall for you.'

Fort hope to take their remarkable winning run to five games when they play Formartine United away this Saturday.

### Lochaber ski centres draw the crowds

#### Skiing

SKIERS were out in their droves in Lochaber following a festive snowfall which created perfect conditions on the hills.

Staff at the Glencoe mountain resort reported hundreds of visitors the week after Christmas, when mild weather on Christmas eve gave way to a short cold snap.

Angela Dingwall, the resort manager, said: 'The weather has been really good for us.'

'Boxing Day and the 27th were quiet but the following Monday was really good.'

'We have got a really good base, we just need more snow now.'

Much of the snow on the peaks has now melted but staff say the best conditions are often after the new year.

Ms Dingwall added: 'It's still early. When I started working here 12 seasons ago it was usually February when we opened up and the last few years we have been spoilt.'

'It just takes a few good days of snow and that's us back in business.'

Winter sports enthusiasts also flocked to the Nevis Range resort near Torlundy for skiing, walking and sledging, while the Snowgoose restaurant on the site was also a hive of activity.

Marian Austin, the centre's managing director, said: 'Things have gone pretty well for this time of the year.'

'We have had five good days with not masses of snow but enough for people to be able to use.'

'It's been our best spell since December 2010.'

### Funding boost for Skye sports centre

#### Funding

A GROUP planning to build a £3.2 million sports centre on Skye has received a funding boost from the Scottish government.

The North West Skye Recreation Association (NWSRA) is to build a facility in Dunvegan with outdoor sports pitches, indoor halls, changing rooms, a café and a drop-in facility.

It received a £23,500 grant as part of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Legacy 2014 Sustainable Sport for Communities Fund partnership, which was set up by the Scottish government and The Robertson Trust, offering help to new or aspiring social enterprises.

The money will go towards NWSRA appointing a project officer to oversee construction of the new centre.

Ian Blackford, a director of the group, said: 'We have made good progress over the last few months. We can now employ someone to get us off the line and get the whole thing built.'

'The centre will have two outdoor pitches, one grass and one all-weather, for rugby, shinty and football, plus an indoor facility.'

Work on the new complex, dubbed a sports centre and wellness hub, is being supported by the Dunvegan, Struan, Edinbane and Glendale community trusts, as well as the Dunvegan Community Association, Ex-Celtic and Scotland footballer Murdo MacLeod is a patron of the project while Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, is also backing it and was pleased to hear about the additional funding.



CLASH OF THE ASH: Lovat's Michael MacKenzie (left) and Callum Cruden (right) compete with Beaulieu's Sean Stewart during the Lovat Cup match at Braeview.

### Beaulieu regain Lovat Cup

LOVAT lost their grip of the Lovat Cup to Beaulieu, in a 3-1 scoreline at Braeview on January 2. A crowd of nearly 1,500 watched the action as the home side regained the trophy following Lovat's win in the same fixture in 2014.

The visitors opened the scoring on six minutes through Duncan Davidson, but Calum Morrison equalised for Beaulieu after 25 minutes and the hosts went on to dominate the game.

Jack McDonald scored the second on 39 minutes before Connor Ross sealed the win late on.

Lovat Shinty Club president John MacRitchie said: 'Beaulieu were by far the better team. We

### Shinty

have no complaints at all. We dominated the first 20 minutes but Beaulieu were sharper on the day.'

On new year's day, another challenge match saw Kingussie's first team given a run for their money against an all-star side from the club for the annual Bob Sinclair memorial trophy, with the first team winning 4-2.

Russell Jones, Kingussie co-manager, said: 'We had a great turnout of people, probably a couple of hundred, despite it being wet and miserable.'

### Nick wins Aonach Mor uphill race

#### Athletics

HIGH winds on new year's day didn't put a stop to Lochaber Athletic Club's Aonach Mor uphill race, as members took on an alternative route to keep the event running.

As the poor weather brought the Nevis Range gondola to a standstill, athletes couldn't travel as high as usual years, but reported a successful day nonetheless, with 131 runners turning up on the day, 23 more than last year's field.

It was Lochaber's Nick Sedgwick who took first place this year, clearing the route in 25 minutes and 53 seconds, shortly followed by second placed Tom Smith, also of Lochaber AC, in 26 minutes and five seconds.



STRIDING OUT: The field of 131 set off on the Aonach Mor uphill race on new year's day

Third place went to Peter Henry of Deeside Runners, who finished the track in 26:30.

Not to be outdone, Lochaber's women also reported success with Diane Baum first lady home in 30:02, and Sarah MacKenzie in 31:17. Shortly behind was Christina Rankin of Kilbarshan, who was third woman in 31:20.

Top 10 finishers (Lochaber AC unless stated otherwise): 1 Nick Sedgwick 25:53; 2 Tom Smith 26:06; 3 Peter Henry (Deeside Runners) 26:30; 4 James Espie (Deeside Runners) 26:31; 5 Steve MacDonald 26:39; 6 Jon Gay 26:41; 7 Andrew Barrington 26:47; 8 Ewan Taylor (Highland Hill Runners) 26:59; 9 Iain Gilmore (Carnethy Hill RC) 28:03; 10 Manuel Gorman (Westertlands Cross Country Club) 28:18.



West Highland Wheelers' juniors set off on the winter league Leananach race

### Liam battles snow and ice

#### Cycling

THE NAME of West Highland Wheelers' winter league was truly given meaning when Liam Moynihan had to fight snow and ice to take first place in the Leananach race in 44 minutes and 15 seconds.

With two firsts and a second, Moynihan now has a strong lead in the series, proving no match for the competition when he sailed past second placed Gavin MacLean, who crossed the finish in 47 minutes and 11 seconds on December 28.

Ben Thompson was shortly behind, taking third place with a time of 47:52 but the icy conditions meant some, including Mairi Meldrum and Gavin MacMillan, were unable to finish the race due to punctures and frozen gears.

It wasn't only the adults who braved the cold, as 11 children took on the junior race on the same day and nothing could separate Cory Muir and Daniel Parfitt, who crossed the finish line together to take joint first place in 15:40.

But Evan MacDonald was close behind in second place, finishing the track in 15:56 while Craig MacTavish was slightly further behind, taking third place in 16:25.

Top 10 adult finishers: 1 Liam Moynihan 44:15; 2 Gavin MacLean 47:11; 3 Ben Thompson 47:52; 4 Alastair MacLennan 48:38; 5 Stephen Cant 52:28; 6 Bryeh Hensman-Martin 53:04; 7 Tom MacMahon 54:15; 8 Tony Moynihan 55:20; 9 Gregor Muir 57:20; 10 Marek Polowianuk 58:21.

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

### THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1500

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## Must win game for Oban Lorne in top-of-the-table clash

'This game will be a decider for us. If we lose, that's it'

OBAN Lorne must win a top-of-the-table clash at home on Saturday, or forget challenging for the title, according to coach Corrie Louw.

The Green Machine have two games in hand on table-toppers Cambuslang but only a win this weekend will give them a chance of beating the Glasgow men to the West Division Two title.

Louw is counting on having a full squad to pick from and is waiting on whether he can add to his already impressive forward pack with two new heavyweight signings.

Prop Lee Harris, a former professional with Glasgow Warriors and Exeter Chiefs is looking to get more match practise before taking part in under-35s tours later this year. And Oban Lorne may also welcome back former crowd favourite Greg McGill, who is back in his home town on holiday from Ireland.

Louw said: 'This game will be a decider for us. If we lose, that's it. The boys realise how important this game is. We have a regional shield match next month but this game on Saturday is the most important.'

'We should be playing in West Division One; we have beaten teams in that league already this season and we have to win on Saturday to stand a chance of getting there.'

'I keep telling the boys the aim is to get to National Division Three (one tier above West Division One) because that is where we can play and that is the future.'

With the festive season now far behind them, Oban Lorne are training four nights a week in preparation for a crucial stage of the season. Attendance is high after Louw read the riot act following a rocky patch in form towards the end of 2014.

