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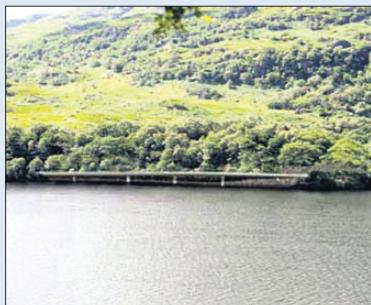
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Argyll scientist struck by lightning

SAMS team suffers second tragedy

A LEADING Argyll scientist, who is believed to have died from a lightning bolt strike while out walking, was the second member of his workplace to die in a week.

Appin man Dr Tim Boyd, aged 54, worked at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, the same institution where PhD student Christopher Bell, who perished in the Glencoe avalanche last week, was based.

The mood at the science centre this week has been described as 'grief stricken'.

Dr Boyd, a married father of two daughters, was walking across Jubilee Bridge in Appin at around 1.20pm on Sunday when a lightning bolt struck.

Local woman Alison Gourlay was first on scene and raised the alarm but the emergency services were unable to revive him.

The American-born scientist, who enjoyed hillwalking, cycling, sailing and travel, was internationally respected as a physical oceanographer and was a leading light at SAMS. It was at the Dunstaffnage lab that he pioneered development of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle technology programme at SAMS, and interpreted the data from these platforms. Tim was also a talented lecturer who will be sorely missed by his students.

'Tim Boyd pursued his research work with passion and integrity and was always willing to advise and support colleagues. He truly enjoyed his science and we will all miss our discussions with him. Tim was man of energy and generosity who will be deeply missed by friends and colleagues near and far.'

'We all feel loss and hurt, and will always remember the contributions he made to oceanography, Arctic science and SAMS. Our thoughts are with his family.'

A spokeswoman for the science centre said: 'We suffer deep pain and confusion to lose such a lively and warm friend and colleague. Our hearts go out in particular to his wife and his two talented daughters he was so very, very proud of.'

"Our hearts go out to his wife and two talented daughters he was so very, very proud of."

Thanks to his outgoing personality and easy-going nature he established himself quickly as a key researcher at SAMS.

Through hard work and dedication he pioneered the development of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle technology programme at SAMS, and interpreted the data from these platforms. Tim was also a talented lecturer who will be sorely missed by his students.

'Tim Boyd pursued his research work with passion and integrity and was always willing to advise and support colleagues. He truly enjoyed his science and we will all miss our discussions with him. Tim was man of energy and generosity who will be deeply missed by friends and colleagues near and far.'

'We all feel loss and hurt, and will always remember the contributions he made to oceanography, Arctic science and SAMS. Our thoughts are with his family.'

Strathclyde Police could not confirm a lightning bolt had killed Dr Boyd, adding that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death and a post mortem would be carried out in due course.



Dr Boyd, a married father of two daughters, was walking across Jubilee Bridge in Appin

Picture - Kevin McGlynn

False fire calls could lead to charges

NEARLY half of all Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's call outs in Argyll are false alarms.

Local area commander, Jim Scott, told Argyll and Bute Council that 44 per cent of all the force's call outs were unnecessary fire alarm calls.

He said many of these were due to heat sensors fitted in care homes but insisted the force would rather work with overly sensitive equipment than deal with fires. Mr Scott divulged the statistics during a presentation last week, partly to discuss how the single Scottish fire service would operate after coming into effect on April 1.

But a retired fireman told *The Oban Times* that with costs being cut, the new national service is faced with two options – charge for callouts or stay in the station.

He said: 'People will have to pay for the fire service to go out to false alarms or they will stop going unless the automatic alarm is backed up with a phone call to say there is a fire.'

'Where premises are inhabited they can tell quite quickly whether it is a fire or not, without putting people in danger – the only way to reduce false alarms is to check whether there is an incident.'

Councillor Fred Hall, who sits on the board of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, said while the fire service had to attend every call to ensure the safety of the public the high number of false alarms was an 'issue' which had to be solved.

He added: 'I am 100 per cent against any proposal to look at charging businesses or other premises who have a high number of fire brigade call outs due to false alarms.'

'It is far better that premises have a fire alarm than be disincentivised to have one due to possible charges if the alarm goes off in error.'

Old Rockfield study to cost £50,000

UP TO £50,000 is to be spent on hiring consultants to carry out a feasibility study to use the old Rockfield Primary School site for social housing.

Argyll and Bute Council last week approved an urgent motion to allocate cash from its strategic housing fund for the options and feasibility report on the Grade-B listed building following a request for funding from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

The social housing provider will now put the study to tender, although the council say it could still cost less than £50,000.

Local businessman John MacGregor, the only person to have expressed an interest in buying the site, says the report is to be welcomed as it will lead to the building being demolished.

He said: 'The feasibility study is simply part of the process Historic Scotland require if it's to be taken down.'

'If this is a box that has to be ticked, so be it. It will come down.'

A full site investigation will be carried out as part of the survey, along with an options analysis, outline design, cost, timber and asbestos survey.

The Oban Times previously revealed talks were ongoing between ACHA and the local authority in a bid to use the site for social housing.

At the time, the chairman of new business association BID4Oban, John Forteith, said he hoped he would have dialogue with the council on its future plans for the site before any firm decisions were taken. However, this week the new BID4Oban manager, Nic Jones said there had been no discussions between the parties.

He said: 'There is nothing to say they have to speak to us first, but we would quite like the dialogue to be there.'

'We would like there to be some dialogue in the future though as we would like to work with them on Rockfield.'

Historic Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council had been in discussions to have the building de-listed to allow it to be demolished, but no formal application was made.



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Inveraray gains £970,000 development boost



Inveraray is one of Scotland's first planned towns

INVERARAY'S renowned white-washed facade and the troubled Reliefland building will be restored to their former glory this year as the Royal Burgh is awarded almost £1million in conservation funding.

Great news!

The burgh, one of Scotland's first planned towns, has been awarded £970,000 from Historic Scotland's Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS).

The money will be used to fund repairs to eight key buildings in Inveraray and offer financial assistance to the 10 private homeowners of Reliefland, who each face a repair bill in excess of £25,000.

The eight buildings are Arklands tenement, Marriage Rooms, Reliefland tenement, Front Street East corner building, Front Street West corner building, Community Hall,

Argyll Hotel front elevations, Main Arch to Avenue, Inveraray Parish Church and Inveraray Courtroom.

Frances O'Hagan of Inveraray Regeneration Group, said: 'This is a major boost to the area, as far as I know we have never had anything like this before.'

'The residents of Reliefland are all very relieved as it means they will get financial support to do up the building. This will make a huge difference to them especially to those on low incomes, young families and pensioners.'

Argyll and Bute Council had submitted the bid to Historic Scotland. John Semple, lead councillor for development and infrastructure, said: 'This is great news for Inveraray which is an iconic town and very popular with visitors to Argyll and Bute.'

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Lorn Lines



Oban Lorne rugby players, from left, Robin MacQueen, Struan Smith, Corrie Louw and Cameron Smith unload Keith Brimlow's equipment at his new premises.

HE HAS cured the aches and pains of Oban Lorne's rugby players for three decades, so when osteopath Keith Brimlow needed a hand moving his business, there were plenty of willing helpers.

Rugby players from Oban Lorne recently turned out in force to move Keith's practice from Highland Apartments, Oban, to Tahsis in Kilmore.

Oban Lorne captain Robin MacQueen, who helps to run his family's removal company MacQueen Bros, said: 'Keith had operated from Highland Apartments for the past 29 years and during that time has been a great supporter of the club making sure the boys recover quickly from injury at next to no charge.' He first approached us at MacQueen Bros to carry out the removal but the date was during our festive holiday period and that's when the club stepped in. We felt it was a good way to repay a little of the effort that Keith has put in over the years.'

Robin said Keith would continue to treat players following his move to Kilmore – starting with strains from the removal!

□□□

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club enjoyed an entertaining and educational meeting last week when Guido Faccenda introduced three excellent speakers and their critics.

The speakers were Tom Clegg who spoke on 'The Enigma Code', Roy Wood who spoke on 'Ferrari 250 GTO' and Bill Leech who spoke on 'The Canadian Pacific Railway'.

In the second half of the programme, topics chairman Jim Fraser used quotations from Burns as his subjects when he asked Frank Walton, Alec Clark, Eamonn Arthur and John Maclean to speak on different subjects.

Timekeeper for the evening was Alec Clark and the general evaluator was Malcolm Black.

The next meeting, on February 7, will be the annual Ladies Night. It will be held in the Undercroft, Church of Scotland Centre.

□□□



THE LORN branch of 'Yes Scotland' held a sell-out Burns Supper in Oban Rugby Club on the evening of January 25. Pictured above are the participating speakers; - left to right Bob Allan (Address to the Haggis), Breege Smyth (Reply from the Lassies), Kenny Lindsay (Toast To the Lassies), Kathryn Wilkie (singer of Burns songs), Dr Douglas Mackenzie (To Scotland), Ron Grier (Tam O'Shanter), Derek Pretswell (Master of Ceremonies), Dr. Kirsty Macdonald (Vote of Thanks) and Patrick Grady (The Immortal Memory).

□□□

MEMBERS of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club enjoyed an interesting and entertaining presentation on rallying presented by local rally driver Willie 'Flit' Bonniwell and his navigator Allan 'Winkie' Mac Dougall.

Willie and Allan gave an excellent talk, backed up by a DVD and a selection of photographs and press cuttings from when they first started rallying, with amusing anecdotes from experiences in the various rallies they have participated in over the years.

The next club meeting will be held on Thursday February 28 at 7.30pm in the Loch Ness Arms Hotel, North Connel. Anyone interested in classic vehicles is welcome to attend.

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A DONATION of £400 to Park Primary School from Oban Cash for Kids has helped staff buy a new table tennis table for the pupils.

Linda Crosher from the charity visited the school to present the cheque to pupils. The school runs a popular table tennis club for primary seven pupils.

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Fishermen and crofters groups join call for independent investigation into Barra's environmental designations

FRESH calls have been made for a more detailed independent investigation into controversial proposals to impose environmental designations on the Sound of Barra.

Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association (MNWFA) has joined the Scottish Crofting Federation in supporting campaign group Southern Hebrides Against Marine Environmental Designations (SHAMED) in opposing the proposed Special Area of Conservation (SAC), saying it would dramatically

change the local way of life and stifle investment.

SHAMED and MNWFA say the details obtained under freedom of information indicates the scientific proposal put forward by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) was collaborated with the Scottish Government rather than independently arrived at.

The Scottish Government, meanwhile, say they are considering both SNH's scientific proposal alongside an independent expert review

commissioned by environment minister Paul Wheelhouse and

will make an announcement as soon as ministers have made a decision.

The MNWFA say the investigation commissioned by Mr Wheelhouse is 'limited'.

John Hermse, MNWFA chief executive, said: 'Our association has been a principal opponent of SNH's proposals since their conception and has worked closely with local community groups to reverse SNH's flawed direction on this whole issue.'

'One has to go back to first principals' here and recognise why exactly SNH initially

proposed the site; it was precisely because the traditional fishing practices employed by local fishermen have continued to allow this outstanding area to flourish to its present exalted status.'

'Arrogance'

'What we are now witnessing is the extraordinary arrogance of SNH flying in the face of proven local 'best practices' in local fisheries management, by suggesting only SNH to be competent guardians of the Sound of Barra.'

'It's high time the Scottish

Government took a grip of this situation and instigated a full enquiry as to how SNH have been allowed to meddle in this way and repeatedly mismanage their local consultations, resulting in this assault upon both Barra's fragile fishing economy and local democracy.'

A spokesman for SNH said:

'We have recommended that Ministers submit the Sound of Barra to the European Commission as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC). This followed a public consultation, at the request of

Government, and is based on the scientific case for the SAC. This is in keeping with our statutory remit.'

'The consultation raised a number of scientific and non-scientific objections to the SAC. However, our role is to advise on the scientific case for designation.'

'We fully accept the concerns about the proposal, and are pleased that Marine Scotland has agreed to include them in the review of the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA).'



The former Dornie nursing home Graham House has lain empty for two years and is now in a sorry state.

Island fuel suppliers called to Glasgow meeting

OPERATORS of island filling stations have been invited to discussions on the price of fuel at the pumps and the rural fuel duty rebate scheme.

The meeting, which will be held in Glasgow's Marriot Hotel today (Thursday), has been called by David Mundell MP, parliamentary under-secretary of state for Scotland, following discussions with Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, Western Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil and Orkney and Shetland MP Alistair Carmichael.

Top of the agenda will be the effectiveness of the fuel duty rebate on Scottish islands and an Office of Fair Trading report will be discussed.

The rural fuel duty rebate scheme gives motorists in remote parts of the country a five pence per litre discount at the pumps.

An example of the high cost of fuel in rural islands can be found on Colonsay, where motorists currently pay £1.59 per litre for petrol and £1.69 per litre for diesel.

Andrew MacGregor of Colonsay Community Development Company, which runs the filling station, said: 'We believe the scheme is working because it is easy to claim the five pence reduction but we are still charging £1.59 per litre for petrol. And that is taking into account we are a community run station, which only operates a small margin

to ensure we can afford repairs and other overheads. The problem for small stations like ours is we have a small number of sales, so we don't get the discounts from suppliers that larger businesses can. If someone was to run our filling station as part of a profit-making business they wouldn't make any money out of it.'

The letter of invitation for today's meeting was dated January 21 and, with only a week's notice, Mr MacGregor said no member of Colonsay Community Development Company was able to attend.

However, the community company has made a written submission for the meeting to consider.

Argyll and Bute may look to private nursing care for elderly and vulnerable

THE CARE of vulnerable adults living at home and in care homes could be outsourced to private companies as Argyll and Bute Council seeks to save £42 million over the next seven years.

Councillors will next month decide whether or not to explore the private sector's interest in developing nursing care places and extra care housing in the three areas of Argyll and Bute where council care homes currently operate.

The council's adult services special committee has said the redesign will save money whilst raising the overall

standard of care throughout the county. The committee is also recommending that Struan Lodge closes in Dunoon because of excess capacity for residential care in Cowal.

The council has to make the best use of resources available while ensuring the services provided improve the quality of people's lives wherever they live in Argyll and Bute.'

The proposed changes come as Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland move to care for more people at home as opposed to in hospital and residential care.

The council has said homes will be adapted to ensure they are tailored to a person's individual needs.

Honesty jars stolen

AN HONESTY jar outside a house in Sleat has been stolen.

The jar, which sat at the end of a driveway in Camuscross,

was used for people buying eggs and contained around £6. Police said the theft occurred sometime between 4pm on Monday January 14 and 11am the following day.

A neighbour who has also lost an honesty jar said the thefts were 'a shame'.

Commanders named

NORTHERN Constabulary Chief Superintendent Julian Innes has been named as one of Police Scotland's new 14 Local Policing Commanders.

Chief Superintendent Innes will oversee local policing operations across the Highlands and Islands when the new single force takes over on April 1.

Streamlining could save Argyll and Bute Council money claims former hotelier

STREAMLINING Argyll and Bute Council's planning department could help achieve all of its saving targets, it has been claimed.

Speaking after attending a recent meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles Planning Group's budget consultation meeting, North Connel resident and former hotelier Iain MacLeod said planning was an obvious area for change - costing £18million to run and taking just £2.4million in fees.

Pointing to figures published

by Audit Scotland two years ago showing national planning costs are £100million with £23million taken in fees, he claimed running a similar cost to fees ratio could potentially save the authority around £7.5million per annum.

The council needs to save £6million.

Mr MacLeod said: 'It would seem to me if this council's planning department were to meet the Scottish average costs would drop from £18million to £10.5million.'

UHI seeks new members for University Court

THE UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands is seeking applications for a new chairperson and members of its governing body, the University Court.

Responsible for the strategic direction of the university and the good governance of the institution and its financial health, the court is also responsible for managing risk.

It is being reconstituted following a review of the governance and management of the university and in recognition of the changing nature of the institution.

The chairperson and members of the University Court are voluntary, unremunerated, roles however necessary expenses are reimbursed.

Further information can be found at uhi.ac.uk/court2013 or by phoning Fiona Larg on 01463 279211.

Police issue warning following spate of thefts

POLICE have warned Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh residents to make sure their belongings are secure after a number of thefts in the area in recent weeks.

Items have been taken from a variety of places throughout the west, including boats, sheds, offices and houses.

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'Whilst incidents of theft are much less common than the rest of the United Kingdom, they do still occur.'

'Please take care to keep closed and locked the access points to your homes, sheds, boats etc.'

'Where possible keep your valuable property out of sight and secure.'

Islay distillery looks for a 'special' apprentice

Whisky fans get chance to work with legend Iain

TONGUE-in-cheek comments from fans of Lagavulin whisky, wishing they could work in the Islay distillery, have inspired a new competition run by the brand.

Following calls from fans to get involved with the process, the Islay distillery is running the unique competition to find an apprentice to work two days in June.

But instead of working for Lord Alan Sugar, the successful apprentice candidate will be paired up with Lagavulin legend Iain McArthur, the warehouseman who has worked at Lagavulin Distillery for more than 42 years.

Iain explained: 'Duties will include peat-cutting, malt-advocating, cask-testing, whisky-tasting and tea-making - I like my tea with just a drop of milk!'

'I'm joking about the tea, but there's plenty of work to be done.'

To have a chance of winning, entrants must apply before March 31 and then accumulate enough votes to get into the final.

Iain will handpick a winner from the 10 entries with the most votes and 50 runners-up will receive a signed bottle of Lagavulin 16 Year Old from Iain.

Entrants must apply via the Friends of the Classic Malts website at www.malts.com, explaining why they would love to work with Iain for two days.

Right: Lagavulin legend Iain McArthur is looking for an 'apprentice' to work at the distillery for two days.



Highlands and Islands MSP to champion cause of rare insects

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has accepted a role as wildlife champion for the narrow-headed ant (*Formica exsecta*) by constituents from the Badenoch and Strathspey Conser-

vation Group. Mr McGrigor, the Scottish Conservative's environment spokesman, is one of a number of MSPs who have adopted an endangered species within their region.

Police charge driver with four offences after alleged stolen car crashes off road near Lochaweside village

OBAN police have confirmed that a 23-year-old man has been charged with four driving offences after he allegedly stole a car before crashing it into a roadside ditch near Portsnachan, Lochaweside on the A819.

Police were called at 9.30pm last Wednesday following the lochside incident and subsequently charged the man with theft of a car, driving without a licence, driving without insurance and careless driving.

Meanwhile, Oban police

are seeking information from residents of Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, after two parked cars were 'keyed' by vandals.

Scratches to the bodywork of a parked Citroen and a Vauxhall were reported on Friday, January 25 and it is believed the

damage was caused the previous night.

Anyone who knows anything about this, or any other incident

can contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Burns Club of Oban chairmen past and present, Roy Wood, left, and John MacLean, present Robert McCulloch with his 100th birthday gift. 16_t05beb01

Blood donors required

BLOOD donors from Argyll are being urgently sought to help meet the demand from hospital patients.

The mobile donating team will be in Oban's Corran Halls next Wednesday, February 6 from 4pm until 7.30pm and Thursday, February 7 from 1.30pm until 3.45pm and 5.15pm until 7.30pm.

Only five per cent of the eligible population currently give blood and every day 1,000 donors are needed to meet hospital requirements for blood.

Tyndrum chip shop 'best in Britain'

A TYNDRUM café has been crowned the best independent outlet serving fish and chips in the whole of Britain.

The Real Food Café picked up the accolade at the 25th annual National Fish and Chip Awards in the Lancaster London Hotel last week. The café was also nominated for the Amanda Seafoods Challenge Award in the national competition which celebrates traditional fish and chips and rewards outstanding businesses across a variety of award categories.

Woman shoplifter is reported

A SHOPLIFTER has been made the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal after stealing from premises in Oban's George Street.

The 40-year-old woman allegedly committed the offence at 5pm last Thursday.

Alcohol seized from teenagers

BOOZING teenagers in Oban had their alcohol seized by police officers last Friday night.

The group of six youths were traced by police to Mossfield Stadium, in the Glencruitten area of the town.

In December, *The Oban Times* revealed children as young as 11 in Oban had been treated for alcohol intoxication.



The top table at this year's Burns Club of Oban annual dinner. 16_t05obanburns01

Council compiles 30-year plan of future projects

'Ambitious' £20million proposal for Lorn

A WISH list of future projects including superfast broadband and an expansion of Oban Airport has been compiled by Argyll and Bute Council.

A total of 11 projects have been put forward by the council to be included in the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework (NPF), which covers the next 30 years.

Cruachan expansion

Among the projects is an expansion of Cruachan Power Station, which Scottish Power say is something they 'may consider' in the future but are not progressing at the moment.

Other ideas include an 'ambitious' £20million proposal, the Lorn Arc Project, to improve marine and road infrastructure in the area.

Road upgrades are also mentioned, with the continued improvement of the A82/A85 Oban to Glasgow and A83 from Campbeltown to Glasgow named.

Chairman of the planning committee, councillor Sandy Taylor, said: 'These projects have been chosen by the council in consultation with its community partners as being the most likely to boost sustainable economic growth, improve our connectivity and reduce our carbon footprint in Argyll and Bute.'

The recommended projects will now be considered by Scottish Ministers for inclusion in the next National Planning Framework.'

The NPF sets the national framework for land use development planning in Scotland. This means the NPF has the potential to influence future Argyll and Bute Local Development Plans over the next 30 years and how individual planning decisions are made.

Each project put forward by the council has to make a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic growth and must be of regional significance.

Community kilts for kids scheme at Inveraray

A COLLECTION of unique kilts made in Inveraray will be hired out to local children to help parents overcome the cost of buying new.

Adorned with the Loch Fyne tartan, the kilts were donated to Furnace Primary School Gaelic Choir by the late Bernard O'Hagan, of Redshanks Kiltmakers, who made them especially for the school choir.

But following the retirement of head teacher and choir conductor, Mary Gillies, the kilts went into storage and stayed at the school until Bernard's widow, Frances, brought them back to Inveraray.

The kilts, which were designed by Mr O'Hagan and Islay kiltmaker Gordon Covell, will now be hired out from Redshanks for a nominal fee to the parents of children in Inveraray and the surrounding district.

Frances' first customer on Sunday was Inveraray lad Gregor King. The son of Highland games legend and Inveraray games stalwart, Steven, the five-year-old's need for a kilt is clear.

Frances explained: 'The school said it had no use for the kilts, so I decided this was the best use for them.'

'Children like Gregor grow out of a kilt in a year, so it is a lot of money for parents to buy a new one.'

'The kilts were for local children, so I only wanted to hire the community kilts to families in the local area.'



Frances O'Hagan of Redshanks Kiltmakers measures up five-year-old Gregor King, who was the first child to hire one of the community kilts. 16_t05skilt02

Burns club celebrates births of two well-known Roberts

100-year old attended his first Burns club dinner in 1947

THE BIRTHDAYS of two special Roberts were celebrated at the Burns Club of Oban dinner last Friday as one well-known local shared the spotlight with the bard.

Longest serving

Robert McCulloch, the club's oldest and longest serving patron, had turned 100 the day before and was presented with a case of classic malts by new club chairman John MacLean and out-going chairman Roy Wood.

The Oban native, whose grandparents moved to the town and started a family in the 1860s, went to his first Burns club dinner in 1947 at the Station Hotel (now the Caledonian Hotel). He has since attended every year, bar one when he had a swollen foot and only missed out because he couldn't get his shoes on.

Although most of Robert's family have lived long lives, his own father died at the age of 40 from a poisoned kidney, meaning Robert had to work from a young age to support the family.

A joiner for 20 years, during which time he served in WWII, Robert became clerk of works with Argyll and Bute Council and served the 26-and-a-half years up to his retirement without missing a single day through illness.

Asked for his secret to a long and

healthy life, the sprightly centenarian replied: 'When I'm having a wee joke with people, I say wine, women and song – in any available order.'

'But I really think it is down to knowing what your capabilities are and being happy when you get a job done.'

The Robert Burns fan was a special guest at this year's dinner when John MacLean toasted The Queen to open proceedings.

Roy Wood gave The Immortal Memory and there were songs from Peter Sinclair and fiddle player Maurice Duncan.

Guests from Inveraray, Jim MacMillan and Ken Stark, recited Death and Dr Hornbook, before Philip Preston toasted the Land We Live In.

The Reply came from Sheriff Richard Davidson and former Oban police officer Scott McEwen, now based in Glasgow, gave the Toast to the Lassies.

The vote of thanks was given by John Horne and piper Torquhil Telfer played for a rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

Robert, who has eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, will get a special visitor today (Thursday) when one of his sons, Jack, returns from Canada.

Islanders on Mull directed to NHS 24

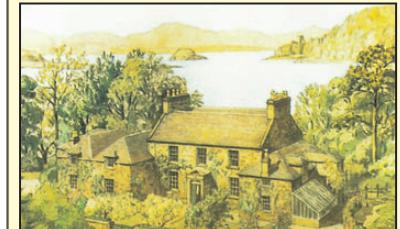
RESIDENTS on the Isle of Mull who need health care outside GP opening hours are being asked to phone the NHS 24 service.

The change comes following the opening of the Mull and Iona Progressive Care Centre in Craignure.

Previous arrangements which had seen residents contacting nursing staff directly out of hours will end on February 11 with the NHS asking locals to call 0845 424 2424 from that date for help when their GP surgery is closed.

Professor George Crooks, NHS 24's medical director explained how the service works: 'If you feel ill when your GP surgery is closed and you cannot wait until it reopens, we will take your call and once we determine what the problem is we will either be able to give you advice and reassurance or refer you on to the most appropriate service,' he said.

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**Dunbeg man
alleged to have
made threats**

A DUNBEG man accused of threatening to kill his neighbours has been released on bail after denying the charges.

Ian Hendry, 46, of 64 Lochnall Road, Dunbeg, pled not guilty to making the threats when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Hendry is expected to face trial on March 19. He will appear again on March 5.

**Tourism guide
competition**

A TOURISM guide promoting Oban and Mull is running a competition to find the best photograph of the area.

Explore Oban and Mull is looking for the most 'beautiful' photograph of the area to use in its guides and website.

High resolution entries should be submitted, along with contact details to helen@explorescotland.net.

The closing date for the competition is February 8 2013.

Martha named ScotsCare Scot of the Year

LOCHGILPHEAD schoolgirl Martha Payne has pipped Olympic and US Open tennis champion Andy Murray in the race to be named Scot of the Year 2012.

The 10-year-old, who has helped raise almost £130,000 for Mary's Meals, was named Scot of the Year as the country celebrated Burns Night.

Awarded the accolade by ScotsCare, the charity for Scots in London, Martha was nominated alongside Andy Murray, Sir Chris Hoy and other notable

athletes and rock band Biffy Clyro. Astounded by the support she received in the public poll, Martha, a pupil of Lochgilphead Primary School, said: 'It's very special to be awarded ScotsCare Scot of the Year. I wish everyone in the final could have won as well because they've all put smiles on so many people's faces this year.'

'It is very kind that people have voted for me. I've only done a little bit and lots of people have helped by doing a little bit as well. I'd like to share the award

with everyone that has donated and all the kids in Malawi that we are supporting with Mary's Meals and especially those in Lirangwe where the Friends of NeverSeconds kitchen is.'

The award is a great achievement in 2012, the year Scottish Olympians triumphed like never before.

Sir Chris Hoy, who placed third in the poll, won his sixth Olympic medal whilst Andy Murray, named second in the poll, became the first British grand slam winner since 1936.



Martha Payne meets children in Malawi.

Morvern Lines



Winter in Morvern can be a tough time for deer – and stalkers.

WINTER is the most important time of the year for the Morvern deerstalkers. It is the season when the red deer hinds are carefully selected and culled.

Since wolves became extinct red deer have had no natural predators other than man, foxes and Mother Nature.

The stalker's days are long and difficult, often spent in the most uncomfortable and trying conditions.

Chilled to the marrow by bracing northerly winds, soaked in the skin from crawling through peat bogs and lying for hours in melting snow and ice. His job is a hard one but it is one few stalkers would choose not to do.

The unrivalled scenery, the solitude on the hill, the lift of the golden eagle on the breeze, the sharp bark of a hind on the edge of the corrie and the croak of the ptarmigan among the rocks.

All these make the stalker's job an enviable one as he goes about his business in the evening of the year.

Knowledge of a particular hillside and the strike of the wind among the corries are the most important factors in deciding where he stalks his deer.

A deer's sense of smell is as strong as their vision and having been hunted since the days of Adam, it is hardly surprising the deer hate the scent of man.

It is possible to stalk deer in almost any type of weather although mist and rain make it inadvisable and extremely difficult.

One of the pleasures of going stalking is to be able to sit and spy wildlife in the surrounding countryside. High wind makes the deer tetchy. Although favouring the stalker by coming from a definite direction, its movement among the grass and heather makes them nervous.

Often, when feeding, they will suddenly throw up their heads and catch out the unwary stalker as he tries to slip across an open patch of ground.

Once selected, the professional stalker shoots the animal in the neck or heart. Some amateurs will aim for the head to avoid damaging the meat but it is too risky a shot and could easily break the beast's jaw leading to certain death by starvation.

After the shot comes the gralloch - the removal of the intestine which is of little commercial value and better left on the hill for the ravens and the golden eagle.

Deer feature large in Gaelic verse and lore. 'Fiadh a fireach, aon de na tri mheirbh as nach do ghabh duine náire riámh' – 'A deer from the forest, one of three thefts no man need be ashamed of'.

This was the old Highland poacher's plea in mitigation when apprehended. The other two were a salmon from the river and a tree from the wood.

The deer was the emblem of the Naphtali, one of the Twelve Tribes mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 49:21) and a stag's leap was used as an old Highland linear measure and was equal to 30 feet.

Hind's liver is a delicacy and makes excellent pate as does the heart in which there is supposed to be a bone. The following is an old Morvern recipe. Mince one pound of liver and one pound of belly pork twice. Crush a clove of garlic in a little salt and add to the mixture.

Infuse an onion and a bay leaf in half a pint of milk and make a white sauce. Mix the meat and sauce adding a teaspoon of anchovy essence and two beaten eggs. Place in a dish, cover with foil and cook in a bowl of water in a moderate oven for approximately one and a half hours.

Iain Thorner.

Councillor urges caution over police counter terrorism moves

AN ARGYLL councillor has compared police measures to counter terrorism and organised crime to 'implanting chips in baby's heads'.

The deputy leader of the opposition Ellen Morton made the comments after Strathclyde Police's Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan talked to the council last week about Operation Kayak, a new initiative to track potential criminals using social events or holiday homes in Argyll and Bute as a means to carry out illegal activities.

Also outlining plans to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems around Faslane, Mr McEwan explained that the police would not be complacent in the face of potential terrorist threats.

He said: 'Terrorism is here, it's not that long ago there was the attack at Glasgow Airport and it's important we don't take our

eye off the ball. One way we're doing that is with the recent launch of Operation Kayak.'

'For those people looking at holiday homes, we will get to know these individuals.'

He explained social events would also be monitored in a bid to deter criminal activity.

However, Mrs Morton urged caution.

'People have a right to go places without the police looking into their backgrounds for no reason,' she said.

People have a right to privacy. You might as well start implanting chips in baby's brains.'

However, CS McEwan eased fears that people's privacy would be infringed by the operation.

'What we're trying to do is led by police intelligence, this is intelligence led.'

'This is more to track people we know are involved in criminal acts.'

Councillors briefed on Kinloch Castle options

LOCHABER councillors have been briefed about the upcoming Scottish Natural Heritage consultation with the community, third sector groups and other interested parties to consider options for Kinloch Castle on Rum.

The condition of the former stately home is deteriorating badly despite £1 million being spent on repairs in recent years. It is hoped a report will be completed by July. At their latest business meeting in Fort

Sale to raise Poland trip funds

PLOCKTON High School is holding a table sale in Dornie Hall on February 23 at 1pm to raise funds for a senior pupils' trip to Poland.

The party will fly out from Edinburgh to Krakow, where they will be based, on June 24 and return on June 28.

Depute rector Iain Robertson said the itinerary would include the Wieliczka Salt Mine, Auschwitz, Oscar Schindler's factory in Krakow, Wawel Castle in the city, the Galicia Jewish Museum and Nowa Huta, an old industrial area of Krakow built in communist times.

The sales day will feature a bottle stall, home baking, raffle, bric-a-brac and teas and coffees. Anyone wishing to book a table should contact Catherine Callander on 01599 555415.

Iain Thorner.

Woman honoured with service medal

A FORT William woman has been awarded the Operational Service Medal Afghanistan on return from a four-month deployment to Kandahar Airfield.

Senior Aircraftsman Iona MacDonald, from Upper Achintore, received her medal from Air Officer Scotland, Air Commodore Gavin Parker.

Iona, 26, who is currently based at Royal Air Force Leuchars in Fife, is a former pupil of Strathclyde Police's Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan.

She was part of the medical team at the UK medical facility providing primary health care and emergency care to British troops and other NATO forces based in Kandahar, both on the ground and in the air.

The young medic was among a group of service personnel receiving medals at a ceremony at Leuchars last week.

Air Commodore Parker said:

'It is very gratifying for me as station commander to see our personnel receive honours and awards recognising their dedicated service in the presence of their families and friends.'

'All of today's recipients have

made a significant contribution to the Royal Air Force and are to be congratulated for their efforts.'

local civilians from flights and ensuring that they were transported to local hospitals.

Iona enlisted into the RAF in 2004 as a medic and has a young daughter. This is her second operational deployment having previously served in Iraq.

The young medic was among a group of service personnel receiving medals at a ceremony at Leuchars last week.

Air Commodore Parker said:

'It is very gratifying for me as station commander to see our personnel receive honours and awards recognising their dedicated service in the presence of their families and friends.'

'All of today's recipients have

made a significant contribution to the Royal Air Force and are to be congratulated for their efforts.'

up on time. Public transport is being increased and local organisations are also promoting various travel schemes.

'We will continue to assess the full impact of the bridge works and make any further arrangements if required.'

Phase one of the work starts on February 11 for 16 weeks.



Senior Aircraftsman Iona MacDonald receives her Operational Service Medal Afghanistan from Air Commodore Gavin Parker.

Duo star in Music for All concert

THE MUSIC for All concert series in Lochaber continues on Saturday when violinist Lisa Ueda and pianist Danièle Rinaldo play as a duo at Kilmallie Community Centre Hall at 7.30pm.

Both musicians have played at major European and UK city venues and have several prizes and accolades to their names.

Most recently, in 2011 they were awarded the Tunnell Trust Music Prize in London, which has then allowed them to tour Scotland.

The duo will follow their Fort William performance with a concert at St John's in Oban on Sunday, followed by Skye, Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Concert organiser Zafira Clark said: 'This is a not to be missed opportunity to see these high-quality classical musicians while they are in Lochaber.'

Quartet launch debut album

AN ALL-star Gaelic singing quartet from the west Highlands is to launch its debut album at the Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow today (Thursday).

The release from Cruinn comes exactly a year since the band performed its debut concert at the prestigious winter music festival.

Cruinn brings together James Graham, Fiona Mackenzie, Brian O'hEadra and Rachel Walker.

Speaking ahead of the launch of the self-titled album, Cruinn's Lochaber-based band member Rachel Walker said: 'We have worked hard in choosing a diverse mix of material for the album, including songs from Ireland, England, Hungary which are translated into Gaelic, as well as self-composed songs and traditional Gaelic ones.'

Musicians' bid to boost music school

A SERIES of 'Survivor Sessions' in aid of Friends Of Plockton Music School begins a second three-night run in Glasgow tomorrow night as part of Celtic Connections.

Host musicians will include Plockton Music School former students, who aim to raise awareness of the Friends' work as an independent charity raising money so activities at the school may continue.

The open session gigs, in the Dundas Salt at Waxy O'Connor's next to Queen Street Station, run tomorrow and Saturday from 12pm-5pm and 8pm to 12am.

On Sunday, tunes and songs will be ongoing from 12pm to midnight.

Spotlight on wildlife conservation

LOCHABER Natural History Society (LNHS) will hear from forester Henry Dobson at its February monthly meeting.

Mr Dobson, who works on conserving wildlife in Lochaber woodlands for Forestry Commission Scotland, will speak at the open meeting in the Alexandra Hotel at 7.30pm on Monday February 18.

RSPB research scientist Dr Mark Hancock spoke at the LNHS January meeting about the rare duck the common scoter. He said the bird is in danger of becoming extinct in the UK, but around 50 pairs are breeding in the west Highlands.

Portree pupil's prize logo design

A PORTREE High School pupil has come second in a competition to design a logo celebrating Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's 40th anniversary this year.

Marion Docherty won £50 while winner Connor Harper, of Wallace High in Stirling, earned himself £100 and his school £150. Gaelic pupils from across Scotland entered the competition.

Iain Thorner.

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Skye and Lochalsh school catchment areas to change

CHANGES to the secondary catchment areas of Portree and Plockton high schools will come into force after the summer holidays.

The changes mean most pupils from the Kyleakin Primary School catchment will in future transfer to Plockton High School for secondary education.

Kylehea will become part of Broadford Primary Primary School's catchment, with pupils transferring from there to Portree High School.

The council's adult and children's service committee approved the move in Inverness last Wednesday.

The changes were recommended following a statutory consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

The eight-week consultation last autumn was taken forward by the council following representations from Kyleakin Primary School Parent Council.

Committee chairman Alasdair Christie said: 'We have listened to parents and the local community and have taken into account their comments.'

Dunbeg man accused of assaulting wife

A DUNBEG man accused of assaulting his wife in a hotel in Glasgow last year appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

James MacDonald, 48, denies pushing his wife last November. He also pled not guilty to shouting, swearing and making threats at his home in Dunbeg on Sunday.

MacDonald was released on bail to an address in Oban before facing trial on March 19.

Hope Kitchen coffee morning

A COFFEE morning in aid of Hope Kitchen is to be held in Oban's Regent Hotel this Saturday from 10.30am until 12 noon.

The annual event is organised by the Inner Wheel Club of Oban. Hope Kitchen will benefit as it is the 'charity of choice' of this year's Inner Wheel president Catherine Hall.

Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan to focus on jobs and investment

A PUBLIC consultation on the proposed Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan (LDP) will start in February.

The focus of the plan is on creating new jobs and investment opportunities, new homes for people to live in and the

necessary infrastructure such as roads and superfast broadband to make this happen.

The plan provides a clear vision of how Argyll and Bute's land will be used over the next 10 years in response to the key challenges such as population

loss and climate change.

Chairman of the planning committee councillor Sandy Taylor said: 'The proposed Local Development Plan includes a vision, key aims and policy responses which are designed to address the challenges the

communities of Argyll and Bute will face in the years ahead.

Housing needs

'These include meeting all of our housing needs, reducing the need to travel, creating new job opportunities, retaining our essential services and looking

after our outstanding natural and built environment and delivering the many development opportunities contained within the plan.'

Help

Argyll and Bute Council is now asking for the public's help to shape the future of the area.

From February 4 the public can take part in the consultation in a number of ways.

They can respond online at www.ayl-bute.gov.uk/ldp or they can download the form and send it back by e-mail to ldp@ayl-bute.gov.uk.

They can also post the form back to the council at the

following address: Development Policy Team, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD. Or you can fax the form back to 01546 604 678.

There will also be a series of open days throughout the region. These run from 3pm to 8pm and will include Lochgilphead Community Centre on February 19 and Oban's Corran Halls on February 20.

There will also be one in Campbeltown's Victoria Hall on February 21, Taigh Solais in Tobermory, Isle of Mull on February 28 and the Service Point Bowmore, Isle of Islay the same day.

Skye sports budget cuts to be discussed

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council has been notified by Highland Council's director of education, culture and sport Hugh Fraser that a proposal to reduce its funding by three per cent in each of the next two years will be discussed at the council's budget setting meeting on February 7.

Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae reports the sports council to be 'very disappointed' as sport already struggles to exist in rural areas with high school rents and travel costs. Last year the sports council reduced its maximum grant from £500 to £300.

Events training day at Lochgilphead

A TRAINING day will be held at Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, to teach third sector plan groups how to successfully plan and host events.

It is hoped the day will benefit charities, community groups and local projects whether they want to hold small gala days or large scale festivals.

Organisers say there will be something for everyone at the training day – whether you are a novice and have never hosted anything before or an 'old hand'.

The training day will run from 10am to 4pm on March 2 and will include inspirational speakers, workshops and the opportunity to meet and network with other event organisers.

Video conferencing links are also available for island residents.

Electrical tools and equipment stolen in Connel

ELECTRICAL equipment worth £2,000 has been stolen from a Transit Connect van in Connel's Main Street.

The theft occurred between January 17 – 23 and resulted in the loss of a yellow Dewalt cordless drill and electrical testing equipment worth £1,700.

Oban Police have urged anyone with information relating to the theft to contact PC Charles Masterson on 01631 510500.

Mobile phones gain boost as Vodafone agree masts upgrade

MOBILE phone reception across Argyll and Bute could be set to improve dramatically after Vodafone agreed to upgrade its masts to provide 3G coverage.

Over the next 12 months, the operator will work to ensure a 3G signal will be available

wherever a 2G signal is currently available, while an agreement to share masts with O2 should result in wider overall coverage across the area. Gerry Wilson, Argyll and Bute Council's head of IT, said: 'We are going to see benefits from this across the

area, not just at the council, but for the whole economy.'

In 2011 Ofcom published a report detailing 80,000 'not-spots' for signal throughout the UK. Argyll and Bute is one of the UK's worst areas for mobile phone reception, with 19.1 per

cent of the geographic area having no reliable coverage, third only to Highland and Angus Councils. The work is part of the UK Government's Mobile Infrastructure Project which set aside £150million to improve mobile reception across the UK.



Oban Lifeboat crew members and staff from Oban's Yorkshire Building Society relaunched the building society's Charity of the Year campaign.

Lifeboat crews gain continued support

OBAN Lifeboat station can bank on another year of support from staff at the Yorkshire Building Society after the company decided to continue its fundraising campaign from 2012.

The building society group is extending its Charity of the Year partnership with the Royal

National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) into 2013 after raising an astounding £200,000 over the last 12 months - £231 of which was raised in Oban.

Highest total

The amount raised across the country is the highest total achieved in the building society's history, through a

national fundraising campaign.

Last Friday the Charity of the Year campaign for 2013 was re-launched in Oban at the branch on George Street.

The team at the branch will be holding fundraising activities throughout the year and selling RNLI items within the branches to raise money for the charity.