### Rugby

'We are getting around 25 boys at training and that is the response I wanted,' said Louw.

'Commitment is what it takes to get to where we want this team to be.'

'We lost out on the title by one point last season, so we have to win it this time.'

Lorne won the reverse fixture against Cambuslang 17-8 in October last year, despite the men in green playing the majority of the game with 13 men.

In general, the Oban side's form has been good, helped by the addition of some new signings who have played at a higher level.

### Impressed

Along with a strong showing in West Division Two, the team have also impressed in the BT Regional Shield with home wins against West Division One sides Allan Glens, Garnock and, most recently, Carrick. The winning run has set up a West Regional Shield final away to GHK on Saturday, February 7.

If Oban Lorne win this match they will be one win away from competing in the BT National Bowl final at Murrayfield where they will be looking for a repeat of their National Bowl win two seasons ago.

This Saturday's crunch tie against Cambuslang will kick off at 2pm at Glencruitten.

Argyll and Bute RFC are also in action at home on Saturday in West Division Four and take on bottom-of-the-table Glasgow East. Kick off for that game is also 2pm.

Oban Lorne mini rugby has resumed for 2015 on Wednesdays from 6-7pm at the clubhouse. All players from primary four to seven are welcome.



'EXCELLENT EXPERIENCE': Cameron Whyte and grandson Ciaran step out onto the Scotstoun pitch with the Glasgow versus Edinburgh match ball

## Proud moment for Mull rugby stalwart

A MULL rugby stalwart admitted he was 'apprehensive' about delivering the match ball to the pitch at Scotstoun ahead of Glasgow Warriors' recent first leg match against Edinburgh in the 1872 Cup.

But Cameron Whyte, who celebrated his 85th birthday the following day (December 28), said it turned out to be an 'excellent' experience.

Cameron, a former Scotland under-21 international was a main driver behind the formation of Mull rugby club, having also played for Salen football and badminton clubs.

His achievements in the sport were noted by at least one person who nominated the Salen man to be guest of honour and present the match ball at the derby match, which Glasgow went on to win.

Cameron, whose grandson Ciaran helped him deliver the match ball, said of his day:

'I was a bit apprehensive about it at first but it turned out to be an excellent day. My first thought was "Why would anyone nominate me?" Someone seems to think I was worthy of it.'

'I enjoy my rugby and that day turned out great; they looked after us so well. I'm not that good on my feet just now and they arranged a parking space for us right outside the stadium.'

### Represented

A former pupil of Strathallan School, Cameron became captain of the rugby team and represented his country at under-21 level against Ireland at Ravenhill in December 1947 and against Wales at Murrayfield in the spring of 1948.

Before university he spent a year playing first class rugby for Newcastle Northern but he returned to Mull before completing his studies to help with the family business,

### Rugby

the Salen Hotel and farm. His father had been gassed in the trenches in the Great War and, as a result, his health had deteriorated.

It was in the summer of 1978 that a core group of individuals, who had a passion for rugby, got together after arranging a match against a visiting Navy ship and formed the Isle of Mull Rugby Club.

Cameron became club president for the first three years and returned to the hot seat for a second term from 1984 until 1994. This second term included the years in which the club built two playing surfaces and a clubhouse at Garmony.

Until recently he was head groundsman and still attends home games to support his family members playing for the club.



MUST-WIN: coach Corrie Louw has laid down the gauntlet to his players ahead of their top-of-the-table clash against Cambuslang

## Sports Hall Athletics back up and running

SPORTS Hall Athletics will once again be promoted in Argyll this winter with the first competition for the Mid Argyll area being held at Lochgilphead Joint Campus on Sunday, January 18.

The competition in Lochgilphead is promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

The next local area competition is for the Oban area on Saturday, January 31 at Atlantis Leisure. Next is the Mull competition

to be held at Tobermory High School on Saturday, January 21 in Campbeltown Grammar School.

Successful qualifiers from the four local area competitions will be invited to take part in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Saturday, March 21.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events bringing the excitement of track and field

athletics indoors in a warm and dry environment.

This winter marks the 21st anniversary of Sportshall Athletics' introduction to Argyll using sports centres, schools and town halls. Over the 21 years many of the young athletes taking part have gone on to win Scottish national age group titles both indoors and outdoors.

At this year's contests, there will be awards for the overall winners

### Athletics

in each age category and medals for all competitors. Age groups start at under seven, then under nine, under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17.

The organisers have introduced an under seven category at all the local area competitions but there will be fewer events for this age group.

## Saints return to league action

### Football

OBAN Saints return to premier division action on Saturday with a home game against Alba Thistle. The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is John Scott.

Saints have struggled to capture last season's form which saw them win the league and cup double so manager Iain Jackson will be hoping for a big improvement from his team after the festive break and hopefully pick up all three points in what could prove to be a tricky fixture for the Oban side.

## Annual challenge match at Mossfield Shinty

THE annual challenge match between Oban Camanachd and Oban Camanachd Veterans takes place at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday with a 1pm throw-up.

## Athletic on West of Scotland Cup duty

### Football

OBAN Athletic re-start their fixtures on Saturday after the festive break with a difficult away game in the fifth round of the West of Scotland Cup against Tarbolton, who are top of the Ayrshire Premier League.

The match will kick-off at 1.30pm with extra time and penalties, if required, to see who goes into the draw for the next round.

The following Saturday - January 17 - the Oban boys are at home against Antonine from the Vale of Leven in a West of Scotland League fixture.

A friendly match against Lochgilphead Red Star due to be played last week had to be cancelled due to the weather.

## RBS National First Shinty finals

### School shinty

THE 2015 RBS National First Shinty finals will be held in Fort William on Saturday February 28.

The P7 and under competition will be held at the Nevis Centre and the P5 and under competition at Lochaber high school.

Further details will follow early in 2015.

## Scottish Amateur League fixtures

### Football

THIS Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round - Campbeltown Pupils v Dunoon Athletic; Lochgilphead Red Star v Haldane United; Coronation Cup, first round - Rossvale v Tarbert; Premier Division - Oban Saints v Alba Thistle.

## Oban Saints youth fixtures

### Youth Football

THIS Saturday's fixtures: Under 13s v Campbeltown Pupils Youth; Ardencaple v Under 14s; Under 15s v Drumchapel United; Lochgilphead Red Star v Under 16s; Under 19s no game.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain showers Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds strong westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, January 8, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	01.25	1.0	07.16	4.0	14.03	1.4	19.39	3.8
Fri	02.02	1.1	07.50	3.9	14.37	1.5	20.13	3.7
Sat	02.37	1.3	08.24	3.8	15.12	1.7	20.47	3.6
Sun	03.13	1.4	08.57	3.6	15.48	1.8	21.23	3.4
Mon	03.51	1.6	09.33	3.5	16.30	2.0	22.04	3.2
Tues	04.35	1.8	10.16	3.3	17.25	2.1	22.56	3.1
Wed	05.30	1.9	11.13	3.2	18.30	2.1	**	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**FREE INSIDE YOUR 2015 LOCHABER INDEX**

### Pupils enjoy first free school meals

PRIMARY children in the Highlands have been enjoying free school meals since the start of term on Monday (January 5).

Pupils in primary one to three classes are entitled to the optional service as part of a Scottish government funded initiative.

Parents of pupils at schools without catering facilities will continue to provide lunches for their children, but will be reimbursed monthly.

Eigg, Elgol, Canna, Invergarry, Inverie, Muck and Rum primary schools are among those unable to provide meals.

### Zero tolerance on domestic abuse

A HIGHLAND police campaign against domestic abuse has encouraged more people to report acts of violence.

The division launched its annual crackdown last week and saw a rise in reports of incidents in the first three days.

Detective inspector Maggie Miller, of the domestic abuse investigation unit, said: 'At the launch of the campaign we made the message very clear - domestic abuse will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form. There is never an excuse to commit abuse in the family home.'

### Enrolment dates for new pupils

CHILDREN starting primary school in August 2015 must be enrolled during the last week of January.

Enrolment will take place at primary schools in the area between January 26 and 30, with infants aged five or before February 29 2016 all eligible.

Parents and guardians wishing to enrol their children should visit [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment). Those interested in bilingual Gaelic medium education for their children should visit the same webpage or contact the council's Gaelic team by telephoning 01463 703663 or emailing [gaelic@highland.gov.uk](mailto:gaelic@highland.gov.uk).

# Fort food bank serves up 600 meals over the festive season

**'Tremendous generosity' of public allows Lochaber charity to go the extra mile and hand out gifts alongside usual donations**

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
[ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk)

LOCHABER food bank dished out more than 600 meals over the festive period with volunteers saying the 'tremendous' generosity of the public allowed them to go the extra mile.

The Fort William charity fed 68 people in December and managed to give gifts to families in need thanks to people adding chocolate, perfume and other presents to the usual donations of food and toiletries.

Food bank manager Alec McConachie said: 'It was absolutely tremendous to see. I could tell people really thought about what they were donating.'

'We had a collection in Tesco for a week and we had volunteers going over every day to keep up with the donations but, more than just the food, people were handing in wee presents for kids as well as perfumes, aftershaves and chocolates.'

'It was great to be able to do that wee bit extra for the ones that are

struggling and make a hard time a bit easier and that's thanks to the extra thought people put in when donating.'

But as the number of people using the lifeline service continues to rise, Mr McConachie said there was still some confusion about how food banks work.

He added: 'We're holding a meeting next week to let people know why we do things the way we do.'

'Some people have been saying we should have collections everywhere and aren't sure how people qualify for the packages so we want to clear it up; everyone is welcome.'

The meeting will be held in the food bank on High Street from 7pm on Tuesday (January 13).

Lochaber food bank has now fed more than 500 people and given out almost 5,000 meals since it opened in 2013.

To donate, volunteer, or to find out more contact Mr McConachie on 07778 503276 or visit between 12 and 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



**GENEROUS:** Lochaber food bank volunteers included gifts with food packages to help those in need. From left: Pat Leslie, Alec McConachie, Donald Elder and Roia Wilson

## MP demands end to A82 road 'farce'

THE ATTITUDE of the Scottish government towards the A82 Fort William trunk road is a 'farce' according to Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy believes the Glasgow to Inverness route has suffered from a lack of investment which is affecting Lochaber's economy and employment opportunities.

He has written to new Scottish government transport minister Derek MacKay MSP to demand funding for improvements on the road.

Mr Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'As a member of the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce I am all too aware that the poor state of the A82 is having significant setbacks for

the growth of local business and jobs.'

'Why is it then that the SNP government has been able to splash out money on a second Forth road bridge and high-speed rail between Edinburgh and Glasgow but failed to prioritise Highland infrastructure?'

'The Liberal Democrats are committed to the A82 route

action plan. It is a farce that the Scottish government has yet to come on board.'

'It is a new year and the Scottish government has a new transport minister. I hope it uses this opportunity to finally take a new position towards the much-needed A82 upgrade.'

Meanwhile, a Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We

are committed to significant improvement programmes for the A82 and to deliver on them for communities along its length, with around £57 million committed since 2007.'

Transport Scotland also confirmed that work to re-align the A82 at Glen Gloy, between Fort William and Fort Augustus, will begin in March.

### Assault probe

POLICE are investigating an assault on Benbecula, after a woman was reported to have been injured at an address in Griminish.

Officers were called to the property at 4.20 am on January 2. A 51-year-old man was detained by the police.



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**Rotary packs in a £5,400 boost**

ROTARY Club of Lochaber volunteers have thanked the public for helping them raise £5,400 with their Christmas bag packing venture.

The group was present at Morrisons supermarket in Fort William over three hectic days on December 20, 23 and 24 to pack groceries for shoppers, with all proceeds going to charities in the area.

John Harvey, president of the club, said members looked forward to repeating the event next Christmas.

He said: 'The club is extremely grateful to the people of Lochaber for such outstanding support.'

'We can give an assurance that every penny will be used for good and worthwhile causes.'

**THANKS:** Rotary Club of Lochaber volunteers Ron Gretton and Sheena McIntyre took part in Christmas bag packing at Morrisons in Fort William

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## Young driver disqualified

A YOUNG driver has been disqualified less than a year after receiving his licence after he tried to overtake two lorries and a car near an accident blackspot in Lochaber.

David Menzies, of Achindarroch in Duro, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving at Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, when the court heard another driver had to stop suddenly to avoid a collision as the 20-year-old tried to overtake the vehicles.

Fiscal deputy Fraser Matheson told the court Menzies had moved to the north carriageway, approximately one mile south of Fort William, when James Higgins had to brake sharply and veer to the side of the road to avoid Menzies car, causing bruising to himself and his passenger.

He added: 'Mr Higgins managed to stop what he thought

would be a collision but due to the speed of the vehicles a collision is what occurred between Mr Menzies and one of the lorries.'

No serious damage or injuries were caused during the incident. Defending solicitor Clare Russell said the supermarket worker put the accident down to 'bad judgement and lack of experience' as he had only passed his driving test four months before.

But sheriff Richard Davidson said growing up in Lochaber Menzies should be 'well aware' of the nature of the road.

He added: 'He will be familiar with the number of fatal accidents which occur between here and the Ballachulish bridge.'

'This is a serious matter and it's extremely fortunate that there were only minor injuries.'

Sheriff Davidson imposed a two year driving ban as well as a £1,250 fine.

## Fallen soliders remembered during Christmas day football game

FALLEN soldiers were remembered with a football game in Fort William on Christmas day, to recreate the festive truce of the first world war.

Members of the town's Royal British Legion Scotland branch gathered at the King George V park with family and friends for a minute's silence and a kick about as a reminder of the matches thought to have been played between troops on Christmas 1914.

REMEMBRANCE: Fort William's Royal British Legion Scotland branch arranged a commemorative football game



## Drink driver's five-year ban

A MALLAIG man has been told he must not get behind the wheel of a vehicle for five years after he drove a truck under the influence of alcohol and without a licence or insurance.

Allan Morrison, of Blaven View, was also ordered to pay £2,000 in fines when he was sentenced in Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, after being remanded in custody since December.

At a previous hearing, the

court heard the 38-year-old drove his tipper truck down the A830 in Mallaig, where he skidded on a roundabout and crashed into a bollard on the evening of December 4 2013.

Sheriff Richard Davidson told the accused: 'It is with some hesitation I'm prepared to deal with this financially but don't be in any doubt, if you come back here on a driving complaint you will be going to jail for a long time.'

## Mallaig school still closed

MALLAIG primary school and its adjoining nursery remained closed to all pupils as *The Oban Times* went to press.

The school was shut on December 18 as a safety measure for children due to structural damage on its chimney and has not re-opened since.

A spokeswoman from Highland Council said: 'Whilst an assessment of the necessary work has taken place over the holiday period, it has not been possible for this work to commence.'

'It is anticipated that the school may be closed for up to three to five days.'

'Highland Council regrets the inconvenience that this will cause for parents, carers and children, but the safety of pupils and staff is paramount.'

Parents are asked to check the council's school closure website [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures) and the school closures phone line on 0800 564 2272 PIN number 04 2560 for updates.

# New year honours for Skye music and Gaelic stalwarts



MBE: Ann Lampard



OBE: Arthur Cormack

TWO SKYE residents have been celebrated in the New Year Honours list.

Ann Lampard, of Scullamus in the south of the isle, was awarded an MBE for services to music, while Arthur Cormack, chief executive of Feisean nan Gaidheal, was made an OBE for his work in Gaelic education.

Ms Lampard, who was head of voice at the Junior Royal Academy of Music before setting up her own Song School on Skye, described the recognition as 'an amazing honour'.

She added: 'It's incredible that people doing ordinary jobs to the best of their ability are being recognised.'

'I find it very humbling that this kind of recognition can come because I get to do a job that I love every day.'