THE VEHICLE accident recovery team from Semple's Garage in Inveraray had an unusual client last week when the Ministry of Defence (MOD) asked them to recover a mine from the shores of Loch Fyne.

Bomb disposal experts, coastguard, police and fire crew descended on Inveraray last Friday morning after locals reported the mine in the water.

Stephen Mearns from the garage said a member of staff saw the mine in the water.

'It was right in front of the garage,' he said.

'We were all looking at it and one of the older guys said that's a mine'.

We all laughed, we didn't believe him.

I thought they would evacuate the whole place. But they said it wasn't live, which was good news.'

It is believed the mine may have been used in training exercises and became buried in the seabed until disturbed.

Mr Mearns added: 'It was egg-shaped and about four foot tall. The MOD asked us to drag it up

the beach and put it into their vehicle. I was a bit worried but they ensured us it wasn't live.'

He added: 'It was no ordinary



Staff from Semple's Garage in Inveraray helped the MOD recover the mine from the shores of Loch Fyne last week.

day at the office.' Sergeant Danny McGeachy of Lochgilphead Police thanked the garage team for all their help: 'Many thanks to Semple's staff for all their help removing it.'

Easter & Summer Short Courses on the Isle of Skye

With Sabhal Mòr Ostaig celebrating its special 40th anniversary year, why not spend a week on Skye at Scotland's National Centre for Gaelic language and culture. We offer weekly language courses for all levels of students from the beginner to the fluent speaker. Some of our other cultural courses are shown here, but for a full list please visit our website. Thigibh a chéileadh oirnn!

Cùrsa	Course	Tutor	Begins
Giotár	Guitar	Ross Martin	01/04/13
Órain Ghàidhlig	Gaelic Song	Christine Primrose	01/04/13
'Murt aig a' Bhanais'	'That Wedding was Murder!'		05/04/13
Everyone enjoys a good wedding... don't they?! A fun filled two day Gaelic Murder Mystery weekend where people will be asking whodunit?			
Piobaireachd	Piping	Angus MacKenzie	08/04/13
Fidheal	Fiddle	Gabe McVarish	08/04/13
A' Cluich Cruinn-còmhla	Groupwork Skills	Allan Henderson	08/04/13
Dealbhachadh Digiteach	Digital Photography	Cailean MacLean	08/04/13
Cùrsa	Course	Tutor	Begins
Cùrsa Flòdaigearraidh	Gaelic in the Flodigarry Community		27/05/13
Seachdail nan Teaghlach	Family Learning Week		01/07/13
Piobaireachd & Drumaireachd	Piping & Drumming Under 18's	Iain MacFadyen & Andrew MacPherson	01/07/13
Órain Ghàidhlig	Gaelic Song	Christine Primrose	08/07/13
Cùrsa Còmhraids	Gaelic Conversation	Muriel Fisher	08/07/13
Bocsá Phìانا	Accordion	Addie Harper Jnr	08/07/13
Bocsá Putain	Button Box	Robert Nairn & Fergie MacDonald	08/07/13
Cùrsa Flòdaigearraidh	Gaelic in the Flodigarry Community		15/07/13
Fidheall	Fiddle	Alasdair Fraser	20/07/13
Cello	Cello	Natalie Haas	20/07/13
Air Chuairt	Exploring Skye	Muriel Fisher	22/07/13
Piána	Piano	Mhàiri Hall	29/07/13
Clàrsach	Clàrsach	Ingrid Henderson	29/07/13
Órain òl is fealla-dhà	Gaelic songs of Drink & Revelry	Margaret Stewart	29/07/13
Cleasaidheachd	Acting: Gaelic Drama	Artair Donald & Debbie MacKay	29/07/13
Órain Ghàidhlig	Gaelic Song	Christine Primrose	05/08/13
A' Teagasc Dràma	Teaching Acting	Artair Donald & Debbie MacKay	05/08/13
Cinnidhean na Sgire	The Clans of Skye & Lochalsh		12/08/13
Fidheall	Fiddle	Charlie McKerron	12/08/13
Dealbhachadh Digiteach	Photography (Advanced)	Cailean MacLean	19/08/13
Cùrsa Flòdaigearraidh	Gaelic in the Flodigarry Community		26/08/13
Órain Ghàidhlig is Traidiseanan	Skye Gaelic Song and Traditions	Mary Ann Kennedy	26/08/13

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Islay Letter**Gathering chairman**

ONE of the best known names in the world of Gaelic choral music will be the guest chairman at the Glasgow Islay Association's 151st annual gathering in Partick Burgh Hall on Friday, March 1.

Kenneth Thomson, conductor of Ceòrlaith Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, better known as the 'GG' choir, will preside at the concert which starts at 7:30pm and will feature singers and instrumentalists who are no strangers to Highland audiences.

Kenneth Thomson was born and brought up in the Campbeltown district and went on to have a distinguished career in the NHS. He was also active in the establishment of An Lochran, the Glasgow Gaelic arts organisation.

He joined the 'GG' as a bass chorister in 1968 and took over the conductor's baton in 1983. For the past 30 years he has been instrumental in making the 'GG' one of the best known choirs in the country and the choristers have also enjoyed numerous successes under his leadership during the last three decades.

Kenneth married Valerie, nee Ferguson, a home economics teacher from Portnahaven and they became the proud parents of a son and daughter.

Tragically, Valerie lost her life in a road accident in August 2009 and her untimely passing devastated Kenneth and the immediate family as well as casting a gloom over Glasgow's Highland community and throughout the wider Gàidhealtachd.

Kenneth is a skilled musician, a musical arranger of note, and won the gold medal for solo singing at the National Mod in Stornoway in 1979.

Islay Association president Malcolm Campbell said 'we are delighted to welcome Kenneth as our chairman and we will be also fielding a clutch of performers who are guaranteed to entertain'.

The gathering dance will be held on the following evening, Saturday, March 2, in the Strathclyde University Union at 90 John Street from 9pm till 1am.

Providing the music will be the ceilidh band 'Reely Jigged', some of whose members have family connections with the Bruichladdich area.

Having the concert and dance on two separate nights will give visitors to the city the opportunity of making it 'real Glasgow Islay weekend'.

Concert and dance tickets cost £10 each and are available from Association treasurer Janette MacArthur on 0141 812 5150 or at sheilaloch@hotmail.co.uk

They can also be obtained locally from the Bowmore and Port Charlotte Hotels.

Old New Year Ceilidh

LIBBY Morris made sure that the ginger wine was flowing freely at the Kilmeny Old New Year ceilidh held in the Ballygrant village hall on January 11.

Andrew McCowan was the amiable singing fear an tairge, Mairi MacGillivray sang, danced and played the fiddle, Libby took time off from the wine bar to add to the vocals, and Lagavulin's Alec Brown also added his singing voice to the proceedings. The evening's piper was Alasdair Currie and all enjoyed the dancing input from Sophie Baker, Anna Learmond and Abby Brown, all junior members of the Ell Edgar Dancing School.

Other youngsters showing their mettle, after a quick rehearsal, were Morven, Abby, Maggie and Robbie Brown, Orla Davidson and Lauren Morris.

Dance music was provided by 3 generations of Port Ellen musicians who certainly know how to set feet tapping. Margaret MacDonald on keyboard joined her daughter Alison on guitar and electronic chanter while Alison's daughter Ciara showed her dexterity on whistle and accordion. Augmenting the sound was Clare Jordan on fiddle.

The 'Baking Bowl' seasonal purvey lived up to expectation, raffle tickets were eagerly bought and support came from all areas of the island.

The Ballygrant summer ceilidhs, another local success story, kick off in May, and will continue to appeal to both locals and visitors.

Mòd Ìle 2013

SYLLABUSES for Mòd Ìle 2013, taking place in the island high school on Saturday, 8th June, are now available, and can be had from Mòd secretary Alison Gray on 01495 301546. (alisongrayscale@aoe.co.uk)

Closing date for entries is April 20.

**Hugh Smith,
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Tel: 01496 810 658**

KILCHOAN

KILCHOAN couple Jon and Gill Haylett took a walk over to Ardnamurchan's rocky north coast last Wednesday to investigate one of the peninsula's many ruined settlements.

Leaving the car near Achnaha, Jon and Gill followed the old track to Plocaig, where stand the ruins of 12 dwellings.

All but one, according to Mr Haylett, had been traditional 'black houses' with low stone walls and a hole in the reed thatch for smoke to escape.

Only parts of their crude stonework remain, while the only house to have been improved to two storeys is deteriorating with each successive winter.

'Little wonder the population steadily abandoned their homes - we know the village was deserted by the early 1930s,' he told The Oban Times.

'People were cleared from other parts of the peninsula and were moved to the shore during the main clearances from the 1820s onwards.'

'We have also wondered whether the landlord moved the people there to collect kelp. The land is very poor - all they had was the sea.'

COLONSAY

able to live on my island. By voting 'no' we would be condemning ourselves to standing still.'

I want to raise my children here. I want a new generation of kids to experience what I

need, raising no less than £725.

A Christmas craft fair also went well and Hogmanay saw the place packed to the rafters, with revellers enjoying bagpipe music and fireworks at midnight.

Islanders will be running the pub until the end of March, when Alex Howard will take it over again.

The next meeting of the community council will be in Dalavich on March 26 at 7:30pm.

Everyone present at the meeting complained about the condition of the B845 Glen Nant road, and the C29 Dalavich road on which many residents' vehicles had suffered some damage due to the state of the verges and the potholes. The Convener stated that he had been in touch with the Roads Department who said that, weather permitting, work would start next week with a proportion of the cost being met by Blackwell, the Carraig Ghail wind farm contractors.

The club supporters, however, voted for Laura Gallacher as their player of the year.

Aoife Tangey was named most improved young player and Lauren Doherty was given a trophy for captaining the team throughout the year.

In the lead up to the vote Marine Harvest, the company behind the proposal will hold three open days in the village hall.

Marine Harvest has promised to create four to six full-time jobs for local people at the fish farm and has been consulting with islanders during the past year.

Before Christmas, they sent every islander a copy of their Environmental Statement, which scientifically measures the level of risk that the proposal carries.

The release of the Environmental Statement has led to two responses from locals, who have written into the Colonsay Cornicrake, the island's online newsletter.

Local shopkeeper Keir Johnston and his partner, Grace MacPhee provided bar training for 10 locals, who had stepped forward in the island's hour of need.

The curtain was lifted on Colonsay Community Pub at the beginning of December, with a whisky-tasting session.

It has hosted a visit from Pudsey the Bear when 'A Gaggle of Colonsay Grannies' organised a very successful buffet and live music event for Children In

growing up here. That is my dream.

I will vote yes for myself; when I come home for good I want to see a working community.

I will vote yes for my brother; why should he feel compelled to leave his home because there is no work?

COLONSAY Community Pub has plans to open for the upcoming Six Nations rugby tournament, as volunteers continue to run the watering hole.

The pub at the island hotel was due to close for the winter before islanders started organising a deal with hotel owner Alex Howard.

Headed up by local development officer Donald MacNeill, they agreed to rent the pub from Mr Howard and ran it with local volunteers.

Local shopkeeper Keir Johnston and his partner, Grace MacPhee provided bar training for 10 locals, who had stepped forward in the island's hour of need.

The event will open with an introduction to the 1912 Dewar Report, which led to the establishment of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service in 1913, the first state-subsidised medical service in the world and a precursor to the NHS 36 years later.

Dewar examined medical conditions in the Highlands and Islands and took evidence from local witnesses, including crofters. In Skye and Lochalsh, hearings took place at Dunvegan, Portree and Kyle.

The conference will also look further back to the history of the MacBeath Gaelic medical family, who under the Scottish kings changed their name to Beaton.

Other contributions will consider the impact of Dewar on local hospitals and the experience of Highland practitioners in the first half of the 20th century.

The final session focuses on Dr Lachlan Grant of the Gesto Hospital and the story of a Skye nurse who took the idea of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service to Kentucky in the 1920s.

The associated exhibition runs at the Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre until February, and includes a showing of the 1943 film, 'Highland Doctor'.

To book a place at the conference contact Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre on 01478 614078 or email skyeandlochalsh.archives@highlifehighland.com.



The desolate beauty of the ruined settlement of Plocaig

KILCHRENNAN

A NUMBER of items were discussed at a meeting last Tuesday of Avich and Kilchrennan Community Council, hosted by Kilchrennan Village Hall.

The next meeting of the community council will be in Dalavich on March 26 at 7:30pm.

Everyone present at the meeting complained about the condition of the B845 Glen Nant road, and the C29 Dalavich road on which many residents' vehicles had suffered some damage due to the state of the verges and the potholes. The Convener stated that he had been in touch with the Roads Department who said that, weather permitting, work would start next week with a proportion of the cost being met by Blackwell, the Carraig Ghail wind farm contractors.

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Before Christmas, they sent every islander a copy of their Environmental Statement, which scientifically measures the level of risk that the proposal carries.

The free event, hosted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, will see Dr Andrew Pritchard discussing his latest book 'Aluminimumville' - which examines how aluminium production affected life in the Highlands in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The event will open with an introduction to the 1912 Dewar Report, which led to the establishment of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service in 1913, the first state-subsidised medical service in the world and a precursor to the NHS 36 years later.

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IT WAS agreed that last year's flower show in Dalavich, had been a tremendous success thanks to Council Member John Fleming. He said that he was looking for a volunteer to

organise this year's show in Kilchrennan, provisional date August 17.

DAVID Crooks asked what the position was regarding the defibrillator in Dalavich now that Robert Connor, who was in charge of it, had left the area.

Marilyn Henderson explained that she would be arranging a meeting shortly with all volunteers to discuss this matter and also the financial arrangements for funding.

She also said that training courses would be available soon for old and new volunteers.

DALAVICH

ACCESS to the Foreshore at Dalavich Cabin Site was first on the agenda at last Tuesday's Avich and Kilchrennan Community Council meeting in Kilchrennan Village Hall.

A good attendance, especially from residents of Dalavich, saw a presentation given by Jolyon Gritten, outdoor access manager for Argyll and Bute Council.

Many residents voiced their concerns that they can no longer walk along part of the shoreline at the cabin site due to the fact that one of the owners has fenced off part of the land there and also built a pier.

After an interesting question and answer session, Mr Gritten expressed the view that it would be very costly if the residents decided to fight their case in court.

Later at the meeting, one of the residents raised another matter regarding the cabin site. She said that a planning application had been made for six cabins and a pond to be built on the playing area in front of the social club.

She said that this site was used for recreation purposes and most of the residents were objecting to the plan and asked if the community council would also object.

It was agreed that Avich and Kilchrennan Community Council would lodge an objection.

ONICH

A FUNDRAISING race night

for St Bride's Primary School is to be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Onich on March 8.

All funds raised on the night go towards paying for the youngsters' projects, trips, equipment and activities. A raffle will also be held on the night.

LAGGAN

LAGGAN Forest Trust are asking the local community what amenities they would like to see at the new centre planned for Strathmashie.

Already included in plans are a café, showers, toilets and a bike rental shop for Laggan Wolftrax, and are looking for any other suggestions.

The community charity runs Wolftrax in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland.

APPIN

PRESIDENT Doreen Evans was delighted to welcome two new members to the first Appin SWRI meeting of 2013 on January 17 in Port Appin Village Hall.

After business had been completed it was 'Corners Night' and members could choose to try crochet, origami, finger food or cheesecakes.

Everyone had fun and learned something new and thanks went to those who gave the demonstrations: Doreen Evans, crochet; Liz MacNeill, origami; Margaret Massey and Myra MacDougall for finger food and Debbie Dunlop for cheesecakes.

Some of the delicious finger food was served with tea and the competition results were as follows.

Lemon curd: Gold - Helen Currie, Silver - Ellen MacCorqudale, Red - Jessie MacKenzie, Blue - Doreen Evans, Green - Alison MacCorqudale, Brenda MacLeod, Elizabeth Board and Jean Breckenridge.

Design for umbrella: Red - Doreen Evans.

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Argyll and Bute favour two of three A83 options

TWO OF the three options recommended in Transport Scotland's Rest and Be Thankful landslip report should be pursued, according to Argyll and Bute Council.

A full meeting of the authority met last week and discussed their preferences from the study, which put forward three possible options to mitigate the effects of landslips on the road.

In its report, Jacobs recommended the Red Option, which at £10million was the cheapest and least effective option. It would see new gutters and drainage installed on the road with extra netting and vegetation put in place.

The Yellow Option would see a new viaduct created adjacent to the existing road, costing £83-95million, while the Green Option would see a new 4km stretch of single carriageway created on the opposite side of

the glen, costing between £27-91million.

While councillors expressed a need to see rapid action the red option would present – and the comparative lack of disruption it would create during construction – it was suggested the green option could also be pursued.

However, councillor Dick Walsh urged caution with how the authority responded. He said: 'My worry is we get the Red Option and that's it. Should we not put forward that the preferred option is the green one?'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'The clear option is the green one, that's what we really want.'

Meanwhile, the council's lead councillor for roads, John Semple, said progress was being made on upgrading the A83 between Kennacraig and Campbeltown to trunk road status.



The Pulpit Rock plan includes the construction of a viaduct running parallel to the shoreline

Port seals landmark deal

KISHORN Port Ltd is one of four Highland companies set to benefit from a potential £100 million offshore renewable energy bonanza after sealing a landmark deal with Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Under new agreements, HIE will support Kishorn, Global Energy Nigg, Port of Ardersier and Cromarty Firth Port Authority to secure consents, market opportunities, attract investments and enable further development. First Minister Alex Salmond announced the move in a keynote speech at the Offshore Wind and Supply Chain Conference in Aberdeen on Tuesday.

Kishorn director Alasdair Ferguson, who also runs Corpach-based Ferguson Transport, was 'delighted' with the tie-up. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We see it as a formal commitment by HIE and the Scottish Government to developers on site.'

'It gives a clear message to the offshore renewables sector that Kishorn is open for business and that HIE and the government are keen to support both infrastructure and developers on site.'

The First Minister said the ports were 'ideally positioned' to become centres for offshore wind, wave and tidal energy. He said: 'We are working hard with our enterprise agencies both to secure overseas investment into our world-leading renewable energy industry and to support Scottish businesses to seize the huge opportunities available, working in partnership with inward investors and the rest of the supply chain to create jobs and help re-industrialise communities right across Scotland.'

HIE chief executive Alex Paterson said the organisation was ready to support 'manufacture, fabrication, assembly, deployment and operational support' at the ports for the Scottish, UK and European offshore wind market.

The move is another boost for Kishorn, a former oil platform fabrication yard, as it moves into the lucrative renewable energy sector. Last month it agreed a lease with independent developer Trident Energy to test attachable wave power devices for oilrigs and wind turbines on a deepwater jetty.

Long-awaited school work to start in March

THE LONG awaited multi-million pound works to complete the refurbishment of Lochaber High School are due to start in March.

The £11 million project, known as Phase 3, includes a new dining, kitchen, entrance, admin and library block and new guidance offices. Landscaping will be carried out and a new lift will be created. New bus shelters will also be installed, roofing will be improved and the car park will be resurfaced. The new entrance is due to open in October 2014, with the rest of the work scheduled to be complete by March 2015. Work on Phase 1 of the project, which saw a new sports and drama centre created, ended in January 2011. Phase 2 included demolition and refurbishment of buildings from the 1960s and 70s and finished in May 2011.

Cheers! Glenbeg Distillery meets 2013 whisky target



Banavie pupils step out in style at ballet class

Banavie Primary School P4 pupils took another step towards learning dance as part of the Curriculum for Excellence last Thursday. After expert tuition from classically trained instructor Jasmine Adams, centre, and her team, the class performed 'Nutcracker in a Nutshell' for pupils and staff. Jasmine visited Ullapool and Plockton primary schools with her routine before her tour of Lochaber schools. 'Nutshell' is an introduction to ballet for children who perhaps would not have encountered ballet first hand. The tour promotes Scottish Ballet performances and recommends local ballet classes. Class P4/5 teacher Izabela Dolzyk is pictured behind, second right.

Clubs back call for better pitch maintenance

HIGHLAND Council is spending £350,000 on overhauling three grass pitches it owns in Lochaber, it emerged this week.

The figures came to light at Lochaber Sports Association's (LSA) meeting at Lochaber High School on Monday. Club representatives revealed recent groundworks at Jubilee Park at Ballachulish and Fort William Shinty Club's An Aird pitch cost £120,000 and £130,000

respectively. Upcoming repairs to Lochaber rugby club's sodden park will cost a further £80,000, LSA members heard.

Both Iain Brown of Ballachulish Shinty Club and Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall were pleased with the repairs but backed calls for a united LSA campaign for effective pitch maintenance programmes across the area to save the council spending such huge sums in future.

Mr Gall asked: 'How much has Highland Council got in its budget for each playing field?'

LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard replied: 'We are still waiting for an answer. To date everybody is expecting tech services to do the maintenance but they are running out of manpower and resources. Clubs are getting more and more frustrated with all the games that are getting cancelled. It is very bad for morale.' The meeting

agreed to press for an audit of all grass pitch maintenance in Lochaber, including how much the council spends on each pitch and what machinery and manpower was available. *The Oban Times* reported last week that both new Lochaber High School pitches were unusable because of serious drainage problems. Ron MacKenzie, Highland Council's head of sporting services, vowed the issue would be addressed.