Mr Cormack's achievements

include winning a gold medal at the Royal National Mòd in 1983 and chairing Bord na Gaidhlig.

He said: 'Nothing I have ever done for Gaelic, or for traditional music, has been done in isolation but with lots of committed colleagues, paid and voluntary, and always a very supportive wife and family. I thank them all and hope they'll share this with me.'

Also appearing on the honours list this year is Harriet Dempster, Highland Council's former director of social work.

Ms Dempster received an OBE for services to child welfare, which include working as a practitioner, researcher and lecturer in a number of policy posts.

The social worker retired from the local authority in 2010, but continues to work with children's organisations.



FUN FOR ALL: High Street ceilidh organisers Isabel and Linda Campbell join the musicians

## Lochaber hits the right notes with Hogmanay celebrations

DESPITE rain and high winds, Lochaber residents enjoyed a successful new year's eve, from afternoon through to the bells.

A ceilidh in the town's High Street kicked off the celebrations, with entertainment from the Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band, Laura Robertson, Owen MacRaid, Lochaber Pipe Band, and Mòd gold medallist Robert Robertson to name a few.

Organiser Linda Campbell said: 'We all had a ball, it was a

great afternoon. It was a shame the weather was so awful but the singers and entertainment more than made up for it.'

In the evening, crowds flocked to Kilmallie Community Hall, Corpach, where the festivities were broadcast live by BBC Alba and Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band was among the list of performers.

Meanwhile, in the Nevis Centre, adults enjoyed the Fort William venue's first over 18 Hogmanay event, despite some

complaints about the ban on children. Organisers said a number of factors contributed to the decision not to host children, including unauthorised alcohol being discovered in previous years. Danny Conlon, assistant manager at the Nevis Centre, said: 'It's was a really good night with a great, chilled out, atmosphere. It different to what we've had in the past but we thought we would try it this way and we think it went well.'



ENTERTAINMENT: Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band led celebrations in Kilmallie Hall

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## Mountain festival climbs to new heights say organisers

ORGANISERS of the Fort William Mountain Festival 2015 have promised their forthcoming event is 'an experience not to miss', with five days of films, guest speakers, workshops and exhibitions.

The Highland Mountain Culture Association is running the programme in various Lochaber venues from February 18 to 22.

Highlights include a 'paddling night' in Fort William's Nevis Centre, where blind adventurer Dean 'Deano' Dunbar will talk about more than 80 watersports challenges he has competed in over 17 years.

Mountain climbers will be able to

take part in training workshops at Kinlochleven's Ice Factor climbing centre, while winners will be announced for the Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture and, for the first time, the prize's junior category.

Mike Pescod, chairman of the Highland Mountain Culture Association, said: 'Celebrating the landscape that surrounds us in Fort William is the inspiration behind the mountain festival. It's not just for adventure addicts, anyone who appreciates the landscape will find something for them. It's guaranteed to inspire, entertain and educate.'

## Shock at memorial vandalism

VANDALISM to a war memorial at Glen Nevis visitor centre has left the group which erected it feeling 'shocked'.

The plaque, unveiled in memory of a World War Two Spitfire pilot who crash landed at the location, was found partially ripped off its mounting on Monday morning less than two years after it was put in place.

The police have been informed of the incident, which they believe took place sometime between November 12 2014 and January 5 this year

and said they were investigating the incident. The Archaeological Society of Lochaber laid the monument at a special ceremony on May 16 2013.

Robert Cairns, chairman of the society, said: 'I'm just annoyed that someone has desecrated a war memorial.'

The memorial was placed in tribute to Canadian John McDonnell, who was flying for the Royal Air Force when he crashed on May 16 1947.

His body is now buried in Tomnahurich cemetery in Inverness.

## Kind Kath's old card appeal

A KIND-HEARTED Fort William woman is recycling Christmas cards for charity.

Kath Johnston turns old cards into gift tags to sell in British Heart Foundation shops, including the town's High Street store.

Last year, Mrs Johnston created more than 10,000 tags and raised £1,000 for the charity and has asked

the people of Lochaber to donate their old cards for recycling.

Anyone wishing to donate can leave cards at the Alexandra Hotel reception, marked for Ken Johnston, or deliver them directly to 119 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore.

Mrs Johnston can be contacted on 01397 703689 or [kathkenjohnston@aol.com](mailto:kathkenjohnston@aol.com).

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NO BREATH TEST FAILURES IN OBAN OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

# Police praise zero tolerance

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

NOT ONE driver failed a breath test in Oban, Lorn and the Isles throughout a month-long festive road safety campaign by Police Scotland.

Police have described the campaign, which was launched on December 5 last year in tandem with new drink-driving laws, as a 'great result'.

The campaign, which had a major focus on driving behaviour included Christmas and Hogmanay, ended on January 5.

The Scottish government legislation reduced the legal drink drive limit from 80 milligrammes to 50 milligrammes in every 100 millilitres of blood.

Police in and around Oban set up static roadside checks throughout the period and increased patrols in the area, carrying out a number of roadside breath tests.

But as the campaign came to an end, Oban police warned it would not be complacent and would

continue with roadside checks in strategic places including Oban, Pennyfuir, Dunbeg and Tainuill.

Across the LB sub division (Argyll and Bute) only eight drivers were charged with drink driving.

Sergeant Allan Moore of Oban police said: 'Because of the new limit being implemented, it seems people are more aware of the level of alcohol in their system.'

'Whether they are having a glass of wine and thinking of driving, or even driving the morning after they have been drinking, they know there is every chance they could be over the new limit.'

Sergeant Moore described the statistic of no drink driving charges in the area as 'a great result', considering the increase in road policing activity during the festive period.

Oban North and Lorn SNP councillor Iain Stewart MacLean said he was pleased the Scottish government policy was having a positive effect: 'I think the new law has focussed minds and drivers are now not drinking at all.

'Like the ban on smoking in public places, I believe that a zero tolerance to drink driving will become the norm.'

The low figures for Argyll and Bute were described as 'very encouraging' by Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, who has previously called for a less severe penalty for drivers caught out under the new law.

When the new limit was first introduced, he said: 'The penalty for a first offence of being over the new limit shouldn't be a 12-month driving ban, if the driver was still under the old limit. A shorter ban would be a sufficient deterrent for a first offence.'

He said on Monday: 'The zero figure for Oban, Lorn and Isles is really good news.'

'But eight in total (for Argyll) is still too many. Every driver over the limit is a tragic accident waiting to happen, or that driver's livelihood about to be ruined.'

Across Scotland, police carried out 13,346 roadside breath tests between December 8 - 29, 255 of which tested positive.



GREAT RESULT: Although police in Oban carried out a number of roadside breath tests during the festive period, there were no drink driving charges issued in the Oban area



PARTY ON: delighted revellers enjoy the lights and the music at this year's Hogmanay in Oban

## New Year's resolution to save Hogmanay in Oban

**LOUISE LEE**  
lee@obantimes.co.uk

A SHOCK announcement by the people behind the 'Hogmanay in Oban' street party will see the 2014 event as the town's last - unless new organisers come forward.

But Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish has vowed to convene a meeting of any group that wants to take over the running of the successful event.

Volunteers said the last two years have established 'Hogmanay in Oban' as a great event for the town, but that it is now time for someone else to organise the free street party.

The family event was nominated for Thistle Awards by revellers after its first year, and saw more than 2,500 people attend each of the two events.

Funding came from local businesses, BID4Oban, The National Lottery and the Oban Common Good Fund.

But only a few days after a

second successful event, organisers have decided to hand over the reins to someone else.

The small group of volunteers, including Christine Roberts, Gary MacPherson, Colin MacNiven and Louis Barrow, pulled out all the stops to put on a 'professional show' for the town.

It also promoted singers, bands and performers in the earlier hours of the event - giving them an opportunity to appear on a stage in front of a live audience.

A committee spokesman said: 'After two successful years of running 'Hogmanay in Oban', it is now time to pass it on to any other interested party who wishes to take it on.'