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Alan Reid MP

Meet your MP



Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Friday 8 February 2013 at the Kilmore & Oban Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, between 1.30pm & 2.30pm.
To make an appointment please phone Alan Reid's office (01369 704840)

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£9.2 million A82 Pulpit Rock scheme moves a step closer

THE 'TEMPORARY' traffic lights at Pulpit Rock on the A82 are set to be removed after 30 years as the improvement works at the site take a step closer.

Transport Scotland intends to award a £9.2 million contract to McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd for the widening of the road, which includes the construction of a viaduct running parallel to the shoreline.

Subject to the mandatory standstill period, work is expected to start in the spring and last for around 12 months. The work will see almost half a kilometre of new road and bring to an end more than 30 years of traffic lights at this location.

However, the construction of the new viaduct and the cutting of the rock on the landward side of the road will require the A82 to be closed in each direction for a period of up to 14 weeks between October 1 and January 6.

Engineering challenges

Transport Minister, Keith Brown said: 'The A82 Pulpit Rock scheme sits within one of the most unique and scenic landscapes in Scotland that brings many visitors to Loch Lomond. We fully recognise delivery will not be without its engineering challenges.'

'Our commitment to improve the traffic flow at Pulpit Rock

is unwavering and, on completion, this project will bring real benefits for businesses and communities in the Highlands and Islands, not least the haulage industry.'

'This is why I am pleased the announcement of our preferred contractor shows, at long last, Pulpit Rock will have a road befitting its setting and importance.'

'Throughout the procurement process emphasis has been placed on minimising the impact on communities and businesses. I have tasked Transport Scotland to ensure this continues to remain a key focus throughout construction.'

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

nearby Nadurra Visitor Centre, Mr Falconer said, so tourists could enjoy learning about Ardnamurchan's natural history and wildlife as well as malt whisky production.

'We anticipate between 11,000 and 14,000 visitors annually,' he said. 'By the time the main tourism season arrives in July and August next year we should be a pretty well oiled machine and ready to welcome them.'

Adelphi director of sales and marketing, Alex Bruce said: 'The interest in the distillery is fantastic. Despite being told of the timescale of the development, we have already had a number of international visitors to the site and have several VIP visits lined up over the next few months.'

'There's not much to see at the moment,' Adelphi chairman Keith Falconer told *The Oban Times*. 'Erecting the buildings is not particularly difficult, but the groundwork, landscaping and drainage are a bigger job. The fitting out will also take time.'

If there are no glitches we are

planning on making spirit by December. It may not be the final stuff but we will be tinkering with it until we are happy. That was always our original plan and we are on target.'

The distillery will produce a

peated and non-peated single malt. The Ardnamurchan Other small-batch whiskies such as peat and cask types, bottled under existing Adelphi brands, are also planned.

Recruitment of staff has

already begun. Adelphi say

they are 'actively looking' for

a distillery manager to join the team.

Asked about other posts, Mr

Falconer said: 'We are going to

need at least two more people in

the distillery and two in the

shop.'

We are optimistic we will

have that number employed by

the middle of next year.'

Also, there will be extra

forestry jobs on Ardnamurchan

Estate in producing the woodchip

fuel for the distillery.'

He added: 'A great deal of

thought has gone into the design

of the equipment and process

and with the heat coming from

locally sourced timber, the

water from a nearby spring,

the majority of the barley

grown organically in Scotland

and malted at the distillery,

the backers are confident of

producing a first class whisky.'

Adelphi would work 'in

close collaboration'

with the

locals distilled whisky for generations undetected by the excise in times gone by. A hollow next to the Kilchoan to Portuairk road, *Lag a Choire*, means Still in the Corrie.

NEWSDESK

01631 568000

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Delays and disruption are surely worth the wait - if the job's well done

NEWS this week that the notorious A82 Loch Lomond road bottleneck at Pulpit Rock will be removed once and for all should be welcomed throughout the west coast.

Restricted by 'temporary' traffic lights for more than 30 years, following an accident in which a heavy goods vehicle breached the retaining wall and fell into the loch, the road has been a constant hindrance to development and growth on the west coast.

This section of main arterial roadway between Scotland's central belt and the west will close in October this year for an estimated three months to allow a 550-yard viaduct to be constructed at an investment of just under £10 million.

The resulting road closures and diversions will add more than 30 minutes to the journey between the likes of Oban and Glasgow. Another £5.5 million bypass scheme at Crianlarich, due to start this summer, plus work to improve the section north of Tarbet, will all add to the upheaval.

But having waited so long to get the A82 road network improved, we have already passed the point of despair?

Surely, having resigned ourselves to having 'temporary' traffic lights on a permanent basis, a few temporary delays are worth the wait.

However, the end products must be permanent long-term solutions.

Elsewhere in this week's paper, sprightly 100-year-old Robert McCulloch says the secret to his longevity has been 'knowing what your capabilities are and being happy with a job well done'. The people behind the Pulpit Rock project could do worse than follow this piece of advice.

GLASGOW LETTER

Celtic Connections 2013

SOLD out on both occasions, the Mitchell Theatre played host to the singing of Donnie Munro and his band and then a few nights later an event paying tribute to the contribution of Flora MacNeil to traditional Gaelic songs.

Those present to hear Donnie would, of course, have been fans when he performed with *Rurnig* so this concert, when he was accompanied by Eric Clougherty on guitar and Maggie Adamson, the Glenfiddich Champion fiddler for 2012, promised to be different and that is exactly what it turned out.

A particular enjoyable feature which contributed to the informality of the evening was the rapport with the audience with Donnie taking on the role of stand up comic in between treating the audience to many of the old favourites from *Rurnig* days and from his own solo career since he left the band. For example, he sang 'Chi Min Geamhradh' acknowledging the contribution from his daughter who was learning the song at the Gaelic Medium Unit in Primary School and was therefore able to illustrate the correct way to sing it!

The crowd loved it and while the years may have passed the quality of singing was of the highest order and I am sure many of those present will be looking to catch up with Donnie when he goes on tour in spring this year.

Prior to Donnie taking to the stage, Joy Dunlop and her band, her brother Andrew on piano, Sorren MacLean on guitar and Lorin MacDougall on pipes and whistle, took the audience on a journey featuring Argyll songs.

The task of encapsulating the career of Flora MacNeil was in the capable hands of her daughter Maggie MacInnes. Accompanied on stage at the start by Brian MacAlpine on keyboard, Anna Massie on guitar and her young son Calum on guitar and vocals, Maggie started the programme from the days when Mingulay, off Barra, was still inhabited and throughout the evening described the role played by her mother in providing such a legacy of songs for future generations, all passed down in the oral tradition.

As much of Celtic Connections guests took part, on this occasion Anne Lorne Gillies, Arthur Cormack, Boys of the Lough - with whom Flora performed many years ago - Peadar O'Riada and a group from his church choir. Each paid tribute to the influence of Flora MacNeil on their careers. Much to the delight of the audience, and there could not have been many of those in the Glasgow area with Barra connections who were not present, slides of the MacNeil family over the years and photographs of the island provided a changing backdrop to the stage.

The evening featured a variety of songs as well as

a welcome piping selection from grandson Donald Joseph and, of course, the finale featured the lady herself who as well as singing thanked everyone who had been involved in organising such a wonderful evening of Gaelic entertainment even if it meant the world now knew all her secrets. The standing ovation was well deserved.

Mull and Iona Association

A REMINDER that the annual gathering of the above association will take place in the National Piping Centre on Friday February 8 starting at 7.30pm.

The artistes will be Calum Alex MacMillan, Alistair Ogilvie, Emma Deans and Alasdair White (fiddle) and they will perform in usual concert format in the first half and then in the second half items will be interspersed with dancing to the music of Gunnar Sound.

For tickets contact Charlie Kirkpatrick telephone 0141 638 5200.

Gaels le Cheile

THE FEBRUARY meeting will take place in the Leanan on Mansfield Street, Partick, on Saturday February 9 starting at 10am.

This will be followed by a ceilidh in St Helen's Church Hall, 32 Lanside Avenue, Shawlands, cost £8, with special guest Caoimhe ni Chathail.

For more information telephone 0141 341 1025 or email linda@anlochan.com.

Date change

THE CLYDEBANK and District Association's Dance will now take place on Saturday March 2 and will be a supper ceilidh, cost £15, starting at 7.30pm in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick. Iain MacDonald's Band will provide the music. For tickets telephone 01389 879749 or 01389 852078.

Diary dates

Thursday February 7: Comunn air Taobh an lar Closing Ceilidh, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm.

Friday February 8: Mull and Iona Association Annual Gathering - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday February 9: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Marag Supper, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.45pm. Perth Concert Hall, Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, 7.30pm. Gaels le Cheile - see above.

Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend the music will be provided by the Keelies on Friday and Ragaeons on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Friday, Eriskay Lilt on Saturday and Don MacDonald on Sunday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Mallaig and the island of Rum

Colin Armstrong of Coventry submitted this week's flashback photograph which features Mallaig and the island of Rum. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
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Community co-op should run care homes

Sir,

I disagree with Stephen Johnstone's proposal to transfer service to the private sector and in particular care homes - Letters to the Editor, January 24.

I propose that Argyll and Bute Council operated care homes should be taken over by a community co-operative.

This would mean that the local community own and operate them. The profits would be put back into the nursing home therefore ensuring a high standard of care for the service users.

The care homes would continue to provide jobs for the local people.

Kay Lang, Dunbeg.

Heritage, culture and arts not a priority

Sir,

I write regarding the article 'Council failing heritage, culture and arts'.

Being a former journalist, Councillor Glen-Lee should know what austerity means. Grandstanding for popularity is fine but during hard times you do not campaign for money for treats.

What should be called for is a halt temporarily to all grants, subsidies and awards to any project which is not crucial to the welfare and economy of the region.

We are told that about 400 council workers may become

unemployed. I don't think they would see this as improving the 'outlook for local people'.

You cannot expect people to accept cuts that will affect them adversely whilst at the same time you're spending money on events and promotions. I consider myself not ungenerous but heritage, culture and the arts are not, for the time being at least, high on my list of priorities.

I'm more worried about heat and light. There's a thought. Could we not ask the utility companies and renewables industry to hand over some cash?

That would certainly improve the outlook for local people and they would feel a bit better about their energy bills.

George Doyle, Easdale.

Use house as rescue dog training base

Sir,

Considering all the ideas for the use of the former home of Hamish MacInnes in Glencoe, I

would suggest that it should be used as a base for the training of rescue dogs and their owners.

They do a great job finding stranded people and I hope Hamish MacInnes would agree.

J R Reid, Strontian.

Cynical ploy by Scottish and Southern Energy

Sir,

Though I have not seen it reported in *The Oban Times*, I was astonished to read elsewhere that Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) has

been announced by Highlands

and Islands Tourist Association (HITA) as the headline sponsor of their 2013 Tourism Awards.

It is unbelievable that HITA have allowed themselves to be seduced by this cynical ploy on the part of SSE.

This company, through its many applications to industrialise the beautiful and precious Highland landscape with huge numbers of wind turbines, is cynically using these awards to try to win the approval of an industry which their activities will most assuredly decimate.

They are an international conglomerate whose motive is nothing more noble than profit and thanks to the absurd subsidies which we all pay for through our bills, the profits to be earned from wind factories are colossal. They do not care a jot for the tourist industry for the impact which their turbines will have on it. They are usually quick to regale us with their rhetoric about how all this lovely green wind energy is needed to save the environment but anyone who knows the facts knows that because wind energy is so unreliable, it needs continuous back up from nuclear or fossil fuel generation, so any savings in Co2 emissions are negligible. In truth the only thing wind generates is huge subsidised profits for the landowners and international corporations like SSE. HITA should be ashamed of themselves, I'm sure they could have got a good Scottish company like one of the whisky distillers to sponsor this event.

After all, the distillers bring tourists to the highlands whereas SSE just chase them away.

Alan Thomson, Strontian.

Colonsay ferry questions

Sir,

Last week's report of Colonsay's supposedly unanimous rejection to Scottish Government proposals is maybe a case of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

They seem to have based their argument on difference in size of the *MV Isle of Mull* compared to the size of the proposed dedicated ferry *Loch Nevis*. Did the meeting look at actual figures of passenger/vehicle numbers landing/departing from Colonsay last year?

The *Loch Nevis* is a modern, well-appointed vessel with two observation lounges and a full catering service - with half the crew and operating costs of the *Isle of Mull*. She can carry 190 passengers and 14 cars or one 40 foot lorry and nine cars. She is also fitted with stabilizers and copes well with exposed waters around small isles.

Did anyone at the meeting check with Caledonian MacBrayne how many sailings to or from the island had more than 190 passengers last year to see if,

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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.


Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

NACH ann dha a rug an cat na cuileanan!

Chan eil fios 'm an bheil sibh eolaich air t-seanfhacal sin ach bha uair a bha e glè bhitheanta far am biodh daoinne a' cur mealladh naidheachd air cuideigin ri linn deagh fhortan air cheirgein. Ged a bhiodh piseg cait glè mhath 's docháir peata, bha cuilean, gu h-áird cuilean cù-chaorach, luachmhor ann a saoghal nan Gàidheal.

Thaing am facal thugam as ur is mi ag eisteachd ri program naidheachd air robhas a' cur an cuimhne dhaoine gun feumadh foirmichean chisean-tuarastail a bhith a-staigh air an latha mu dheireadh den Phaoilleach, agus sin an-dugh! Ma thagaibhse ri fiosrachadh a chlárach le Roinn Cusbain is Cisean a thaobh teach a-steach na bliadhna, tha sibh an impis a bhith fadalach, agus mur a bhi am foirm agaibh air ruigheachd mu mheadhan-oidhche a-nocht, tha sin dol a chialachadh cain de cheud not dhuibh.

Chan eil duine is aithne dhòmhsa a tha measail air leithid foirm nan cisean a dheasachadh, ach 's e firinn na cuise nach gabh e seachnadh agus mar sin gum feumar agaibh a chur ris. Ach a réir coltais, tha milleannan fadalach leis an fiosrachadh gutha bliadhna ri linn sin agus tha an Seansalair a' sgriobhadh a-staigh ceudan mhilleanan ann an cisean a bharrachd.

Saoilidh mi gun robb beagan inntleachd intinn-eolach mar phàirt den ghuasdar far an deach ainn Oifis nan Cisean a-tharrachadh bho chionn beagan bhliadhnaicheadh nuair a chaidh roin chisean agus cusbain a chur comhla.

A-nise 's e roinn Teachd a-Staigh agus Cusbain a th' orra, a' seachnadh an fhacail oiltíel 'c' a tha cho gràineil dhùnni uile agus mar sin a thrioblaid daonnaid dhaonan dha luchd-poiltis!

Ach ma th leisg iorain tuilleadh chisean a phàighheadh, carson a bhithamead a' sineadh tuilleadh nua a ghabhas sin chadhainn.

BY TONIGHT'S midnight deadline, there will apparently be millions of self-assessment tax returns overdue at HM Revenue and Customs.

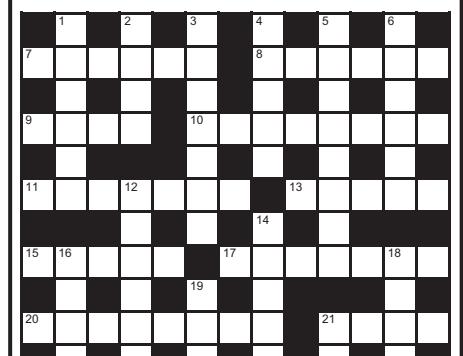
Each late submission will face a £100 fine and there is a potential bonus income of hundreds of millions for a grateful Chancellor.

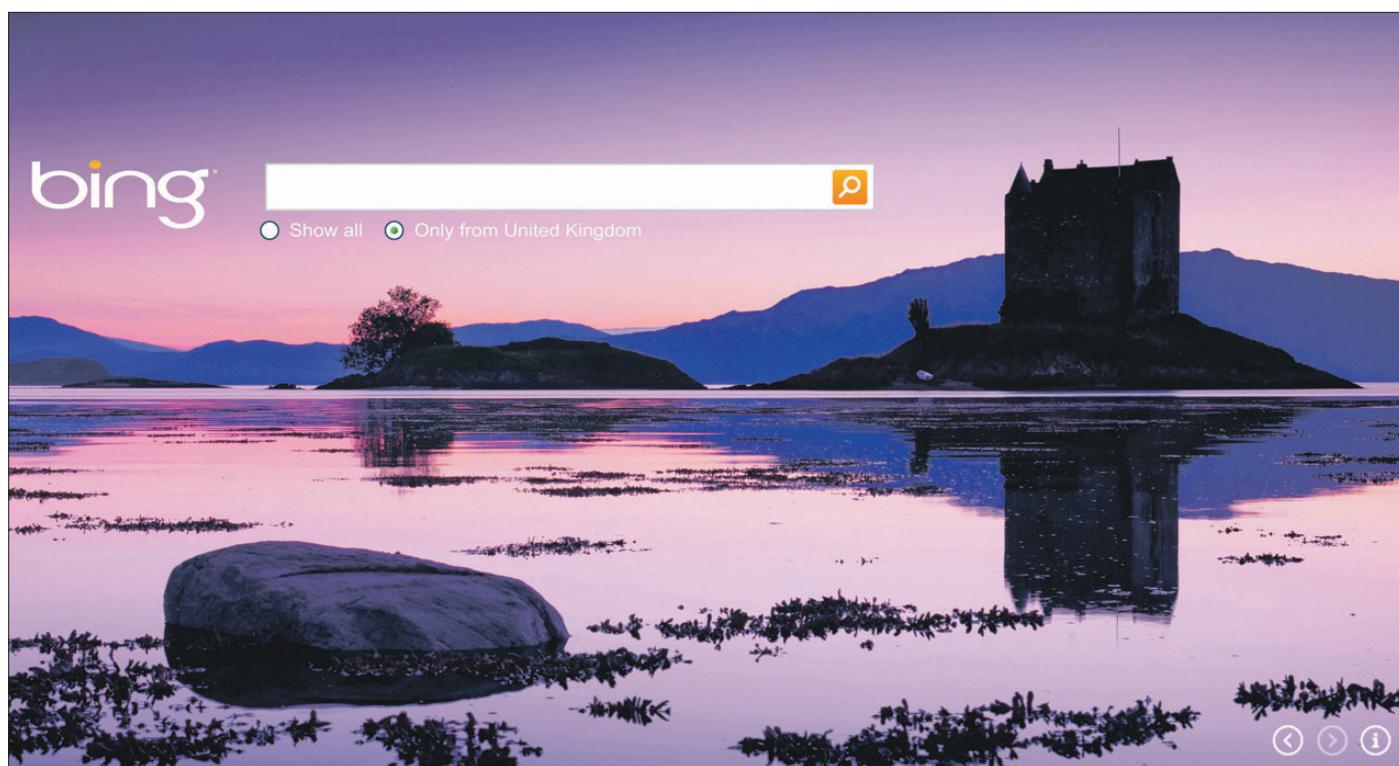
Given that very few of us can ever avoid our tax liabilities, and with so many pressures on our household budgets, why are so many of us prepared to volunteer an extra payment when this can be avoided?

We may all hate completing the form, but it's worth money to do so on time!

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD





The image used by Bing on its homepage.

Castle Stalker viewed online by more than 12 million to mark Burns Day

AN IMAGE of Castle Stalker at dusk was viewed online by more than 12 million people across the UK last Friday to mark Robert Burns Day.

The search engine Bing, owned by software giant Mi-

crosoft, displayed the picture on its homepage, with links to information about the castle and its surrounding area of Argyll and North Lorn.

The exposure for Argyll as a whole was warmly welcomed

by Mike Story, executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism.

'Delighted'

He said: 'I am delighted to see Bing featuring Castle Stalker as its Burns Night image because

12 million people will see this evocative picture and many of them will be surfing the net for holiday ideas as the image appears.

'Appin is an astonishingly beautiful part of Argyll and the

Isles and Castle Stalker is an iconic reminder of our relationship with our ancestors.'

'On a personal note, watching Eilean Donan castle appearing in every advertisement for Scotland always stuck in my

craw, as I knew we had Stalker and Kilchurn, which are equal of anything in Europe.'

The homepage also displayed links, known as hotspots, to information about Castle Stalker and the surrounding area.

Ciara takes

break from intense therapy to visit Disney

A YOUNG Islay girl is celebrating completing an intense course of therapy with a trip to Disney World in Florida.

Ciara Caskie Allan received the 'fantastic surprise' from the Make a Wish Foundation in Oklahoma where she has been receiving proton therapy in the hope of defeating a brain tumour.

The 12 year old has endured years of treatment after suffering a stroke due to a brain haemorrhage at the age of three.

Since then, Ciara has been battling her illness which has included major brain surgery. In 2011, it was confirmed that her tumour had spread and some cysts had developed.

Different forms of chemotherapy proved unsuccessful, leaving the family with no option but look to the USA in the hope of finding a cure.

The family were able to travel to America at the end of November and stay together with Ciara in Oklahoma thanks to the work of the Ciara Caskie Allan Appeal group, set up to fund the trip.

Her doctors don't expect any long term side effects from the proton radiation treatment, however it will be several weeks after the family return to Scotland before they find out how successful treatment has been.

But for now Ciara is done with her radiation sessions, even ringing the celebratory bell to signify the end of her treatment: 'Ring this bell three times well its toll to clearly say, my treatments done this course is run and I am on my way,' its ode to the children leaving the centre.



Ciara with Dwayne, one of the staff at the centre in Oklahoma.