Graeme Bass, chairman of BID4Oban, which sponsored the event, said: 'Of course, people will be disappointed to learn that the organisers want to pull out.'

'They have done a superb job in growing the event and it has

been hugely successful.

'Hopefully, others will come forward to take on running this event for the future.'

With a boost in the number of out-of-town visitors coming to the Hogmanay party each year, councillor McCuish is keen that this very successful event continues.

He said: 'Once again, the Oban Hogmanay party was an outstanding success.'

'It is regrettable that the team which has put together this annual event now wants to stand down.'

'Over the last two years, it has built up the event. It is always well organised, and is a huge boost to the local economy.'

'I understand that many people make Oban their destination because of the Hogmanay party.'

'I feel that if this event was to stop, it would be missed greatly by locals and visitors alike. I would be happy to help to find a way to keep it going.'

## TIMESLINE

### Numbers game is up for debate

THE OBAN Times has this week invited two Argyll politicians to debate how council policy can tackle the demographic time bomb.

While MSP Mike MacKenzie believes council planning policy has exacerbated the problem, councillor Ellen Morton argues major local authority projects have given Argyll and Bute a more prosperous future. See page four for report

### Area is a hotspot for baby boomers

ARGYLL and Bute is Scotland's baby boomer hotspot with almost one in three (28.2 per cent) people living in the area aged between 50 and 68.

According to investment provider Aegon, the county has the highest proportion of baby boomers - those born between 1946 and 1964 - in its population with 24,901 people.

### Man charged for window damage

THE SIX-foot high window at the front of the clothing outlet New Look in Oban's George Street was smashed on New Year's Eve.

Police have traced a 22-year-old man in connection with the incident and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Ferry disruptions as storms hit west

GUSTS of up to 90mph are expected to batter Scotland's west coast, Hebrides and Western Isles over the weekend.

Ferry operator CalMac has warned services from the mainland would be liable to disruption, as the severe weather takes hold from Friday morning and through Saturday.



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with John Wallace

### A New Year Resolution

That's the festivities finished. The holidays are over and the harsh reality of life returning to the "normal" daily grind for the next few months looms large over us all. For many of us health becomes a forgotten issue. The imperatives of daily living are such that minor health issues are simply ignored until they become significant difficult to treat problems. I regularly meet patients who have major vision problems which could have been prevented if they had sought advice sooner.

There are many things we can all do to maximise our chances of keeping our eyes healthy and ensuring clear comfortable vision. Possibly the easiest to suggest, and probably the hardest to achieve, is to stop smoking. Smoking is linked with the development of macular degeneration and of cataracts. Both of which can result in severe visual impairment. Improving our diet can significantly benefit ocular health. Eating several

portions of oily fish and green vegetables like spinach and broccoli every week can help reduce the discomfort of dry eyes and, in combination of smoking cessation, can reduce the risk of macular degeneration significantly.

It may seem strange to suggest using sunglasses in Argyll. UltraViolet light is a significant risk factor for cataract, retinal damage and tumours of the eye. Because we are situated in an area of high UV light levels (it's reflected from the sea and the mountains) we really should wear protection in the form of sunglasses. Treat yourself to some polarised lenses and you will gain an additional benefit of seeing the many potholes present in our roads as well as protecting our eyes.

The easiest way of ensuring maximum vision and healthy eyes is to have regular eye examinations. In Scotland adults are entitled to detailed eye examinations, funded by NHS Scotland, every two years.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
**Wallace Optometrists**  
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic  
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban  
**Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)**  
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

### Could your business play a part in a multi-million pound schools construction project?

Argyll and Bute Council, with Hub North Scotland and Morrison Construction, is investing in a new high school for Oban

Find out how your company could get involved as a sub-contractor or supplier - come along to our

**Meet the Buyer Event**

Wednesday 21st January 2015

Corran Halls, Oban - 1pm to 5pm

Register at www.morrisonconstruction.co.uk

One-to-one slots available to pre-book



### Teenager's brutal murder must see lessons learned in Western Isles

THE MURDER of teenager Liam Aitchison has sparked action for better care services for vulnerable young people in the Outer Hebrides.

The Western Isles Child Protection Committee commissioned an internal review after the 16-year-old was killed by Johnathan MacKinnon and Stefan Miller on the Isle of Lewis in 2011.

Following this, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is to work with the police, NHS Highland and other groups to ensure that changes are made to ensure children living in difficult circumstances are watched over by care agencies as they reach adulthood.

Vulnerable individuals known to the children's panel between 16 and 18 years of age are being pinpointed for more adult supervision by the council, while more supported accommodation is to be provided for youngsters.

Liam, from South Uist, was murdered by his work colleagues MacKinnon and Miller after he left his home in Stornoway and spent time sleeping rough on the island.

The two killers were each sentenced to 18 years in jail before having the opportunity to apply for parole, after repeatedly striking Liam with a knife and bottle on November 23 2011.

Commenting on the tragedy, a spokesman from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: 'These were very tragic circumstances and if we can improve services by learning from it that is good practice for us.'

### Cocaine accused faces £400 fine

A PROPERTY developer has been fined £400 after pleading guilty to possessing cocaine at Lunga Road in Oban.

Donald Birrell, 45, Ulva Road, Oban, was stopped and searched by police on September 21 and the drug, worth £25-30, was found on him in a plastic bag.

The court heard he had been given the drug by someone and had not intended to use it.

### Thieves target Kilninver barn

A QUAD bike and a generator were stolen from the barn of a farm in the Kilninver area between last Friday (January 2) and Saturday (January 3).

Anyone who saw any suspicious activity, or any large vehicles, in the area overnight should contact PC Christopher Pringle at Oban police station on 101.

# Campaigners set for court battle over fish farm plans

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk



BATTLEGROUND: FoLE hopes to overturn planning permission granted by the council to fish farmer Dawnfresh

CAMPAIGN group Friends of Loch Etive (FoLE) is seeking a judicial review at the Court of Session over a contentious planning application for a fish farm.

The four-day review over Argyll and Bute council's decision to grant permission for the expansion of the Dawnfresh fish farm at Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6) will take place between February 17 and 20 at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

If the court upholds Argyll and Bute council's decision, FoLE may be liable for the council's substantial legal expenses.

FoLE trustee Keith Macmillan said the judicial review was a 'huge risk' to the charity, but confirmed that money had been set aside for the council's costs and to 'cover any eventualities'.

Mr Macmillan said: 'Since its inception, FoLE has campaigned to protect Loch Etive now and

for future generations. It has challenged the right of one company to attempt to create profit at the expense of local residents and visitors.

'The accusation of 'nimbysm' in last week's *Oban Times* is totally unjustified. FoLE has campaigned equally vigorously against the Dawnfresh plans at Port na Mine (Etive 3) and Inverawe (Etive 2) as well as Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6).

'FoLE now has more than 250

members, mainly local residents and regular visitors to the Loch Etive area.'

An application by FoLE to limit its liability under a Protected Expenses Order, usually available to charitable organisations such as FoLE, was refused at the Court of Session in July last year.

Guy Linley-Adams, solicitor to FoLE, said: 'The petition asks the court to quash the planning permission given to Etive 6 and, entirely properly, the court will

hear both sides and come to a conclusion. Of course, the series of incomplete planning applications made over the last three years by Dawnfresh, which have either been altered, re-advertised or been scrapped altogether, has cost Argyll and Bute council much in wasted time and money.'

On the question of legal costs, he said: 'However, if the council wins in February, it can apply for its expenses then.'

While it is unknown how much Argyll and Bute council will incur in costs at the judicial review, Dawnfresh director Gideon Pringle said that legal representation for his company over the four days, as an interested party in the judicial review, would cost in excess of £40,000.

Mr Pringle said: 'I feel that we are seeing further effects on council officials, who have become very reluctant to deal with us in case it ends up in another expensive challenge from FoLE. 'This harms us as a business

and prevents us investing in the local community.'

'Obviously FoLE hopes to win the judicial review. We consider this outcome is extremely unlikely as the grounds for the review are very tenuous.'

'But this is going to cost the council tens of thousands of pounds, regardless.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The council is fully committed to defending the decision of the planning, protective services and licensing committee.'

'It is impossible to say what the costs will be prior to the conclusion of the case, and these will be dependent on the outcome.'

Dawnfresh dramatically withdrew its planning application at the Etive 2 and 3 sites on December 19, at an estimated cost of £750,000 to the firm, and said it planned to focus on the Etive 4 and Etive 6 sites for expansion this year, following the judicial review.

### Banned motorist disqualified again

A BANNED driver, who was spotted by police driving in Oban's George Street on December 10 last year, has been further disqualified from driving for a total 18 months.

Shaun Frame, of Corran Brae, Oban, was seen by police getting into a car after leaving a bar in the town around midnight.

He was stopped and breathalysed but this was negative.

In the course of their inquiries, police discovered the 28-year-old man had been disqualified from driving until January 27 2015.

Frame claimed he thought the disqualification had come to an end at the beginning of December.

He pleaded guilty to the charge and to having no insurance.

As well as disqualifying him, Sheriff Douglas Small placed Frame on a supervision order for a year, with the condition that he carry out 200 hours' unpaid work.

### Woman ordered to repay cheque fraud

A WOMAN who forged the signature of someone she was caring for on cheques worth a total of £150 appeared at Oban sheriff court in Tuesday for sentencing.

Marlene Armstrong, 57, of Dalintart Drive, Oban, had pleaded guilty to an earlier hearing to forging the cheques between May 3 and June 6 last year.

The court heard she had been employed by the sons of a former employer to look after their mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's and dementia.

She had got into debt and rather than involve her family had forged the cheques.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on Armstrong until September 29 for her to be of good behaviour and to pay back the money, which she said she had saved up.

### Not so happy New Year for speeders

POLICE continue to catch speeding drivers along the A85, with New Year road users flouting the speed limits at Arrivain and Tainuill.

Last Thursday (January 1) a 25-year-old motorist was clocked travelling at 50mph in the 30mph zone through Tainuill village.

The following day a heavy goods vehicle, which was limited to 40mph by traffic law at Arrivain, was seen travelling at 62mph by police.

Both the motorist and the HGV driver have been reported by police to the procurator fiscal.

# 'Miracle' sea eagle's death leaves Mull wildlife officer heartbroken

LOUISE LEE  
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MYSTERY surrounds the death of a 'miracle' sea eagle on Mull, and answers may never be found as the remains of the protected bird were deemed too badly decomposed for a post-mortem.

The four-year-old white-tailed sea eagle known as 'Kellan' was found by a hillwalker, during the festive holidays.

The bird was known to many as a 'medical miracle' after undergoing pioneering surgery for broken bones at Edinburgh zoo in October 2010.

The remains of the male eagle will now be sent to the Scottish Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) to examine how well the bones mended and how Kellan may have coped in the wild over the past four years.

Experts believe that Kellan was the longest surviving example of an eagle living in the wild after recapture.

The bird had become something of a celebrity for his unusual gait when flying and had attracted thousands of followers from all over the world on a blog site.

When the bird was set free just before Christmas in 2010, onlookers were amazed by what

appeared a touching reunion when Kellan's mother flew in to greet him after his first flight back in the wild.

David Sexton, the Isle of Mull Royal Society for the Protection of Birds officer, said: 'I'm heartbroken to have had to go and gather Kellan's remains. You're

not meant to have favourites in this job but he was mine. He was a medical miracle as his injuries were so severe, we sometimes wondered if he would survive for long.'

But the SSPCA vets were simply magnificent and they rebuilt him back into a working,

flying, living eagle. He made medical history. He was defiant and a fighter and he deserved his second chance back in the wild - where he belonged.

'I last saw him alive in 2013 and immediately knew it was him as he had quite a distinctive flight profile with his once-broken

wing held at a slightly different angle.

'It was hard to spot but I knew him so well and I was just thrilled he was still going strong. He took off and soared up above my head before flying away over a distant mountain ridge.'

'He clearly survived well for another year and at nearly five years old he was well on his way to becoming a full breeding adult.'

'I suspect that may have been the cause of his death, although we will never now know for sure as his remains were too far gone for a post-mortem.'

'He was found close to another active sea eagle nest and as a near adult male he wouldn't have been welcomed by the resident male and there may have been a fight over the territory.'

'He was a gutsy young eagle with his full, long life ahead of him and I wouldn't be at all surprised if he went into battle.'

'As soon as I heard that my heart sank; I knew it was Kellan and knew my dream of finding him one day paired with a female was over.'



MIRACLE OF FLIGHT: Kellan, the sea eagle, was found dead after four years in the wild

## A82 overnight closures



Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui are scheduled to take place each night from **Monday 12th January to Thursday 15th January.**

**The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.**

Diversion routes between these hours will be northbound via the A83 at Tarbet, A819 and A85, and southbound via the A85 at Tyndrum, A819 and A83.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This is to allow essential work to be carried out safely on the A82 Pulpit Rock improvement project.

Closures can be subject to change, therefore please refer to the Transport Scotland website for the latest information:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a82-pulpit-rock>



## Take a trip back in time as school show hits high notes

THE CORRAN halls will host this year's Oban high school dance show, which will take the audience on an odyssey 'through the decades'.

The audience will be transported back to some classic tunes from decades including the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s.

A mixture of dance styles including ballet, hip-hop, contemporary and Highland will be included in the performances.

The high school gymnastics squad will provide entertainment as well as the sports leaders and teachers, who will bring their own unique style to the occasion.

Highland dancers of all ages are encouraged to go along half an hour

before the start of the show, wearing a kilt or some tartan, to take part in the opening Highland Fling.

The Oban high school pipe band and local primary six and primary seven dancers have also been working with dance leaders from the high school on a routine to be included in the show.

Tickets are available from this Friday, January 9, from the high school, priced £5 for adults and £3 for concessions.

Performances are on Wednesday, January 14 at 7.30pm, and on Thursday, January 15 with a matinee at 12.15pm and evening performance at 7.30pm. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, if available.

## Move to debate population decline in Argyll and Bute

THE 'ALARMING' population decline in Argyll and Bute may make the debating chamber of Holyrood.

Highlands and Islands list MSP Jamie McGrigor has tabled the motion after attending Argyll and Bute council's population summit in Dunoon last year.

'The first available slot for the debate is January 22, although the final decision on when - or indeed if - the subject will be discussed won't be taken until closer to the time.'

Mr McGrigor said: 'I am keen that the issue of Argyll and Bute's alarming population decline remains very much on the national and local political agenda as we enter the new year. If this debate goes ahead, there are many issues I want to raise, with transport infrastructure being one of the key ones.'

So far the motion has attracted the support of eight Conservative MSPs, along with five from the SNP and two from Labour.

## A costly caravan bust-up

A WOMAN who caused more than £2,600-worth of damage to a caravan in Tobermory has been fined £300.

Appearing on Tuesday at Oban sheriff court was Christine Coyne, 31, of Assynt Road, Inverness.

The court heard the accused had paid the owner back £2,645.32 following the incident on July 19 last year, when she broke a mirror and coffee table and damaged the ceiling during a row with her partner.

There are some things you can't do with

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Dumbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board

### THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS DOOR TO DOOR CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms were posted to various residential properties in Argyll & Bute during the months of October to December.

These forms required a response from either the householder or individual residents.

During the months of January and February canvassers will be visiting properties to collect forms from those households and individuals who have not yet made a return.

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A FORM AND NOT MADE A RETURN YOU MAY RECEIVE A VISIT FROM ONE OF OUR CANVASSERS.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN STILL USE ONE OF THE METHODS BELOW TO MAKE YOUR RETURN.

Internet: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

Register by phone: ☎

Register by Post: ✉

Further details of how to do this will be on the Form sent to you recently.