The volunteer crew of Tobermory lifeboat struggle to tow an Isle of Mull based fishing boat to safety. Photo by RNLI

Mull lifeboat faces 11-hour battle to rescue fishing boat off Tiree

Tow rope snaps twice in force nine gale

AN ARDUOUS 11 hours at sea saw the volunteer crew of Tobermory lifeboat struggle to tow an Isle of Mull based fishing boat to safety – after it broke free twice.

Very rough conditions

The 95-mile rescue on Sunday saw the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) go to the aid of the *J and A* in a force nine gale and six to eight metre waves.

Coxswain Andrew McHaffie said: 'This was a difficult

and long service and we had to establish several tows with the fishing boat in very rough conditions.'

'We're all extremely pleased that there was a good result at the end of a very long day.'

The lifeboat launched at 8.30am following a distress call from a boat with gearbox failure seven miles to the west of the Isle of Coll.

The lifeboat managed to pass a tow to the casualty and towed it to the Isle of Tiree where the skipper had arranged for the tow to be passed to another boat.

Aground

The lifeboat stood by and followed both vessels as they proceeded towards the harbour. Unfortunately in the difficult conditions and big swell that tow rope snapped close into shore and the fishing boat went aground on rocks.

The Tobermory lifeboat managed to pass another tow to the fishing boat and successfully recovered her to Tobermory, arriving more than 11 hours after launching earlier in the day.

The fishing vessel was taken towed to her home port of Tobermory.

However, in the rough seas and with winds gusting at up to 60mph, the fishing boat's bridle to which the tow rope was attached broke.

Another tow

Once again the lifeboat managed to pass another tow to the fishing boat and successfully recovered her to Tobermory, arriving more than 11 hours after launching earlier in the day.

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The fishing vessel was taken towed to her home port of Tobermory.

Island concern as Isle of Mull airstrip remains closed

THERE are ominous signs for the future of Glenforsa Airfield on the Isle of Mull, as it enters a sixth month of continuous closure.

Argyll and Bute Council enforced the closure on September 23 when a Cessna aircraft crashed into the ground and one of the two people on board suffered minor injuries.

Floods and lightning affects Kintyre

FLOODS up to three feet in depth caused chaos around Campbeltown on Friday as heavy rain forced several roads to be closed, while a lightning strike cut power in Machrihanish.

Shortly after 3pm, water started to pour off fields surrounding Campbeltown, with the A83 north of the town quickly becoming hazardous with adjacent fields failing to cope with the deluge.

By 3.15pm, Mill Dam next to Hillside Park was overwhelmed, sending thousands of litres of water cascading onto Millknowe Road and onto Mill Street and Lady Mary Row.

Police and fire crews moved in and closed the road as water depth reached two feet in depth in a matter of minutes. Sandbags were deployed to protect homes but the floodwater spread down to John Street and a handful of homes suffered water damage as a result.

Conditions on the B843 were treacherous too, with floods up to three foot in depth making passage for all but 4x4 vehicles near impossible. A lightning strike at 3.30pm damaged power lines and knocked out power for 247 homes.

The Oban Times: 'I have run this airfield under three different councils since 1966 and I have become disenchanted with the airfield's future at an area committee meeting next month.'

'Disenchanted'

Frusterated airfield manager David Howitt, who is not an employee of the council, told

cost the council 'thousands of pounds' in missed landing fees but the local authority estimates the cost to the council at £220.

'Seasonal'

The airport manager also said 'hostile' parties were waiting in the wings to protest against any council suggestion to sell the asset.

A spokeswoman for the

council said: 'We will not be re-opening Glenforsa until there has been consideration of the findings of an internal review which looked at the safe operation of the airport in compliance with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) guidelines.'

'The airport is seasonal and is normally closed between October and April, accessed

only at the weekend weather permitting.'

The construction of the Glenforsa Airstrip, near Salen was pioneered by Colonels Finlay and Miller on behalf of the Mull and Iona Community Council, and constructed by the 15th Field Park Squadron, 38th Engineer Regiment, Ripon, in 1965.

Gaelic Bookbug comes to Oban

AN UNDER fives fun day to promote Gaelic Medium Education was held in the Glencruitten Church Centre in Oban this week.

The event, aimed at showing both parents and youngsters that a Gaelic education can be fun as well as beneficial, was attended by dozens of people.

'Massive success'

A special guest, a Gaelic Bookbug, even put in an appearance to the delight of the children in attendance.

Sally Weaser, Gaelic Medium Education parental advisor, said the day was a 'massive success' with several parents now saying they would consider a Gaelic education for their child.

She said: 'The benefits of learning bilingually are incredible both for the children's development and for levels of academic attainment, which in some aspects see them achieving better results than those in mainstream education.'

Sally added it was also important to preserve the Gaelic language and culture and education helped children to understand this.



Gaelic Bookbug put in an appearance to the delight of the children

Mull Lines

PREPARATIONS are already underway for this year's Tunnock's Mull Rally with the first meeting being held last week.

The 2013 event will be held over the weekend of October 10 to 13, avoiding a clash with the Colin McRae Forest Stages held in Perth on October 5.

Unfounded rumours had circulated in the rally world of a date clash, with some crews declaring they would be staying on the mainland.



A GRID connection for a proposed hydro scheme at Garmany on the Isle of Mull could go ahead sooner than feared – if another Argyll project fails.

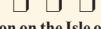
The legacy capacity scheme means connections set aside for projects which may not be going ahead could free up room on the network for other projects to connect.

Moray Finch, general manager of Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICIT) told a recent meeting of Mull Community Council that Garmany could benefit from this legacy capacity.

He said: 'If the wind farm at Clachan Seil doesn't go to appeal Garmany Hydro would be able to move forward.'

The project at Clachan Seil, south of Oban, led by developer Rory Young, proposed the installation of nine wind turbines.

Plans were rejected by Argyll and Bute Council at a local hearing in Oban last year. If no appeal is made, or that appeal is rejected, the hydro scheme at Garmany would be able to run at full capacity.



A TOURISM association on the Isle of Mull is offering locals the chance to take part in the Year of Natural Scotland.

Holiday Mull and Iona will be providing cash grants to individuals or organisations on Mull and its islands who wish to organise events or projects which relate to any of the Year of Natural Scotland themes.

Grants of between £250 and £1,000 are on offer to projects.

Themes may include landscapes, wildlife, food, history, art, outdoor activities or eco friendly events.

Visit Scotland has designated 2013 the Year of Natural Scotland and is encouraging all local tourism associations to participate and enhance the area's tourism offering.

Anyone interested in taking up this offer from Holiday Mull and Iona should email yns@holidaymull.co.uk.



AN ISLE of Mull resident got a shock at the weekend when she witnessed the largest hailstones she had ever seen falling from the sky.

Victoria Carmichael, who lives in Salen, photographed the hailstones next to a five pence piece last Sunday afternoon.



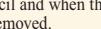
EATING shellfish from a Dervaig loch on the Isle of Mull could pose a risk to human health, Argyll and Bute Council is warning.

Monitoring work undertaken by the council's environmental health service has identified raised levels of naturally occurring algal toxins in Loch a Chumhainn in Dervaig.

Eating shellfish such as cockles, mussels, oysters or razor fish from these areas may pose a risk to human health and notices to warn the public and casual gatherers have been posted at various locations on the shore.

Commercial shellfish harvesters in these areas have been contacted by the council and steps taken to postpone harvesting until algae levels subside.

It is a sensible precaution to avoid eating shellfish from this area until further notice. Monitoring work is currently being undertaken by the council and when the situation subsides, the warning notes will be removed.



Mull news?

[contact forr@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:forr@obantimes.co.uk)

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Panto fun on Luing

BABES in the Wood will be coming to the island of Luing in February as the local amateur dramatic society hosts its fifth pantomime in Cullipool Village Hall.

Luing Amateur Dramatic Society has been busy rehearsing since November, and the cast and director are confident that this year's show will not disappoint the audiences.

Performances are on Thursday and Friday February 21 and 22 at 7pm and Saturday February 23 at 7pm and 7pm.

Tickets, which include a programme, drink and ice cream, are on sale from Amanda MacLachlan on 01852 314295 from February 1.

Argyll musicians hit the high notes

FOUR of Argyll's top young musicians shared a billing with former Runrig frontman Donnie Munro last Wednesday at Celtic Connections.

Joy Dunlop and her brother Andrew, both from Connell, Mull's Sorren Maclean and Carradale's Lorne MacDougall performed songs from the Faileasan album, which Joy has brought together using only songs from the county.



Stuart and Simon celebrate after Deoch 'n' Dorus was named Scottish Dance Band of the Year at the MG Alba Scots Traditional Music Awards.

Trad Award winners look to bright future

CEILIDH band Deoch 'n' Dorus are not resting on their laurels after being named as Scottish Dance Band of the Year at the MG Alba Scots Traditional Music Awards in Fort William last month.

The group, comprising Fort William's Stuart Cameron on accordion, Simon Moran from Jura on fiddle and Portree man Andrew MacPherson on drums, is planning a third album to follow the self-titled Deoch 'n' Dorus and The Curer, which both met with critical acclaim.

The boys will be appearing at the Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival this October, while plans are in place for an outside broadcast for BBC Scotland later this year.

To date, Deoch 'n' Dorus has already recorded four BBC Radio Scotland Take the Floor broadcasts with the legendary Robbie Shepherd.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Nowadays, the band is based in Glasgow and plays at a variety of different functions throughout the country such as accordion and fiddle clubs, birthday parties, weddings and music festivals.

They also recently started a new business venture organising and promoting monthly ceilidhs in the city. But it was the Trad Awards success which is likely to propel the band to further success on the Scottish music scene. Stuart told *The Times*: 'We were both surprised and delighted to receive the Scottish Dance Band of the year award, fighting off stiff competition from the other nominees. The Monach Isles Ceilidh Band, Graeme Mitchell SDB and Charlie Kirkpatrick SDB.'

'I suppose looking back over the past 10 years, the Deoch 'n' Dorus sound, arrangements and musicianship have been influenced by bands like The Pentlands Ceilidh Band, The Black Rose Ceilidh Band, The Walloch Mhor and John Ellis and his Highland Country Band, to name but a few.'

The band was formed in 2001 while the trio were studying at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, now the Conservatoire of Scotland.

And with their Highland and Island connections, it wasn't long before they were playing in the famous Park Bar and Islay Inn, where they can still be heard to this day.

Stuart, who plays both accordion and piano, initially learned to play the accordion from his father, John, who is also an accomplished musician.

He said: 'At the age of 14, I

travelled from Fort William to Perth every two weeks to receive tuition from Peter Bruce. I decided that I would like to pursue a career in music and was accepted to study on the Traditional Music Degree at the RSAMD.

After graduating with an Honours degree, I worked as a self-employed musician performing and teaching privately. A couple of years later I completed a post-graduate teaching degree at Edinburgh University and I now work as a music teacher in a secondary school in Glasgow.'

Simon, meanwhile, was originally taught fiddle by Ropan Shaw of Islay, his interest born under the influence of Archie McAllister and the Jura Ceilidh band, who played on Jura regularly when he was young.

Simon later went on to join the band, performing regularly with them around Scotland. He

still plays with the band's Jura accordionist David Macdonald.

He moved to Glasgow to study Scottish music under fiddle teachers Ian Fraser and Pete Clarke at the RSAMD, where he met Stuart and Andrew.

Since graduating in 2005 with an Honours degree, he has been busy performing with Deoch 'n' Dorus and teaching fiddle in Glasgow and beyond.

Andrew began playing drums with the Isle of Skye Pipe Band at nine and studied for a degree in traditional music at the RSAMD in Glasgow.

Outwith Deoch 'n' Dorus, Andrew, who also plays bagpipes and whistle, is kept busy playing in the Angus Nicolson Trio and is in demand as a session musician and percussion and whistle teacher.

Meanwhile, the Glasgow ceilidhs have produced 'some lively nights' so far, said Stuart.

Youtube guitar sensation juggles with future career decision

YOUTUBE sensation Stephen Campbell says he cannot wait for life to get 'back to normal' after his Trance Bass video exceeded one million views this week.

A five minute video of the Oban Lidl worker demonstrating his bass guitar skills went viral and amassed more than 1,035,000 in just a week.

Stephen's track, which he modestly titled 'Song one', was recorded, posted to YouTube and renamed by fellow Oban musician Robbie White. It has since been recorded at Nutshell Music in Oban and could soon be available for download.

Stephen explained: 'I had played with Robbie before, so when he came back from travelling in Australia he wanted to catch up for a jam.'

'I began to play the piece as a warm up and he said he was going to make a cup of tea.'

'When I finished I looked up and he was still standing there, staring.'

'He convinced me there and



Bass player Stephen Campbell's song Trance Bass has become a YouTube hit. 16_105bass01

then to record it but that was the first time anyone else had ever heard it and I had never played it all the way through.'

The song's popularity has attracted the attention of would-be managers and fans, desperate to hear more material.

But the unassuming 21-year-old says he doesn't want a career in the music industry, adding that he had promised himself to

devote more of his spare time to his other passion – juggling.

'I love the fact people liked the song and the comments were so lovely but it is a one off,' he said. 'I laughed when these guys offered to manage my career. I had to tell them: "You've missed it".'

'That one piece of music took six months in the making, so when people are emailing me asking for more I have to say: "That's it. That's all I've got".'

'I only started developing the song for myself and now it's out there I feel I've lost it.'

'Because it was never really finished I had the excuse to keep playing and changing it but now it is recorded, so that's it finished.'

Oban has a recent history of YouTube fame; *The Oban Times*' infamous 'Obang' video of a botched fireworks display in the town in 2011 was also seen by more than one million people and is currently sitting at 1.24 million views.



Elliott Morris is making a name for himself on the UK folk scene.

Singer-songwriter bids to make the headlines again

A YOUNG singer-songwriter is hoping to bring his music to a wider audience after performing at Celtic Connections on Tuesday night – but Elliott Morris has been the subject of national news before, thanks to an error in *The Oban Times*.

The young musician's birth caught the imagination of newspapers across the country when it was mistakenly printed in the cars section of *The Oban Times*.

The 23-year-old is becoming better known for his musical exploits these days and has regularly performed with his friend and chart superstar Ed Sheeran.

And the Celtic Connections audience got a chance to hear his talent at the Danny Kyle Open Stage this week.

Birth notice

But Elliott was already famous following his birth on St Andrew's Day 1989, when his proud family submitted his birth notice to *The Oban Times*, to be published in the issue of December 14.

Although born in Swindon,

the guitarist is the son of Janice Morris (nee Laver), daughter of the late Albert Laver, registrar and district clerk in Oban until 1984 and previously, in the 1960s, in Tobermory.

But an editorial error – presumably resulting from Elliott's surname – led to the birth announcement being printed in the used cars section in the paper's classified ads.

An eagle-eyed journalist in Glasgow spotted the mix-up and wrote it up for The Glasgow Herald diary section.

Elliott's father, Nigel, was soon fobbing off Fleet Street hacks, who had decided that this would make a hilarious and touching Christmas baby story.

Elliott went on to spend his childhood in West Wales and

LANDROVER Parts for sale. Brand new diesel complete clutch still in box, £45; Gearbox £65; Reconditioned 2000 miles Susbury rear axle complete, £35. Other parts available. Tel. Barbreck 245 after 6 p.m.

MAZDA 323 Estate. T. Reg. Taxed and MOT'd. Telephone Crianlarich 203.

MORRIS — On November 30, 1989, at Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, Wilts, to Nigel and Janice (nee Laver), a son, Elliott Andrew.

OPEL Kadette Estate (Astra). W. Reg. 12 months MOT. Company car forces sale, high mileage, £700 o.n.o. Telephone Oban 62062.

PEUGEOT 205 GTI 1.6, 1986. D. Taxed and MOT, 38,000 miles, White, offers around £5950. Tel. 08533 230.

RENAULT 5 GTL, V. reg. MOT till June, 1990. Offers, Tel. Kilmelford 218.

RENAULT 5 GT Turbo, 1988, Black, sunroof, low mileage, meticulously maintained. Reliable, fun. £6195. Tel. 0586 53413.

Elliott's birth announcement in *The Oban Times*, which ended up among the used car adverts.

Lincolnshire where he has lived since he was 11. During the last few years, with hundreds of gigs behind him, Elliott has gained a formidable reputation as one of the hardest-working and most sought-after young artists on the acoustic scene.

'There are some fantastic sounds coming out of Scotland,' he added. 'I had the great honour last year to support Lau in Lincoln.'

'And it's just amazing to be in the An Tobar arts centre in Tobermory and to think that it was my mum's primary classroom!'

Last October Elliott, who is playing at Inveraray's George Hotel in April, featured at the internationally renowned Ullapool Guitar Festival.

In addition to Lau he has played with a host of well-known folk musicians.

Burns club hosts enjoyable event

Lochaber Burns Club enjoyed a night of drama, music, speeches and rhyme at its annual Burns Supper in Fort William's Alexandra Hotel on Friday night. Pictured above front, from left, are John Howieson from Broadford on Skye, who delivered the Immortal Memory, club president Jim Sutherland and Keith Campbell, who gave the Address to a Haggis. Other speakers/entertainers were: Paul Reynolds - The Land We Live In; John Finlayson - Toast to the Lasses; RAJ Smith - Rely on Behalf of the Lasses; Iain Robertson - Tam O'Shanter; John Hutchison - Scots Wha Hae; Pipe Major Sandy Mackenzie, Angus Grant and Robert Robertson - musical entertainment.



The top table at Lochaber Burns Club Burns Supper: left to right, Charles Kennedy MP, Fiona O'Donnell MP, Bill Cameron, Jim Sutherland, Margaret MacSween, Calum MacSween, Iona Brown and Ruairidh Wells.

Former pupils return for Burns Supper

LOCHABER High School Burns Supper proved to be another enjoyable night with two former pupils, both now UK politicians, among the main speakers.

Charles Kennedy MP proposed the Toast to the Lasses and Fiona O'Donnell MP made the reply on behalf of the fairer sex. Head teacher Jim Sutherland once again donned his nightgown and cap for another memorable rendition of *Holy Willie's Prayer*, while Calum MacSween,

Highland Council's head of education, delivered The Immortal Memory. Sixth year pupil Ruairidh Wells gave the address to the haggis, Iona Brown of sixth year recited *To a Mouse* and S6 music students performed *Ca' the Yowes and My Heart's in the Highlands*. School canteen staff served up traditional fare, and when the speeches were over there was dancing to school ceilidh band An Dorus Dearg. All funds raised go towards the sixth year trip to London next month.



Pupils amazed at MSP's recital

Na h-Eillean Siar (Western Isles) MSP Dr Alasdair Allan took a break from his political duties to recite Tam o' Shanter from start to finish at Sgoil an Taobh Siar (West Side) Primary School on Lewis on Friday. The rendition, according to school assistant Joan Maciver, was to the children's 'absolute amazement'. Dr Allan also attended a Burns Supper at the school the same evening.



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Mallaig's Kayleigh in London show

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

A FORMER Mallaig High School pupil turned fashion designer has been invited to take part in a prestigious show at this year's London Fashion Week.

Kayleigh MacBeth was asked to enter the 'Fashion's Finest' event on Saturday February 16 after organisers saw her handmade collection 'Alba' at a show in Glasgow.

The 22-year-old then made it through a selection round against a number of other entrants and told *The Oban Times* being given a 45 minute slot in the show for emerging designers was 'really humbling'.

She said: 'They got in touch and asked if I would like to be part of the show. At first I thought they wanted me to help out another designer or something, but when they said they wanted my collection in the show I just couldn't believe it. It's mind boggling to be selected for something like this. It's absolutely the biggest show I've done. I wouldn't even dream of putting on a show on my own.'

After finishing school in 2007, Kayleigh left Lochaber to study at Cardonald College in Glasgow. From there she went to Heriot Watt University to study fashion design, and graduated in June last year, and now runs her own small independent fashion label.

'A lot of my cousins and some of my best friends are still up in Mallaig, so I go back up all the time,' she said.

'Alba' - a character created by Kayleigh - is a half-human half-robot from 2097 and inspired the outfit in the collection.

A profile of Kayleigh on the Fashion Finest website says: 'Priding herself on offering bold, unique and out of this world garments, Kayleigh MacBeth is edgy, sexy and fierce and not for the faint hearted.'

But Kayleigh admits the designs for the show are unlikely to be found on the streets of Lochaber anytime soon.

She said: 'The shows I've been doing in Edinburgh and Glasgow are great, but in London, some people might actually be crazy enough to wear this kind of stuff!'



From Mallaig to London Fashion Week: designer Kayleigh MacBeth will show her hand-made collection.

Jackpot winner

INVERLOCHY women Lesley Carnegie picked up £400 in Fort William FC's weekly lotto competition last weekend.

The winning numbers were 8-11-12. The jackpot will be £100 for this weekend's draw.

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Assurance given on health funding

HEALTH Secretary Alex Neil has assured Ardnamurchan residents that funding for local emergency responders will continue.

Money had been due to run out at the end of March but in Kilchoan on Monday Mr Neil said the scheme's success meant it would carry on.

Health officials will assess local out-of-hours care later this year, but Mr Neil was confident it was likely to pass evaluation.

He said: 'I think the emergency responders will become a permanent aspect of health cover in this area. The locals were very supportive of the service.'