David C Thomson  
Electoral Registration Officer

# Must win game for Oban Lorne in top-of-the-table clash

'This game will be a decider for us. If we lose, that's it'

OBAN Lorne must win a top-of-the-table clash at home on Saturday, or forget challenging for the title, according to coach Corrie Louw.

The Green Machine have two games in hand on table-toppers Cambuslang but only a win this weekend will give them a chance of beating the Glasgow men to the West Division Two title.

Louw is counting on having a full squad to pick from and is waiting on whether he can add to his already impressive forward pack with two new heavyweight signings.

Prop Lee Harris, a former professional with Glasgow Warriors and Exeter Chiefs is looking to get more match practise before taking part in under-35s tours later this year. And Oban Lorne may also welcome back former crowd favourite Greg McGill, who is back in his home town on holiday from Ireland.

Louw said: 'This game will be a decider for us. If we lose, that's it.'

'The boys realise how important this game is. We have a regional shield match next month but this game on Saturday is the most important.'

'We should be playing in West Division One; we have beaten teams in that league already this season and we have to win on Saturday to stand a chance of getting there.'

'I keep telling the boys the aim is to get to National Division Three (one tier above West Division One) because that is where we can play and that is the future.'

With the festive season now far behind them, Oban Lorne are training four nights a week in preparation for a crucial stage of the season. Attendance is high after Louw read the riot act following a rocky patch in form towards the end of 2014.

## Rugby

'We are getting around 25 boys at training and that is the response I wanted,' said Louw.

'Commitment is what it takes to get to where we want this team to be.'

'We lost out on the title by one point last season, so we have to win it this time.'

Lorne won the reverse fixture against Cambuslang 17 - 8 in October last year, despite the men in green playing the majority of the game with 13 men.

In general, the Oban side's form has been good, helped by the addition of some new signings who have played at a higher level.

## Impressed

Along with a strong showing in West Division Two, the team have also impressed in the BT Regional Shield with home wins against West Division One sides Allan Glens, Garnock and, most recently, Carrick. The winning run has set up a West Regional Shield final away to GHK on Saturday, February 7.

If Oban Lorne win this match they will be one win away from competing in the BT National Bowl final at Murrayfield where they will be looking for a repeat of their National Bowl win two seasons ago.

This Saturday's crunch tie against Cambuslang will kick off at 2pm at Glencruitten.

Argyll and Bute RFC are also in action at home on Saturday in West Division Four and take on bottom-of-the-table Glasgow East. Kick off for that game is also 2pm.

Oban Lorne mini rugby has resumed for 2015 on Wednesdays from 6 - 7pm at the clubhouse. All players from primary four to seven are welcome.



'EXCELLENT EXPERIENCE': Cameron Whyte and grandson Ciaran step out onto the Scotstoun pitch with the Glasgow versus Edinburgh match ball

## Proud moment for Mull rugby stalwart

A MULL rugby stalwart admitted he was 'apprehensive' about delivering the match ball to the pitch at Scotstoun ahead of Glasgow Warriors' recent first leg match against Edinburgh in the 1872 Cup.

But Cameron Whyte, who celebrated his 85th birthday the following day (December 28), said it turned out to be an 'excellent' experience.

Cameron, a former Scotland under-21 international was a main driver behind the formation of Mull rugby club, having also played for Salen football and badminton clubs.

His achievements in the sport were noted by at least one person who nominated the Salen man to be guest of honour and present the match ball at the derby match, which Glasgow went on to win.

Cameron, whose grandson Ciaran helped him deliver the match ball, said of his day:

'I was a bit apprehensive about it at first but it turned out to be an excellent day. My first thought was "Why would anyone nominate me?" Someone seems to think I was worthy of it.'

'I enjoy my rugby and that day turned out great; they looked after us so well. I'm not that good on my feet just now and they arranged a parking space for us right outside the stadium.'

## Represented

A former pupil of Strathallan School, Cameron became captain of the rugby team and represented his country at under-21 level against Ireland at Ravenhill in December 1947 and against Wales at Murrayfield in the spring of 1948.

Before university he spent a year playing first class rugby for Newcastle Northern but he returned to Mull before completing his studies to help with the family business,

## Rugby

the Salen Hotel and farm. His father had been gassed in the trenches in the Great War and, as a result, his health had deteriorated.

It was in the summer of 1978 that a core group of individuals, who had a passion for rugby, got together after arranging a match against a visiting Navy ship and formed the Isle of Mull Rugby Club.

Cameron became club president for the first three years and returned to the hot seat for a second term from 1984 until 1994. This second term included the years in which the club built two playing surfaces and a clubhouse at Garmony.

Until recently he was head groundsman and still attends home games to support his family members playing for the club.



MUST-WIN: coach Corrie Louw has laid down the gauntlet to his players ahead of their top-of-the-table clash against Cambuslang

## Sports Hall Athletics back up and running

SPORTS Hall Athletics will once again be promoted in Argyll this winter with the first competition for the Mid Argyll area being held at Lochgilphead Joint Campus on Sunday, January 18.

The competition in Lochgilphead is promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

The next local area competition is for the Oban area on Saturday, January 31 at Atlantis Leisure.

Next is the Mull competition

to be held at Tobermory High School on Saturday, January 21 in Campbeltown Grammar School.

Successful qualifiers from the four local area competitions will be invited to take part in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Saturday, March 21.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events bringing the excitement of track and field

athletics indoors in a warm and dry environment.

This winter marks the 21st anniversary of Sportshall Athletics' introduction to Argyll using sports centres, schools and town halls. Over the 21 years many of the young athletes taking part have gone on to win Scottish national age group titles both indoors and outdoors.

At this year's contests, there will be awards for the overall winners

## Athletics

in each age category and medals for all competitors. Age groups start at under seven, then under nine, under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17.

The organisers have introduced an under seven category at all the local area competitions but there will be fewer events for this age group.

## Saints return to league action

### Football

OBAN Saints return to premier division action on Saturday with a home game against Alba Thistle. The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is John Scott.

Saints have struggled to capture last season's form which saw them win the league and cup double so manager Iain Jackson will be hoping for a big improvement from his team after the festive break and hopefully pick up all three points in what could prove to be a tricky fixture for the Oban side.

## Annual challenge match at Mossfield

### Shinty

THE annual challenge match between Oban Camanachd and Oban Camanachd Veterans takes place at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday with a 1pm throw-up.

## Athletic on West of Scotland Cup duty

### Football

OBAN Athletic re-start their fixtures on Saturday after the festive break with a difficult away game in the fifth round of the West of Scotland Cup against Tarbolton, who are top of the Ayrshire Premier League.

The match will kick-off at 1.30pm with extra time and penalties, if required, to see who goes into the draw for the next round.

The following Saturday - January 17 - the Oban boys are at home against Antonine from the Vale of Leven in a West of Scotland League fixture.

A friendly match against Lochgilphead Red Star due to be played last week had to be cancelled due to the weather.

## RBS National First Shinty finals

### School shinty

THE 2015 RBS National First Shinty finals will be held in Fort William on Saturday February 28.

The P7 and under competition will be held at the Nevis Centre and the P5 and under competition at Lochaber high school.

Further details will follow early in 2015.

## Scottish Amateur League fixtures

### Football

THIS Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round - Campbeltown Pupils v Dunoon Athletic; Lochgilphead Red Star v Haldane United; Coronation Cup, first round - Rossvale v Tarbert; Premier Division - Oban Saints v Alba Thistle.

## Oban Saints youth fixtures

### Youth Football

THIS Saturday's fixtures: Under 13s v Campbeltown Pupils Youth; Ardencape v Under 14s; Under 15s v Drumchapel United; Lochgilphead Red Star v Under 16s; Under 19s no game.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D Harvey Hillfoot Terrace Tarbert

I Cameron Corran Brae Oban

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1500

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter. Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



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## Fort William notch four wins in a row for the first time

'It was quite sweet going there and beating Clach on their own patch'

FORT William recorded a historic victory at the home of rivals Clachnacuddin on Saturday, reaching a new club record of four consecutive wins.

Manager Calum MacLean says his side 'are not fearing anyone' after the 2-1 win, which saw goals from Sean Grant and Kenny MacKenzie.

The match was originally scheduled to take place as a home game at Claggan Park, but was called off on Friday due to a waterlogged pitch.

However, the fixture was promptly switched to take place at Clachnacuddin's Grant Street stadium to the relief of Fort's players and staff, where the sides were due to meet the previous weekend.

It was Fort's first match in more than a month following a spate of postponements, but MacLean said this did not stop his players' recent momentum.

He said: 'It was quite sweet going there and beating Clach on their own patch.'

'The football has been great to watch lately and the club has been revitalised.'

'I said from the start that we had a great squad and it wouldn't take long for things to click.'

Fort once again showed their

### Football

never-say-die attitude to take all three points through MacKenzie's goal with just six minutes left, just as the match looked like it was heading for a draw.

Grant had opened the scoring for the visitors six minutes into the first half with a spectacular 25-yard free kick, before Clachnacuddin levelled on 60 minutes.

Sean Ellis and Stuart Vance, who joined Fort last month on short-term deals until mid-January, both made their long-awaited debuts as substitutes.

MacLean said: 'The pitch was heavy and it wasn't a day for playing nice football. It was more of a battle.'

'We probably shaded the first half.'

'[Clachnacuddin] didn't really look like scoring but in the second half they upped the tempo.'

'The last 20 minutes we started to look dangerous and when we scored it knocked the stuffing out of them.'

The victory also saw Fort William win a prize dedicated to the late Simon Shields, a former player for both clubs who died of lung cancer in 2011.



FOUR IN A ROW: Fort's matchwinner Kenny MacKenzie (left) is challenged by Clachnacuddin's Blair Lawrie in the monumental 2-1 victory at Grant Street.

Fort and Clachnacuddin compete for the Simon Shields memorial trophy in their first league fixture every season as a tribute to him.

MacLean paid tribute to

Shields and ex-chairman Harry MacKenzie, who passed away in December.

He said: 'Harry was a lovely gentleman and we wanted to win for him.'

'The trophy was also a big thing.'

'I told the boys before the game I would rather have the trophy than the three points.'

'Simon was just a top bloke and

a great player who would run through a brick wall for you.'

Fort hope to take their remarkable winning run to five games when they play Formartine United away this Saturday.



CLASH OF THE ASH: Lovat's Michael MacKenzie (left) and Callum Cruden (right) compete with Beaulys' Sean Stewart during the Lovat Cup match at Braeview.

## Beaulys regain Lovat Cup

LOVAT lost their grip of the Lovat Cup to Beaulys, in a 3-1 scoreline at Braeview on January 2. A crowd of nearly 1,500 watched the action as the home side regained the trophy following Lovat's win in the same fixture in 2014.

The visitors opened the scoring on six minutes through Duncan Davidson, but Calum Morrison equalised for Beaulys after 25 minutes and the hosts went on to dominate the game.

Jack McDonald scored the second on 39 minutes before Connor Ross sealed the win late on.

Lovat Shinty Club president John MacRitchie said: 'Beaulys were by far the better team. We

### Shinty

have no complaints at all. We dominated the first 20 minutes but Beaulys were sharper on the day.'

On new year's day, another challenge match saw Kingussie's first team given a run for their money against an all-star side from the club for the annual Bob Sinclair memorial trophy, with the first team winning 4-2.

Russell Jones, Kingussie co-manager, said: 'We had a great turnout of people, probably a couple of hundred, despite it being wet and miserable.'

## Nick wins Aonach Mor uphill race

HIGH winds on new year's day didn't put a stop to Lochaber Athletic Club's Aonach Mor uphill race, as members took on an alternative route to keep the event running.

As the poor weather brought the Nevis Range gondola to a standstill, athletes couldn't travel as high as usual years, but reported a successful day nonetheless, with 131 runners turning up on the day, 23 more than last year's field.

It was Lochaber's Nick Sedgwick who took first place this year, clearing the route in 25 minutes and 53 seconds, shortly followed by second placed Tom Smith, also of Lochaber AC, in 26 minutes and five seconds.

### Athletics

Third place went to Peter Henry of Deeside Runners, who finished the track in 26:30.

Not to be outdone, Lochaber's women also reported success with Diane Baum first lady home in 30:02, and Sarah MacKenzie in 31:17. Shortly behind was Christina Rankin of Kilbarshan, who was third woman in 31:20.

Top 10 finishers (Lochaber AC unless stated otherwise): 1 Nick Sedgwick 25:53; 2 Tom Smith 26:06; 3 Peter Henry (Deeside Runners) 26:30; 4 James Espie (Deeside Runners) 26:31; 5 Steve MacDonald 26:39; 6 Jon Gay 26:41; 7 Andrew Barrington 26:47; 8 Ewan Taylor (Highland Hill Runners) 26:59; 9 Iain Gilmore (Carnethy Hill RC) 28:03; 10 Manuel Gorman (Westlands Cross Country Club) 28:18.

STRIDING OUT: The field of 131 set off on the Aonach Mor uphill race on new year's day



STRIDING OUT: The field of 131 set off on the Aonach Mor uphill race on new year's day



West Highland Wheelers' juniors set off on the winter league Leananach race

## Liam battles snow and ice

THE NAME of West Highland Wheelers' winter league was truly given meaning when Liam Moynihan had to fight snow and ice to take first place in the Leananach race in 44 minutes and 15 seconds.

With two firsts and a second, Moynihan now has a strong lead in the series, proving no match for the competition when he sailed past second placed Gavin MacLean, who crossed the finish in 47 minutes and 11 seconds on December 28.

Ben Thompson was shortly behind, taking third place with a time of 47:52 but the icy conditions meant some, including Mairi Meldrum and Gavin MacMillan, were unable to finish the race due to punctures and frozen gears.

### Cycling

It wasn't only the adults who braved the cold, as 11 children took on the junior race on the same day and nothing could separate Cory Muir and Daniel Parfitt, who crossed the finish line together to take joint first place in 15:40.

But Evan MacDonald was close behind in second place, finishing the track in 15:56 while Craig MacTavish was slightly further behind, taking third place in 16:25.

Top 10 adult finishers: 1 Liam Moynihan 44:15; 2 Gavin MacLean 47:11; 3 Ben Thompson 47:52; 4 Alastair MacLennan 48:38; 5 Stephen Cant 52:28; 6 Brych Hensman-Martin 53:04; 7 Tom MacMahon 54:15; 8 Tony Moynihan 55:20; 9 Gregor Muir 57:20; 10 Marek Polowianuk 58:21.

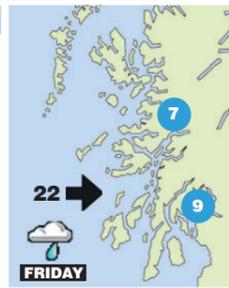
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**WEATHER**

<b>Thursday</b>	Cloudy Winds moderate west south westerly Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.
<b>Friday</b>	Light rain Winds strong west south westerly Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.
<b>Weekend Outlook</b>	Heavy rain showers Saturday Heavy rain showers on Sunday Winds strong northeerly Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.



**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, January 8, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm				
<b>Thur</b>	01.25	1.0	07.16	4.0	14.03	1.4	19.39	3.8
<b>Fri</b>	02.02	1.1	07.50	3.9	14.37	1.5	20.13	3.7
<b>Sat</b>	02.37	1.3	08.24	3.8	15.12	1.7	20.47	3.6
<b>Sun</b>	03.13	1.4	08.57	3.6	15.48	1.8	21.23	3.4
<b>Mon</b>	03.51	1.6	09.33	3.5	16.30	2.0	22.04	3.2
<b>Tues</b>	04.35	1.8	10.16	3.3	17.25	2.1	22.56	3.1
<b>Wed</b>	05.30	1.9	11.13	3.2	18.30	2.1	***	**

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