'I met with a range of healthcare staff and patients from the Ardnamurchan area and I found it invaluable to hear first hand about the particular challenges for this community. I was delighted to see the emergency responder service up and running, and providing an invaluable service for people living in this area.'

West Ardnamurchan Community Council chairwoman Rosie Curtis said: 'He was very encouraged by what the emergency responders are doing down here.'

But after the evaluation we want something like a 10-year plan. We don't want to be fighting like this every year.'

Meanwhile, Mr Neil also announced that Kilchoan is to host Scotland's first telehealth booth.

Expert medics in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary will advise emergency responders on treatment by video link, potentially saving patients making long journeys to hospitals in Glasgow, Fort William or Inverness.

If successful, the pilot scheme could be extended to other remote communities across Scotland.

A 'pretty impressed' Mrs Curtis said: 'It was clear as a bell. You would think the guy is in the room with you.'

Society looks back at medical services

LOCHABER Historical Society will host a talk discussing the Highlands and Islands Medical Service called 'The Dewart Report: Remote and Rural Healthcare Reform, 100 Years on' at the Ben Nevis Hotel at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Inverness GP Dr Miles Mack

Canna community shop to open all year round



Derelict now – but the roofless shed will soon become Canna's new community shop.

Kyle Lifeboat rescues war veteran from beach



The Kyle lifeboat crew ferrying the casualty across to Kyleakin in the Spirit of Fred Olsen.

Police name fifth person to die on Lochaber's mountains in a week

POLICE have named the fifth person to die on Lochaber's mountains in the course of a week.

Ben St Joseph from Essex was killed when he fell around 100 metres from the notorious Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis' north face on Saturday.

A nearby group of climbers saw him fall around 11am and raised the alarm.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) was alerted but was not required after a break in the weather allowed the Royal Navy helicopter from HMS Gannet in Prestwick to airlift the victim out. LMRT team leader John Stevenson told *The Oban Times*: 'It appeared he fell into Observatory Gully and a couple of boys

that were up there called the police to tell them they had seen someone fall. He was probably about halfway up Tower Ridge – it's a big winter route, a classic mixed route of rock and heavy snow. But there are a couple of tricky corners where you have to step out to the side. The helicopter managed to get right in and take the boy off the hill. They started to resuscitate him but there was no response.'

A report on the accident is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Oban student Chris Bell, doctors Rachel Majumdar and Rachel Finnegan, and PhD student Tom Chesters all died in a 1,000-foot avalanche on Bidean nam Bian in Glencoe the previous Saturday.

Skye clarsach player takes part in final of BB2 Radio 2 Young Folk awards

The pair, who now study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, made it through the semi finals in October. Also in the final four were Thalla – four traditional musicians from across Scotland who met while studying at the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton.

SKYE clarsach player Coirstaidh Beaton took part in the final of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk awards at Celtic Connections in Glasgow last night (Wednesday).

Coirstaidh, from Kilmuir, and her duet partner Graham Mackenzie of Inverness, were among the final four nominees in the prestigious event.



Rotary appeal to take on ridge challenge

SKYE Rotary Club this week launched an appeal for walkers and runners to take part in a major mid-summer fund-raising event on Saturday June 29.

The Trotternish Ridge Challenge, being billed as 'The Trott', will feature competitive runs and non-competitive walks over 36, 21 km and eight kilometres.

Sub-committee chairman John Taylor encouraged people to have a go in the new outdoor challenge and help the club support a number of local charities.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This is an opportunity for a fabulous day out for walkers and runners on the beautiful Trotternish Ridge.'

'It is one of the most spectacular landscapes in Scotland, home to golden eagles and white tailed sea eagles.'

'At the same time you'll be raising money for Rotary charities and good causes here in Skye and Lochalsh. There's a choice of three different routes to suit ability and experience.'

The Trotternish Ridge is widely regarded as one of the finest ridge traverses in Britain. The entire ridge is a high level escarpment formed by a series of major landslips - the longest in the UK.

The challenge, to be held annually, is scheduled when the hours of darkness, especially up on the ridge, are very short, Mr Taylor added.

For more details visit www.thetrott.org.uk.

CANNA residents are to open the first all year round community shop in spring 2014 after Highland Council approved a bid for EU Leader funding.

Community had been looking at the shop project for two years. The outlet, he suggested, could follow Eigg in operating a franchise agreement with a Mallaig-based retailer to sell provisions. All profits from sales, as happens with the pier shop, would go toward community projects.

He told *The Oban Times*:

'We expect construction to be completed by October this year and that the shop will be fully operational by spring 2014. We are out to tender for contractors' pricing. It will make a huge difference. It just brings another dimension to the place. It is going to open up new opportunities, not just to sell things but as a meeting place as well. Community shops are where the community gets together on a daily basis.'

The enterprise hopes to get help from the Community Retailing Network, which has helped establish similar community shops at Glenug and on Eriskay, Scalpay and Harris, Mr Connor added.

Efforts are also underway to boost Canna's permanent population of 12 following the departure of several families last year. Mr Connor said: 'We have placed an advertisement for new people to come in and we are pretty hopeful that by the middle of this year we will be up the mid twenties.'

Islanders celebrate successful bid for £80,000 EU Leader funding

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The building was previously used, among other things, as a dairy and a boat repair shed.

It is one of three remaining parts of Coroghan House, the former laird's residence which dates back to at least the 1780s.

Canna's restaurant and a holiday cottage stand next door.

The new shop will mean islanders will be much less reliant on daily grocery deliveries by ferry from Mallaig. Canna is the farthest flung of the Small Isles and often experiences the worst weather.

The island currently only has a small seasonal shop on the pier selling garden produce, crafts and homespun and dyed Canna wool to visitors. It will be incorporated into the new shop once it opens.

Island owners the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) are part-funding the venture as part of a major effort to boost the island's economy and population.

Other ongoing works include rebuilding the New House, which was destroyed by fire in November 2011.

NTS manager Stewart Connor, who lives on Canna, said the

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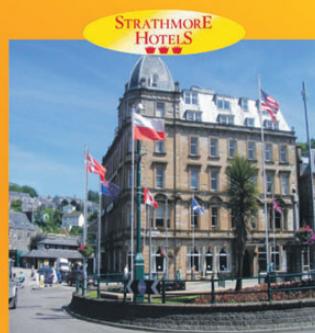
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Get ready for Valentines Day

THE DAY dedicated to St. Valentine is an odd one in our calendar.

Like most of our other festivals it has its feet in both Christian and pagan tradition. However, unlike Christmas, Easter and other saints' days, the saint named is pretty well anonymous. Who was St. Valentine? No-one really knows.

There are many legends and theories.

Two Saints bearing the name, one a Roman priest, the other a Bishop of Interamna were martyred towards the end of the third century and buried in Rome somewhere along the Flaminian Way. A small church dedicated to St. Valentine once stood near the Flaminian Gate.

A third St. Valentine, died a violent death in Africa but when, where and why is not known.

Then there are the 'unofficial' Valentines, men who may or may not have lived independent lives, whose histories may have been individual, separate or composites, all of which ended in violent and unpleasant deaths.

Celebrations on the day have included the drawing of lots by girls and boys to see who would be the 'pair' for the day or the year depending on the authority you read. The paired couple would exchange notes - forerunners to Valentine cards? By the 14th century in England and France this habit had become a pre-joust ceremony whereby the lady chose her champion.

The Victorians were the most avid observers of St. Valentine's Day. It appealed to their romantic side. Restaurants bend over backwards to provide the right atmosphere for couples. Tables are carefully set, the lights set low, lovers' music is played gently in the background and the food and wine are

carefully chosen for the occasion.

Book early though because tables soon get taken up.

Gifts for your loved one are the order of the day.

For her, chocolates, flowers and lingerie are favourites.

For him, a video of his favourite film or band, or expensive aftershave are always acceptable.

However a small but exquisite piece of jewellery for either is very popular.

Still, the day starts in the morning and if it's possible, the celebration could also start there. Don't waste the opportunity to make this Day really special.

It is a kind of celebratory oasis in the bleak winter weeks between Christmas and Easter. So, put your thinking cap on, use your imagination and make this St. Valentine's Day one to remember all the coming year through.

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Come to the Lochleven Seafood Café for a Valentines treat, or try our famous Spanish menu on Thursday evenings in February and March only.

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Please return your entries to The Oban Times Flower Basket Competition, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 11th February 2013.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Winners will be chosen at random. Not open to Wyvern Media or Flower Basket employees. Photocopied entries will not be accepted.

Love on the rocks

GEORGE Bernard Shaw once wrote that 'there is no love more sincere than the love of food', and we suspect that John-Pierre Robinet, the cheery 42-year-old Belgian who has given up running some of the world's finest hotels to buy The Old Forge inn on the remote Knoydart peninsula, may agree.

Hailing from the heavily-forested Ardennes region of Belgium and the sixth generation of his family to be a hotelier, he fell in love with Knoydart when visiting on a stalking holiday fifteen years ago. When The Old Forge inn came up for sale last year he just couldn't resist.

'I love it here, it's everything I had hoped it would be,' he said.

'When friends come here they are amazed at the quality of the ingredients. The venison is beautiful, the langoustines are the best in the world, the fish is incredibly good and the hand-dived scallops and mussels are wonderful.'

I've travelled the world and I've never seen anything like it anywhere else.'

When we asked JP, as he is known to each of the 150 inhabitants of the remote village, to put together a Valentine's Day meal that reflected the themes of love, Knoydart and the rugged wilderness of this part of Lochaber, he sidestepped the usual aphrodisiac clichés. Instead, he started with scallops (widely regarded as symbol of fertility), and chose a main course of venison in chocolate (Belgians have an obsession with chocolate) before ending with a Valentine's cheesecake.

It proved to be a feast fit for star-crossed lovers everywhere.

You can find JP's Valentine's Day creations in the February edition of Scottish Field - at your newsagent now!



JP is chef-patron of The Old Forge in Knoydart, which can only be reached by a 45-minute boat journey or an 18-mile hike.



The pointer brothers at Ardtornish

FOR BRITISH guns, the ultimate sporting endeavour is shooting driven grouse, but for any countryman born in France or Italy, the most exacting test of bird-shooting ability isn't to be found by standing in a butt on the Glorious Twelfth but by marching around the coastal fringes of Scotland in search of a smaller and more elusive quarry.

For serious French and Italian shots, the Roll's Royce of shooting days is the pursuit of woodcock over pointers. Every year since dogs were allowed to be brought into Britain from overseas, thousands of continental sportsmen arrive here, bringing their own dogs with them. Setters, famed for their range and known for their distinctive crouch when they have spotted game, are the usual gundog of choice.

An increasingly popular venue for these visitors is Ardtornish in Morvern, the pristine corner of Scotland which overlooks the Sound of Mull and which was beloved of John Buchan (this is where he wrote *Macabre*, and several of the landmarks on this Argyll estate landmarks are identifiable in the novel).

This is perfect woodcock country: coastal, with steep, heavily-wooded hills that offer the perfect amount of cover for the ground-nesting bird. Thrown in a gamekeeper in Simon Boult, who loves the pursuit of woodcock (Ardtornish's Winter Macabre is made up of woodcock over pointers, a red deer and diving for scallops in the bay) and you have the ideal venue.

Boult also has two fine dogs, Kerry, an English setter, and Bramble, a German shorthaired pointer. Both wear luminous orange boxes on their collars: once



Simon Boult with his two fine dogs, Kerry, an English setter, and Bramble, a German shorthaired pointer

switched on, these begin to emit a loud beeping noise when the dog has remained immobile for long enough to suggest that it is pointing at a hidden woodcock. In such densely wooded terrain, it is often the only practical way to hunt, giving the guns a vital second or two to get in place before the birds bolt for safety.

This was about as far from blasting barn-door pheasants as it is possible to get, and all the better for that.

Boult says that it is the prospect of working so closely in tandem with their pointers which brings so many French and Italian guns to our shores.

And, at only £100 per gun per day at Ardtornish (plus £150 for the dogs), it costs a fraction of the price of Scotland's most prized game bird. Could it possibly be that our shooting friends from across the Channel perhaps know a thing or two after all?

Read all of this article, plus many more, in the February edition of Scottish Field.

Right -
In a novel Jack Vettriano-style take on a Valentines Day feast, Amy Connelly and Jack Aldridge toast a meal prepared for them by JP Robinet (left, holding umbrella).

Family first on Islay as three generations band together



Margaret MacDonald and Alison and Ciara MacTaggart make up the family trio that made history on Islay.



Some of the Park children in their beach party outfits with their homework challenges for the Australia topic.

Party rounds off Park pupils' Australia project

CHILDREN at Park Primary School in Oban celebrated Australia Day in style with a beach party.

The youngsters had lots of fun making

fairy bread, building sand castles and talking to their Australian dinner lady Corrina, who showed photos from her life in Oz.

Teacher Alison Johnston said: 'The party was a great success and a great way to celebrate the end of our Australian topic.'



Dunbeg Burns Day fun
DUNBEG Primary School held its own Burns Day on Friday when all the pupils had the chance to try haggis, neeps and tatties.
An Address to the Haggis was given by pupils Kieron Morrison and Connor MacCuish after it was piped into the canteen by Jennie MacLean. The pupils and staff were also entertained by Highland dancers Chelsea MacAulay, Eilie Munro and Iona MacKay at a Burns ceilidh.
Left: Addressing the haggis at Dunbeg Primary School are, from left: piper Jennie MacLean, Kieron Morrison, Connor MacCuish and dancers Chelsea MacAulay, Eilie Munro and Iona MacKay. 16.105dunbeg02

Quartet hit all the right notes at Taynuilt ceilidh

THE HIGHLY-talented quartet Fir an t-Sruith made the long journey down from Lewis to treat the Taynuilt Winter Ceilidh audience to several wonderful displays of close-harmony Gaelic singing.

Ronnie Murray, Murdo (Cloudy) MacLeod, Angus Smith and David MacLennan were the headline performers in an excellent line-up in Taynuilt Village Hall.

Fourteen-year-old Aaron Hossain from Oban High School Pipe Band started off the proceedings with an impressive performance on the bagpipes. Well known local artistes Becky Hill (clarsach), Joannie MacLachlan (fiddle) and Michael Garvin (accordian) provided further excellent musical talent during the ceilidh.

Highland dancing is always a popular part of Taynuilt ceilidhs and Isla Smith, Maria Clark, Abbie MacKenzie and Lili Webster from the Eilean MacInnes School of Dance produced polished performances.

Bean an taigh was Joy Dunlop, who kept the proceedings flowing smoothly.



Left: Oban couple Joanie and Michael Garvin.

Iona hosts paper art and bookbinding event

AN IONA hostel will be hosting a unique event in March showcasing paper art and bookbinding.

Rachel Hazell, a book artist, will be holding a workshop on the island aimed at helping locals and visitors produce the book that is 'inside them'.

Rachel has travelled extensively for her work; she was an assistant post

mistress in Antarctica and loves nothing more than standing on top of mountains and singing.

She said: 'This workshop will be inspired by personal journeys, maps and the contours and memories of the Iona landscape. Your unique pages of text and image will be bound into driftwood covers using Coptic stitch.'

There will be time for other paper exercises, discussion and to explore the stillness of an Iona awakening from a long winter.'

The three-day event, Bookart Retreat on Iona, will be held in the award winning Iona Hostel, the best eco-hostel in Scotland, from March 7 to 10.

The Producers is playing for three nights only February 21–23 and tickets are on sale from the Corran Halls.

'It's a heck of a lot of work and we

have a small army of people working away just on the backstage bits,' he said. 'There are lots more people concentrating on other equally important things to do with the show. We don't have everyone together in the one place yet, but it will be quite a party when we do!'

The Producers is playing for three nights only February 21–23 and tickets are on sale from the Corran Halls.

The Producers is a big production for Spotlight Musical Theatre Group this year as it embarks on one of its most ambitious shows yet - Mel Brooks' *The Producers*.

Rehearsals started back in August for this show, which is based on the 2005 film and stage show of the same name.

The cast is having to work very hard with multiple parts being played by each actor.

Spotlight gear up to stage *The Producers*

IT IS a big production for Spotlight Musical Theatre Group this year as it embarks on one of its most ambitious shows yet - Mel Brooks' *The Producers*.

Rehearsals started back in August for this show, which is based on the 2005 film and stage show of the same name.

The cast is having to work very hard with multiple parts being played by each actor.

THREE generations of the same musical family formed an 'emergency' Islay ceilidh band to help community events in what is a first for the island living.

Margaret MacDonald, who has been playing in Islay bands for almost 60 years, was joined by her daughter Alison MacTaggart and granddaughter Ciara MacTaggart to play at concerts in Gruinart, Kilmeny and Port Ellen.

Stuck

Margaret, a member of the Islay Accordion and Fiddle Band, explained: 'Islay Gaelic Choir had an event to showcase their new songs but they were stuck for bands and asked the three of us to play.'

'We had played together among the family before but never in public.'

'Through that we got invited to play at the Kilmeny Ceilidh and then performed for senior citizens in

Port Ellen. Those were very proud moments for me to be able to play with Alison and Ciara but I don't think it will become a regular thing!'

Music

The three women, who all currently live in Port Ellen, share a love of music: Margaret has played keyboard for various Islay bands, daughter Alison was formerly a piper with Islay Pipe Band and plays guitar, while 21-year-old Ciara plays the accordion and tin whistle with Islay band Siar.

The family is also related to the famous Gaelic singer Kenna Campbell.

While Margaret has all but ruled out the new trio becoming a more regular fixture on the Islay ceilidh scene, Alison is less sure.

'The band was just put together for a few events but who knows what will happen?'

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Inner Wheel Club of Oban Coffee Morning Regent Hotel Saturday 2nd February 10.30 - 12.00 Entry by donation (suggested donation £3.00)
In aid of Hope Kitchen Oban

OBAN U3A Tuesday 5th February 2013 at 10.30am. Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting.

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Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
Entries to be in by 12 noon Friday 8th February 2013.
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopies entries will not be accepted.

Terms and conditions: Editor's decision is final. Competition is for amateur photographers only. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photographs not of a high enough resolution to appear in print will be disqualified. By submitting to the competition, including but not limited to digital video and images, mobile text messages, blogging, message boards, emails and audio submissions, you automatically grant Wyvex Media the royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, exclusive right and license to use, reproduce, modify, edit, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such material (in whole or part) worldwide and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in such content. Prizes are as stated, no cash alternative. Employees of Wyvex Media and their immediate family are prohibited from entering. Text votes cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Quartet	Thur 31st Jan, 18:00
	Gambit	Thurs 31st Jan, 20:30
	Midnight's Children	Fri 1st Feb, 17:45 • Sat 2nd Feb, 17:00 Sun 3rd Feb, 17:00 • Mon 4th Feb, 17:45
	Gangster Squad	Fri 1st Feb, 20:45 • Sat 2nd Feb, 20:00 Sun 3rd Feb, 20:00 • Mon 4th Feb, 20:45 Tues 5th Feb, 20:15 • Wed 6th Feb, 18:00 Thurs 7th Feb, 20:15
	Tinkerbell & the Secret of the Wings	Sat 2nd Feb, 13:00, 15:00 • Sun 3rd Feb, 13:00, 15:00
	The Oranges	Tues 5th Feb, 18:00 • Wed 6th Feb, 20:30 Thurs 7th Feb, 18:00

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coincidence of profound consequence for both. Switched at birth by a nurse in a Bombay hospital they are condemned to live out the fate intended for the other. Imbued with mysterious telepathic powers, their lives become strangely intertwined and inexplicably linked to their country's careening journey through the tumultuous twentieth century.

• **Gambit (12A)**
Curator Harry Deane is an expert in fine art, but he's equally accomplished in taking abuse from his insolent boss. That's about to change. The plot - trick the avid art collector into buying a fake Monet painting.

• **Midnight's Children (12A)**
Midnight's Children follows the destinies of a pair of children born on the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, the very moment that India claimed its independence from Great Britain - a

perhaps, for the small, secret crew of LAPD outsiders led by Sgt. John O'Mara (Josh Brolin) and Jerry Wooters (Ryan Gosling), who come together to try to tear Cohen's world apart.

• **Tinkerbell (U)**

Tinker Bell and her fairy friends cross a "great divide" into the mysterious and forbidden Winter Woods. Curiosity and adventure soon lead Tinker Bell to reveal a magical secret that will change her world forever when she meets Periwinkle, a winter fairy who is equally high-spirited and playful.

• **The Oranges (15)**

The enduring friendship between the Walling and Ostroff families is tested when Nina, the prodigal Ostroff daughter, returns home for the holidays after a five-year absence and enters into an affair with David, head of the Walling family.

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Tue 12 Craignish Village Hall, 7.30pm

Wed 13 Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, 8pm

Thu 14 Glengarry Community Hall, 7.30pm

Fri 22 Innellan Village Hall, 7.30pm

Wed 27 Gibson Hall, Garelochhead, 8pm

Thu 28 Three Villages Hall, Arrochar, 7.30pm

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**Adult £12
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To claim this offer, complete the below application form and, along with an up to date passport sized photograph, take it along to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban, at any time in February 2013. You can also post your application, complete with a stamped self addressed envelope, photo and a cheque for the appropriate amount, made payable to Merlin Entertainments, to Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SE, or bring your application form to Tesco, Oban (by the entrance), on the 9th or 10th February.

2012 APPLICATION FORM

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Adult (£12) Child (£8) Pass (tick box selection)

</div

FARMING

Annual stock judging competition at Lochaber

LOCHABER Shepherds will hold their annual stock judging competition at the Lochaber Rural Complex, Torlundy, tomorrow (Friday) at 7.15pm.

The evening will feature local, open and team competitions as well as an open tup lamb competition.

All proceeds go to local charities. All welcome.

Scottish farmers host conference

THE 10TH annual Farming Scotland Conference is taking place in Carnoustie on Thursday, February 7.

The event features guest speakers including George Lyon, MEP for Scotland, chairman of the Potato Council, Allan Stevenson, and Jim McLaren, chairman of Quality Meat Scotland.

All speakers will entertain delegates with their views and opinions around the conference theme of 'weathering the storm'. A panel session and lunch is also included.

The Farming Scotland Conference will take place in the Carnoustie Golf Hotel and Spa, starting at 9am. To book a place email mary.campbell@egaccountants.co.uk or contact 01307 474274.

Prime sheep trade back 7p per kilo at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 1985 prime hoggets, and 588 cast ewes and tupps at Stirling on Tuesday.

Hoggets sold to 214p for 43kg Beltex's from J B Guthrie, Culliburn to average at 147.02p per kilo (-7.33p on the week).

Heavy ewes averaged £64.10 selling to a top of £91.50 for Texel's from Culdees Home Farm while light ewes averaged £41.92 selling to a top of £48.50 for Blackfaces from Mr Gray, Drumnessie.

A small entry of cast ups sold to £78.50 for Texel's from Easter Dullatur.



Japanese Wagyu cattle could be tested on the Scottish market

Wagyu embryos to come up for sale at Stirling bull sales

FOR THE first-time Scotland will see the auction of Japanese Wagyu embryos when United Auctions (UA) host their annual Spring bull sales.

For sale will be 18 pure Wagyu embryos from a local, recently established herd.

Expensive beef

Husband and wife team Mohsin and Martine Al-Tajir run the Japanese breed, which produces the most expensive beef in the world, under their

company Highland Wagyu based at Blackford Farms in Dunblane.

Mr Leggat continued: 'We believe the sale of these Wagyu embryos is the first time that such genetic material will be offered in Scotland via auction and we're pleased to support Highland Wagyu in this way.'

With a total of 1169 pedigree bulls and females on offer at Stirling next week, the event welcomes some bumper breed

entries. The action takes place at United Auctions' (UA's) Stirling Agricultural Centre across two weeks from Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th February and from Monday 18th to Tuesday 19th February 2013.

The Stirling Bull Sales, held under the auspices of the national breed societies and supported by the Bank of Scotland, has a new format.

The native breeds plus

Limousins will be exhibited in week one with the rest of the continental breeds featuring in week two.

David Leggat, executive chairman of UA, said: 'The sale promises a fantastic show for quality with bulls to suit every pocket.'

'Virtually all the bulls have both EBV information and herd health status in the catalogues to help buyers with their choice.'

Included in the event are 180

Limousin bulls, making it the biggest entry of the breed in history of the sales.

A 93 entries, the Shorthorn bulls are at their largest numbers since the 1960s. And after two decades, the bull sales will also see enough Herefords to enable show classes.

Full catalogue details for the sales are available on the pedigree page of UA's website along with access to the sale ring's live webcam.

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Islay cattle sell at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 284 cattle at their weekly primestock sale at Stirling last Thursday.

Bullocks averaged 212.5p per kg and sold to 238.5p per kg, for a 615kg Limousin from Knockhouse Farm, Dunfermline and to £1630 for 860kg Charolais, Pleannmill Farm, Stirling.

Heifers averaged 210.5p per kg and sold to 243.5p per kg for a 606kg Limousin from Knockhouse Farm and to £1442 per head for 620kg Limousin from the same home.

Knockhouse sold a pen of eight cattle to average at 235p per kg.

Butchers cattle sold in excess of 225p per kg to average at 230p per kg and sold to 236.5p per kg, for a 530kg Limousin heifer from North Glassmount

Farm, Kirkcaldy. Young bulls sold to 217.5p per kg for a 635kg Limousin from West Glespian Farm, Douglas and to £1,600 per head for a 760kg Limousin from Airthrey Kerse Farm, Stirling.

Cast cows sold to £1625 for a Limousin from R Johnstone, Balacalva, Isle of Islay and to the same price for another Limousin from J Caldwell, Moorfield, Kilmarnock.

Cast bulls sold to £1495 for a Limousin from Craigevern, £1335 for a Charolais from Hill and £1155 for a British Blue from Gartfern.

Over 30 Month cattle sold to 199.5p per kg for a 575kg Bullock from Bogside Farm, Newmains and to £1374 for young Charolais Cow, Eorabus Farm, Islay.

Dingwall prime sale of cattle and sheep

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 64 prime cattle and 976 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 208.4p (+0.9p) and sold to 224p per kg and £1,556.80 for a 695kg Limousin cross from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose.

Prime heifers averaged 210.2p (-5.1p) and sold to 224p per kg for a 585kg Charolais cross from Woodend, Killearnan, and £1,496.00 for a 680kg Charolais cross from Mountrich, Dingwall.

Lambs averaged 150.4p (-14.2p) and sold to 173.1p per kg for 39kg Texel crosses from Kinchyle, Scaniport, and £74.00 for a pen of 45.5kg Charolais cross and a pen 43.5 Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge.

Bullocks rise 10p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1052 store cattle and cast cows at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 207.30p (+10.0p) and sold to 242.80p per kg for a 313kg Charolais cross from Sorn Mains and £1360 for a 679kg Charolais cross from South Kirkland.

Heifers averaged 198.97p (+0.03p) and sold to 246.60p per kg for a 373kg British Blue cross from Easter Greenhill.

Sheep show improvement at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 4630 prime sheep including 3821 old season lambs avg 154.1p (+10.30p/wk) and 817 cast ewes and rams at Stirling on Thursday.

Beltex crosses from West Park sold to £94, with Texel crosses from Easter Ochtermuthill to £91 and Charolais from Farden to £88.

Suffolk crosses from Tomraig sold to 164p per kilo with Texel crosses from Ballechin to 205p.

Texel cross ewes from Dechmont sold to £100.50 with Cross ewes from Aithrey Kerse to £88.50.

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Market reports

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks:
Up to 250kg - Drumelzier £495, 222.80p;
251-300kg Sorn Mains £710, 241.50p; 301-350kg West Park £775, Sorn Mains 242.50p;
351-400kg Easter Greenhill £900, Townhead 233.0p;
401-450kg Easter Greenhill £1040, 230.60p;
451-500kg Wester Mye £1090, Townhead 228.60p;
501-550kg Holehouse £1330, Arnprior 216.40p;
551-600kg South Kirkland £1300, 218.50p;
601-650kg South Kirkland £1340, 213.50p;
651-700kg South Kirkland £13600, 200.30p.
Heifers:
Up to 250kg - Drumelzier £480, 213.30p;
251-300kg Castlerock Rednock £660, 227.60p;
301-350kg Bankswood £720, Muirkirk 215.20p;
351-400kg Easter Greenhill £920, 246.60p;
401-450kg Easter Greenhill £1020,

230.00p;

451-500kgs East Shawtonhill £1110, Farden 224.10p;
501-550kgs West Muirhouse £1100, Farden 213.40p;

551-600kgs Thirls £1100, 195.40p;

601-650kgs Titwood £1150, 183.70p.

OTM cows -

Penston (BB) £1450, Upper Auchentay

187.30p; Creetlevans (CH) £1370,

147.30p; Penston (Lim) £1290, 170.60p;

Penston (Sim) £1265, 165.10p; Penston (SD) £1170, 179.40p; Bourtreebush (Lim) £1045, 131.30p. OTM Bulls-The Ross (Char) £1490, 133.80p; Hillview (Lim) £1045, 129.80p

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week one with the rest of the

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Full catalogue details for



Benderloch farmer Allan MacKellar with some of his flock set to lamb this month. 20_05allanmackellar1

PREPARATIONS for lambing have already begun for Benderloch farmer Allan MacKellar, despite not expecting his first lamb until February 22.

Based at Seaview, Allan will be lambing his flock indoors, with 10 Bluefaced Leicesters and six mules set to be lambed over a frantic few days.

He's hoping to take at least one to the Royal Highland Show later this year, having performed well at the event since claiming a high profile double in 2010.

Not only did his sheep Esmeralda claim the reserve female champion title, but her tup lamb was first in

class that same year. He followed that up with firsts and seconds in 2011 and a sixth and seventh place last year.

Before he can start to think about building on that success, he has to prepare for the busiest week of his year.

He said: 'Bluefaced Leicester lambs are born pure skin, there's no wool, so they have to go under the heat lamps for the first couple of days at least. They're slightly softer than lowland sheep.'

'They can be quite hard work. It'll be lambing day and night for four days. It's quite intense. To be successful

you've got to give 110 per cent committed to the job, even more so with Bluefaced Leicesters.'

While hard work, Allan - who will sell his shearlings at Oban Livestock Mart this October - enjoys the challenge.

'There's a massive market for Bluefaced Leicesters. If you look at the national percentage, 54 per cent of the UK's stock is made up of mules; the sires of mules are Bluefaced Leicesters. A Leicester will also lamb at about 180 per cent.'

'They're hard work, but worth it.'



produce mules.

While his pure breed sheep are lambed indoors, Ian's Blackfaced ewes only come inside to lamb before going back out to the hill again. 'The blackies are gathered in to lamb and when they have lambed they go out,' he said.

During lambing time his ewes eat feed blocks. The ewe lambs produced during lambing season are sold on at the Islay breeding sale around the end of September and his weather lambs are sold as fat.

He then sells on his tupps later on locally.

When asked if he hopes he will have a good year, he said: 'I hope so. We are just dosing again for fluke today. They seem in good enough order, so God willing.'

His pure breeds will start lambing in around a fortnight, while the rest of his ewes will not start until April.

FOR many farmers lambing season has already started in earnest, however, one Islay farmer has another two week wait until one of the busiest times in the farming year begins.

Ian McKerral of Island Farm near Bowmore rents approximately 1500 acres of land, with 300 acres of those ploughable and the rest hill land.

He has 300 Blackfaced ewes, which are put to the Bluefaced Leicester tupps, and around purebred Border Leicester ewes, which are also put to the Bluefaced Leicester tupps as well as his Border Leicester tupps.

When choosing his tupps, Ian says he gets them from Kelso and usually buys two a year. He adds he likes them to be 'big and long with a leg on each corner.'

His pure breeds are used to produce more tupps while the Blackfaced ewes and Bluefaced tupps

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I have lived and worked in Scotland for the last 23 years after I decided to move from my home town of Doncaster. I took a map and pin, closed my eyes, and let fate decide my destination; the pin landed just off the coast of Campbeltown. After helping various companies and people set up in business, I decided to look for a new challenge. I moved to Oban 9 years ago to work for a family run hotel in Onich where I was the Credit Controller and Payroll Manager. I then

joined a small family run accounting business. Finally, in February 2012, and after 25 years' experience in accounts, book keeping and payroll, I decided to make the leap and run my own business. I am now based in Oban's George Street in a cosy little office. This is ideal for clients to pop in whenever they are in town to drop off paperwork, have a chat or just ask a quick question. I believe myself to be easy to talk to, serious when I need to be, hardworking,

trustworthy and nothing is too little or too much for any of my clients. The name BághSpoke is itself derived from the Gaelic word for Bay and the rest is a play on words. What can BághSpoke do for you: Book-keeping, Payroll, VAT Returns, Year-end Accounts, New Business Start Up, Self-Assessments, Funding and Grants. Give me a call for a chat about your requirements, or better still, pop in and see me.

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John Allan Motors was owned and run by John Allan until his untimely passing in 2010. Rachel Allan, John Allan's widow, was a nurse and midwife for some 30 years and served the Oban area and outlying islands as a Community Nursing Sister/midwife for 16 years.

Rachel supported John in his work and learned much about the motor trade. Following a course of study she obtained a certificate of professional competence in road haulage operations achieving exceptional pass marks. John had an excellent reputation for customer care and as a skilled motor

engineer. Rachel and staff continue to keep the wheels rolling at John Allan's Garage and we strive to keep Johns name at the forefront of the motor trade. Continuing to provide an excellent service. We would like to thank our customers for their continued support



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Off the Rails opened in Oban's George Street in November by friends Catherine Hunter and Sandra Melville to introduce a business concept which has been growing in popularity in towns and cities across the nation. The concept is simple: it offers excellent quality pre-owned designer or "top end high street" clothing and accessories at affordable prices. The benefits of this to one and all are extensive: for

the customer it offers local availability of high quality and designer clothing at a fraction of high street prices. For our clients we provide the opportunity to convert unused items, which would otherwise be stored away, into cash. This brings money into circulation – exactly what is required to help get the economy back on track. From a local perspective, a retail unit which had been lying empty is now being used, and brightening up the top of

George Street against of trend of continual and worrying closures. We are delighted with the reception Off The RAILS has had from the public, who clearly recognise good value when they see it! In response to feedback we are extending our range to cater for babies and toddlers and are planning a "Wedding March" in the spring where a selection of fantastic wedding outfits will be available. Watch this space!



ARDGOUR RIDING CENTRE

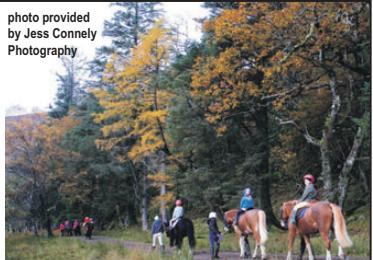
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Horses have been a life long passion of mine. I was lucky enough to own my first pony at the age of 5 and ever since then horses have helped me in so many ways. Having dreamed of running my own riding center for years I finally grabbed the bull by the horns and in November 2011 after a long labour of form filling and ticking boxes, Ardgour Riding Centre was born. Since

then it has grown from strength to strength. We started off with 4 ponies and 4 children attending our saddle club days. We are now a Pony Club Centre with 25 members and close to 20 horses on the yard. My aim for Ardgour Riding Centre was to provide a friendly welcoming place for people of any age to come, have fun, learn, and be part of the horse community

without having to own their own horse. Running Ardgour Riding Centre is a real privilege, and I would like to say a huge thank you to all my customers, friends and family for supporting me in this venture. Without all of you my dream could not be possible. For further information please visit our web page www.ardgourridingcentre.co.uk



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Born in Hampshire, I have lived in Argyll since 1971 when our family relocated for an exciting new life! After attaining HNC Business at college in Southampton in 1984, I worked for Hydro-Electric, George Street, for five years until was tempted by a job offer at The Melfort Club, a fledgling timeshare business, as Sales Secretary. Promised a bonus to boost my wardrobe, I accepted, despite warnings that it possibly wasn't my best decision! I tried to make myself indispensable and I

was eventually promoted to Manager in 1995! To aid business development, we achieved Investors in People in 1999 and the Green Tourism Business scheme, finally attaining Gold standard in 2004. From a marketing perspective, we are huge advocates of VisitScotland, gaining 4 stars in their accreditation scheme and are active members of the Association of Scottish Self Caterers. Within the timeshare community we are TATOC accredited and an RCI Gold Crown resort.

Daily I am set new challenges, but I reap huge rewards from the people I work with and meet, guests, tradesmen and suppliers alike. A typical day is jam-packed full of interesting and varied tasks from accounts to marketing, interior design to maintenance planning – never a dull day, I can assure you! Although timeshare isn't understood by everyone, it works for the families from all over the World who have invested their money and holidays in Melfort Village.



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Tel: 01631 720311 Barcaldine
Open 7 days from 8am to 6pm
Cuddles are free - and freely dispensed!

Individually heated kennels
All dogs are exercised twice daily along woodland paths
Rabbits and Rodents also catered for
All pets must be up to date with vaccinations including Kennel Cough
DOG GROOMING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Lochandubh Kennels was established in 1992. We are a family run business with 24 kennels licensed for 40 dogs. Our aim is for the dog's stay here to be happy and stress free. We use sawdust in the kennels which keeps them dry and clean. The dogs are walked twice a day through woodland paths. The cattery was opened in 2007 and it has been designed and built to the highest spec. We have 8 chalets, licensed for 16 cats and all our cat clients love the heated beds. We also

have facilities to board any kind of small animal including hens. Our grooming parlour is fitted with a walk in shower for the largest of dogs and a raised bath for the smaller breeds. I have been grooming and clipping dogs for over 30 years. You can either have your dogs groomed while they are in the kennel or make an appointment. You are very welcome to come and have a look at our boarding facilities. We recently refurbished 12 of the kennels, double glazed units were fitted along the front to keep the bad weather out, but the dogs can still see what's going on. The other 12 are to be renovated this year, many thanks to my husband Paul for all his hard work.

Before moving back to Argyll I gained experience working in Lynwater Kennels near Edinburgh for 10 years; training gundogs, and breeding and showing cocker spaniels. We still have a lovely working line of Labradors which my daughter Anna-May and I work at the local shoots in the winter.



Rutherford's
Hair Salon
Contact 01631 565411 for appointments
Rutherford's
49 Stevenson Street, Oban
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

RUTHERFORDS NOT STANDING STILL! In January, Rutherford's on Stevenson Street revamped their salon and created a more intimate atmosphere with only half the existing shop being used. Pamela McKay - owner of Rutherford's, said "in the current climate we decided that this was the right course of action, removing the excess space has allowed us to focus on what is important, I have always prided myself in the standard of training at Rutherford's, which promotes development for the team and in turn is then passed on to our clients". We now have an additional two new stylists at Rutherford's.

Allan McKechnie - a very experienced stylist who started his career in Glasgow, and moved to London to work for 'Rush Hairdressing' where he gained valuable photographic experience. Allan recently moved to Oban with his wife and has just had a new baby girl. Jackie Denheijer who recently qualified and loves every minute of it, is getting more experienced every day. Our two young talents, Kelly Louise and Ally are just coming to the end of their training and both girls are filling their columns whilst training, offering 20% off. The salon training year has just started and so far we have already confirmed the following:



Chisholms Garage
Chisholms Garage are a Ballachulish based car breakdown recovery centre offering vehicle recovery services throughout Argyll and surrounding areas.

MOT station for Motorcycles and up to Class 7.

To arrange a recovery or obtain further information call Chisholms Garage on 01855 811431.

Chisholm's garage is a family run business operating since 1949. I started working at the company in 2006. This was not my first choice of job but as the company had been operating for so long, firstly by my grandfather Jimmy Chisholm then my father Stewart Chisholm, circumstances surrounding my

father for a short period of time before he took retirement. I had to learn very quickly how the business ran, from dealing with the daily procedures, contracts to the care and maintenance of our vehicles, whilst learning also how to survive in a predominantly male industry. The last few years have been an enjoyable challenge and I never

know what each day will bring, from assisting within the workshop, road accidents and breakdowns. At Chisholm's garage we provide 24hr recovery of all types and sizes of vehicles, servicing, repairs, Mots up to class 4, courtesy car and car sales, all with friendly efficient service at competitive rates.

GB Oils Ltd
Sales Administrator
E Attractive Remuneration Package

is the largest independent oil distributor in the UK supplying all types of fuel and lubricants to the domestic, industrial, agricultural and commercial sectors.

We currently have an excellent career opportunity for a based at our [redacted]

The primary responsibilities will be:

- Skills/experience required:
- If you are interested in this job opportunity, to apply please send your CV to [redacted] for an application form or call the HR Department

The most challenging and rewarding job you will ever apply for?

Ingeus supports unemployed people to find lasting work across Scotland and England. The positive impact we have on people's lives is down to the quality of our employees. We are now recruiting for two different roles to deliver a range of support nationally that helps people get back to work.

Team Manager
£32,465 - £36,460 pa, plus pension and benefits

As a Team Manager your role will have dual responsibility for managing areas of our business operating from the Oban and Campbeltown locations. Primarily you will manage the Client Liaison team (based in Oban) by leading the team to deliver performance expectations in order to support our clients within work. You will ensure our service delivery and quality is of a high standard. In addition you will provide support to an operational team of Employment Advisors in Oban and Campbeltown through regular coaching and compliance monitoring as well as local relationship building. Some travelling will be required for this role, therefore access to your own transport is required.

The hours of work are 37.5 per week as scheduled with the national contact centre management team. You will generally be expected to work at least one late night per week (until 8pm), and one Saturday in four between 9.15am and 1pm, with time off in lieu.

Client Liaison Officers
£16,415 - £17,440 pa, plus pension and benefits

As a Client Liaison Officer you will deliver an outstanding level of customer service to Ingeus clients when they join our programme and during their employment, characterised by exceptional listening and accurate and timely follow-up to queries. The role will be working as a key part of the Ingeus team, based in Oban, and handling calls to and from clients throughout the UK.

The hours of work are 37.5 per week as scheduled with the Team Manager, and will be between 10am and 8pm on weekdays and 9.15am to 1pm on Saturdays, to include one weekend in four with time off in lieu.

Find out more and apply at www.ingeus.co.uk/careers



THE SUNDAY TIMES
100
BEST COMPANIES
TO WORK FOR

Ingeus is an equal opportunities employer.

Fyne Families

Fyne Families is a voluntary sector, parent run, charitable company, whose purpose is to support families in Mid Argyll and ensure good quality play and learning experiences for children. Fyne Families has three member organisations: Elfs, Lochgilphead After School Club and Duncholan Family Centre.

MANAGER
20 hours per week term time plus 2 weeks
£9.10 per hour

We are seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to lead our services. The successful candidate will work in partnership with the Board of Directors to develop and shape Fyne Families services and ensure a sustainable future for the organisation.

Applicants must have, or be willing to undertake study towards, an appropriate degree level qualification.

SENIOR PRACTITIONER, ELFS NURSERY
13 hours per week term time
£8.57 per hour

Relevant experience and qualification essential. The Board may be willing to consider combining these two roles into one post.

Appointment is subject to PVG scheme membership. For an application pack, contact Jenny or Lorna at fynefamilies@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 07512794940

Closing date for both posts FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY. Interviews to be held week commencing 25/2/2013.

STRATHCLYDE FIRE & RESCUE

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue (SFR) are now recruiting **Retained Firefighters** for the retained duty system at Tarbert fire station.

Fire & Rescue personnel will be circulating recruitment information at residential and work premises in the Tarbert area week commencing 4th February 2013, an SFR recruitment vehicle will be located in the Tarbert town centre area on Saturday 9th February 2013 between 10:00hrs and 16:00hrs to provide further information on recruitment for the Tarbert Community Fire Station.

If you are interested in joining one of the biggest fire & rescue services in Europe whose role is to protect the communities we serve and responds with dedication and professionalism whenever and wherever the need occurs. For further information, details can be found on www.myjobs.scotland.gov.uk

EUROFOREST LIMITED

Euroforest Ltd is the largest independent timber harvesting and marketing company in the UK. We harvest and market in excess of one million tonnes of timber per annum. This is an opportunity for a self-motivated individual to join a leading company in the forest products industry.

Office Administrator – Cairnbaan

Applicants should have experience of managing a small office, along with good IT skills plus the enthusiasm to learn new skills. This is a part-time post of approximately 16 hours per week with flexibility to suit a variety of applicants and includes a company pension.

For further information and a job description please contact:
Email: arlene.dawson@euroforest.co.uk
Tel: 01466 794938
Closing date for applications: 6th February, 2013.

INVERARAY CASTLE SEASONAL STAFF REQUIRED

Full/Part-Time GUIDES
An interest in Scottish history and foreign languages an advantage

CASHIERS
Cash handling experience preferable

CLEANER - Part-time

For further information, please apply to:
Mrs J Young, Castle Manager
Inveraray Castle, INVERARAY PA32 8XF
E-Mail - manager@inveraray-castle.com

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Part Time Factory Worker required TARBERT

Please apply to Box No 502 Argyllshire Advertiser Argyll Street Lochgilphead PA31 8NB

THE KINTYRE WAY ROUTE MANAGER

The management company of The Kintyre Way is looking to appoint the Route Manager for the long distance walk that runs from Tarbert Loch Fyne to Campbeltown. Recently in receipt of significant grant aid, the walk is to be extended and its infrastructure upgraded. The person appointed will report to the Kintyre Way Board and be expected to project manage a team that will carry out a major redesign of the walk, increasing its length and put in place ways of improving links with Northern Ireland, Arran and the Ayrshire coast. The appointment is for an initial period of 2 years but is expected to result in a permanent position. Salary is in the region of £20K-£22K for a 37 hour week.

MARKETING & PROJECT OFFICER

We are also looking to appoint a Marketing & Project Officer for the long distance walk. The person appointed will report to The Kintyre Way Manager and will be responsible for the provision of a Marketing and Development strategy that ensures the long-term viability of the walk as well as assisting in the successful completion of the expansion project. The appointment is for an initial period of 2 years with a salary in the region of £18K-£20K for a 37 hour week. This post is suitable for part-time working and salary will be pro-rata.

For an informal discussion about either post contact Marcus Adams

01583 431 223 or carrdaleah@aol.com

Applications should be made to Clive Good at clive.good@btinternet.com

Both posts funded through The Coastal Communities Fund

Closing date for both posts February 15th 2013



Operations Manager
Salary £30,204 - £34,282

35 hours per week

Property Manager
Salary £26,050 to £30,204

35 hours per week

Safety & Plant Manager
Salary £26,050 to £30,204

35 hours per week

Service Administrator
Salary £16,296 to £18,035

35 hours per week

Repairs & Maintenance Operatives in various locations across Argyll

Salary £21,996 - £26,013

37.5 hours per week

- 1 Plumber – Islay
- 1 Builder / Joiner – Islay
- 1 Plumber – Mid Argyll & Kintyre
- 1 Plumber / Gas – Mid Argyll & Kintyre
- 1 Builder – Mid Argyll & Kintyre
- 2 Joiners – Mid Argyll & Kintyre
- 2 Electricians – Mid Argyll & Kintyre
- 1 Electrician – Oban & Lorn
- 1 Plumber / Gas – Lomond
- 2 Plumbers / Gas – Cowal & Bute
- 1 Joiner – Cowal & Bute
- 1 Builder – Cowal & Bute
- 1 Electrician – Cowal & Bute

All these posts will be subject to a Basic Disclosure Scotland check

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 15th February 2013

For further details and to apply: Tel 01546 605817 or Email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Great stories, news, views and photos are just a click away

VISIT US AT www.obantimes.co.uk

AREA MANAGER

KINTYRE

(Salary subject to experience)

Highland Fuels Ltd wishes to recruit an enthusiastic and diligent individual to complement its management team. We are looking for a proven leader with a track record of people management and business development.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Ensure safe and efficient operation of our Kintyre fuels and Campbeltown filling station business.
- Management of staff and the day to day operations of the County Garage Service Station.
- Timely ordering and control of stock at the Station and Depot.
- Develop the existing bulk fuels customer base and oversee tanker operations within the area.
- Maintain overall security and respond to general enquires direct to our customers.

Good local knowledge and links within the geographic area are essential along with strong communication skills and the ability to grow our business.

Please phone 01463 245805 for an application form or send your CV and covering letter to ops@highlandfuels.co.uk or by post to Alistair McIntosh, Highland Fuels Ltd, Affric House, Beechwood Park, Inverness IV2 3BW

Closing date for applicants is Friday the 15th of February 2013.

HIGHLAND FUELS



Carr Gomm is a national charity and not-for-profit company. The main focus is Supported Living – supporting people to lead their lives, access services and achieve their hopes and dreams. The first service started in 1988.

Social Work Emergency Service

Argyll & Bute - Oban

This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in establishing a new Social Work Emergency Service which will provide an out of hours service in Argyll & Bute. Full time and part time applications are welcome for the following vacancies:

Social Care Call Handlers – Oban

£15,515 - £16,153 pa

Based in Oban you will be responsible for responding to all calls which are received by the Social Work Emergency Service outwith normal office hours. You will require to listen carefully, establish the nature of the problem and decide on the required action.

You will have excellent communication skills, be comfortable dealing with potentially difficult situations and be confident to liaise with a variety of people, internal and external to the organisation. Working with a professional manner at all times, you will be computer literate with the ability to follow recording and monitoring systems.

Please quote Job Reference No: 260 when applying for this post.

SERVICE MANAGER

£23,818 - £27,897 pa

The Service Manager will manage the service to achieve its objectives of providing an effective out of hours social work service which fulfills statutory and local service requirements, manage and support team members; and liaise with other agencies.

This is a rare opportunity to join an innovative organisation and a supportive management team and work alongside experienced and committed colleagues. Service Managers provide leadership, ensure that the people we support have control over their lives and maintain creative practice.

Please quote Job Reference No: 261 when applying for this post.

We offer competitive terms and conditions including: pension, enhanced annual leave, training and career advancement opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination.

For an application pack visit our website: www.carrgomm.org, e-mail: recruitment@carrgomm.org, Tel: 0131 659 4770, or contact Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.

Closing Date: Friday, 8th February 2013

A company limited by guarantee in Scotland: SC 236436
Scottish charity: SC 033491



a million voices for nature

Stockperson

Permanent role – Full Time

Salary range £17,500 to £19,500 per annum

Based at RSPB Loch Gruinart and other Islay Reserves

Are you enthusiastic about working with livestock, adaptable and prepared to contribute to the delivery of high quality stock on one of the best known livestock islands in Scotland? Working with the Farms Manager you will help to look after our prize-winning suckler beef herd and our sheep flock on the Hebridean island of Islay.

Although this post is ideally suited to a development role we would still expect you to have:

- experience and knowledge of handling livestock
- experience of tractor and machinery operation – preferably certified, although training will be offered to a suitable candidate
- commitment to the highest standards of livestock care and welfare.

You should also be prepared to learn, be hard-working and able to work as part of a large and varied team. This is not a run-of-the-mill post; it will be challenging but also rewarding. The possibility of career advancement exists as does the offer of renting single shared accommodation.

If you are successful, you will be part of the Argyll Area Team and may also occasionally be required to work on other reserves in the area.

Closing date: 15 February 2013.

Interview date: 25 February 2013.

For further information and an application form, please visit our website or contact Liz Hathaway on 01496 850505.

www.rspb.org.uk/vacancies



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity.

England and Wales no. 207076. Scotland no. SC037654.



Marine Farming Career Opportunities

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. Our business is extensive; based in Argyll, across the West coast and throughout the Northern Isles. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need exceptional staff to build our business.

We are able to offer an enthusiastic, self-motivated individual the following opportunity:

Marine Engineer

You will be a time served mechanic with at least 5 years experience, be multi-skilled, conscientious, innovative and hard working. The role will involve the service, repair and maintenance of diesel engines, hydraulic systems, feeding and net cleaning equipment etc. Small craft experience and the ability to undertake minor fabrication and basic electrical work would be an asset. A strong safety focus is essential. This position is salaried with free occupational health support provided.

To obtain an application pack, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com. **Closing Date: Friday 15th February 2013**

All applicants are required to have a clean drivers' license.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.arryll-bute.gov.uk

TAXI FARE REVIEW (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council, having consulted with taxi operators licensed by the authority, propose to make no amendments to fares for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council. This proposal will become effective from 30th April 2013.

Any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals should do so by writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT, by no later than 4th March 2013.

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EARLY YEARS

IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROVISION?

Preschool education from August 2013 will be available for:-

- Four year old children whose birth date falls between 1st March 2009 and 28th February 2010
- Three year old children whose birth date falls between 1st March 2010 and 28th February 2011

A list of current preschool education providers, including those offering Gaelic Medium, is available from:

- All Preschool Education Providers
- All Primary Schools
- <http://www.arryll-bute.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/preschool-education>

Preschool Education Helpline noted below.

Information leaflets will be available from preschool education providers at the time of registration and parents can obtain further guidance from the Preschool Education Helpline, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Telephone 01369 708503).

Parents of eligible children should register at their preferred preschool education provider, taking along their child's birth certificate or passport, during week commencing 4th February 2013 during the normal operational hours of the unit.

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.arryll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02719/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground of Colonsay Cottage Croft Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
12/02772/PP	Amended layout to music studio. (Amendment to previous planning permission 11/02491/PP erection of a private music studio to rear of existing cottage)	Carnie Cottage Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5UG	Sub Post Office Lismore
13/00044/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access.	Land North of Hynish Air View Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/00045/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access.	Plot 2 Land North of Hynish Air View Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/00046/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access.	Plot 3 Land North of Hynish Air View Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/00056/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Ardalanish Farmhouse Bunesian Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DR	Sub Post Office Bunesian Isle of Mull
13/00106/PP	Change of use of agricultural residential unit to holiday letting accommodation	Crunchy Farm Bridge of Awe Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HT	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/00117/PP	Erection of car port	Craigloa Connell Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PH	Sub Post Office Connell
13/00120/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land North of Tioram North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
13/00122/PP	Change of use of shop to office	17-19 Lochside Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4HP	Oban Area Office
13/00131/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 08/00768/OUT - Site for erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land North West of Craigsputh Terrace Craigsputh Lane Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02436/PP	Alterations and installation of replacement windows and doors to the south west elevation.	Bellachroy Hotel Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QW	Sub Post Office Dervaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrioshagh PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.arryll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02718/PP	Erection of detached garage.	5 Charlotte Street Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA27 7DF	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
13/00110/PP	Installation of replacement windows	72A, B, C and 74 A, B, C and D Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: [https://planning.scotland.gov.uk](http://planning.scotland.gov.uk)

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Councillors Roddy McCuish and Mary Jean Devon (EW.4 Oban South and the Isles) Councillor Roddy McCuish and Mary Jean Devon will be holding a council surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on Friday 1st February 2013 from 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

Councillor McCuish can also be contacted by phoning the Members Services Unit of Argyll and Bute Council (01546 604002) or by e-mail - roderick.mccuish@arryll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Devon can be contacted by e-mail - mary.jean.devon@arryll-bute.gov.uk or by phone 01688 302083

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (EW.5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Glen-Lee will be holding a surgery the month of FEBRUARY as follows:-Monday afternoons in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 4.00pm - 5.00pm on the following dates:

Monday 4th February, Monday 11th February, Monday 18th February, Monday 25th February

Councillor Glen-Lee can also be contacted by phone - Tel: 01631 567 955 or by email - louise.glen-lee@arryll-bute.gov.uk

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ARGYLL AND BUTE PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA): ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Notice under Section 18 (1) (a) of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and under Section 16 (2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Argyll and Bute Council has prepared a Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) that consists of three elements. The Written Statement, Proposals Maps and Supplementary Guidance (SG). An Environmental Report (Strategic Environmental Assessment) also accompanies the plan.

The Proposed Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan and the Environmental Report are issued for representations to be made from the 4th February until 29th April 2013.

They can be viewed at <http://www.arryll-bute.gov.uk/ldp>. A number of open days are being arranged throughout the Council Area details of these are available on the web site.

The documents will also be available to view in the Council Offices and Service Centres listed below 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, and in the following libraries and post offices during their normal opening hours:

Council Offices/ Service Centres

Marsa Brae, Lochgilphead; Chalmers St. Ardrioshagh; Municipal Buildings; Oban, Milton House; Dunoon; Blairvadach, Helensburgh; Bowmore, Islay; Tobermory; Mull; Crossapol, Tiree; Craighouse, Jura; Scalasaig, Colonsay, Libraries

Tarbert, Rosneath, Cardross, Oban, Helensburgh, Dunoon, Rothesay, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead Post Offices

Arinagour, Coll, Achtnacrois, Lismore; Ardminnish, Gigha

Forms to make representations to the LDP or Environment Report are also available on the Council's website, or can be obtained by contacting Sheila McKenzie on 01546 604158.

Please note responses must be made on the official response form and received before 5pm on the 29th April 2013 to Sheila McKenzie, Development and Infrastructure, 1A Mansa Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD or by emailing ldp@arryll-bute.gov.uk

ALL information will be treated confidentially but if you require verification or would like any further information regarding the survey, please contact Allan Brandie, Research & Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council on 01369 708679 or email allan.brandie@arryll-bute.gov.uk

PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING IN ARGYLL & BUTE – TENANT & LANDLORD RESEARCH

In order to plan for the future, Argyll & Bute Council has appointed consultants Arneil Johnston in conjunction with Research Resource to carry out a survey of landlords and tenants in private rented housing during January and February 2013.

This research is designed to obtain a better understanding of the private rented sector in Argyll & Bute, and to identify the needs and views of both tenants and landlords. This will help to inform the Council's Local Housing Strategy. Participation in this survey is hugely important to help the Council and its partners understand how local housing needs can best be met and to promote improvements in the private rented sector.

Tenants and landlords will be contacted directly by consultants. However, if you would like to volunteer to participate in the survey, please contact: Lorna Shaw, Research Resource on 0800 121 8987 or by email lorna.shaw@researchresource.co.uk Research Resource, 17B Main Street, Cambuslang G72 7EX

All information will be treated confidentially but if you require verification or would like any further information regarding the survey, please contact Allan Brandie, Research & Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council on 01369 708679 or email allan.brandie@arryll-bute.gov.uk

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Proposed Division of a Croft Tenancy

Mr Duncan MacDougall is applying to divide the tenancy of the croft at Sgredan, within Colonsay and Oronsay into two new crofts.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

DECISION ON APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Application by Mr D M Buchanan, of Creagan Croft, Ledaig, Oban has been Approved.

5.01.40485

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

www.hIGHLAND.GOV.UK

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.hIGHLAND.GOV.UK>

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

Reference Number

Development Address

Proposal Description

12/04884/PIP Land 70m NW of Braeburn Upper Inverroy, Roy Bridge

13/00146/S42 Clanranald Cottage 18m North of Shore Cottage, Isle of Eigg

13/00192/FUL Grianan, Corriebeg Kinlochel, Fort William

13/00208/FUL Land 45m West of Braeside Cottage, Achdalieu Fort William

13/00226/FUL Derelict Building adjoining The Bothy, Isle of Canna

Time period for comments is 14 days.

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Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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5 Door. Real 5 seater sporty family car Aug 2004, Petrol 70,500 miles (v good for year) Silver, MOT and TAX April 13.
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TESCO

Photo of the year

Every little helps

Lochside, Oban,
Argyll and Bute, PA34 4HP



ENTRIES for our Photo of the Year competition are now closed with the judges deliberating over which pictures should make our grand finale.

Set the task of taking a picture that best sums up your favourite thing about the west coast, amateur photographers

from across the country set a high standard with an eclectic range of shots.

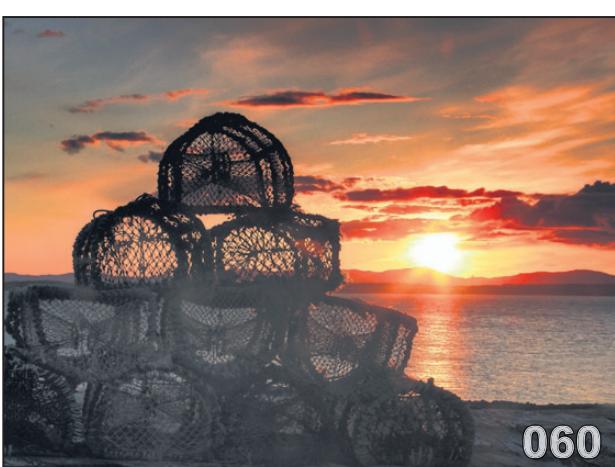
Entries may be closed, but you can still vote for your favourite entry by sending us a text to 88010 using the key word POY followed by the code beneath your picture of choice. For

example, if the number below your photograph is 123, your message would read POY 123.

You can also vote by completing the voting form on page 13. Photocopies will not be accepted.



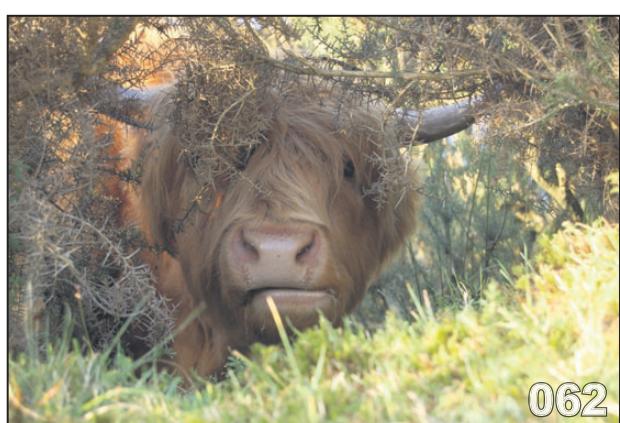
Alex Thomson, Cumbernauld: Stag at Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe.
T05alexthomson1no 059



Steve Partridge, Carradale: Stack of creels at Killean. Looking towards Gigha at sunset. April 2012. T05stevepartridge1no 060



Ann Dods, Oban: Lichens and fungi in Glencruitten Woods.
T05annodds1no 061



Wayne Lee: Highland Coo, late October, near Kilmartin. T05waynelee2no 062



Simon Park, Newbiggin by the Sea: The summer solstice 2012 Taken at 10pm looking across to Jura,taken from ballochroy standing stones. T05simonpark1no 063



Des Laverty, Hamilton: Photo at the head of Loch Etive in February.
T04deslaverty1no 064

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GRACO CONTOUR ELECTRA travelcot/playpen complete with mattress. Navy blue check, vgc, £20 Telephone 01546 600330.

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MAMAS AND PAPAS Pram/buggy/chassis from comb 3 in 1 set (no car seat). Grey/white. Inc footmuff, pram cover & bag, sun shade and w/proof cover, £40 Telephone 07765 770618.

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KIDS SKIS Dynastar kid skis 120cm with Look bindings. Used condition. (Suit 9-11 year olds approx) Appin, £25 Telephone 07881 525754.

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PERSONALS

MY LITTLEST PETSHOP bin bag and back pack full of my littlest pet shop, £30 Telephone 07828 730964.

COFFEE MORNING

BALLACHULISH Many thanks to all who helped raise an amazing £1000 in aid of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

Monies will go to research

- Cona MacNicol

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1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or e-mail.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publication deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Publisher, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any editorial or printing error, omission or cancellation of publication, distribution or of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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9 The advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be paid in full by the advertiser.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment by the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of non-payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional bill for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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BIRTHS



McKECHNIE

Allan and Kerrynne (nee Macara) are delighted to announce the arrival of Ellie-Mae on January 24, 2013. First grandchild for Ian and Mary, Oban and Harry, Glasgow. First great grandchild of Moira Macneil, Isle of Barra. Much loved and treasured already.

ENGAGEMENT

GILLESPIE - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Daniel, son of the late Danny Gillespie and Joyce, Tiree to Sarah, younger daughter of Alistair and Amy of Skye. Mealaibh ur naidheachd le chile.

DEATHS

JENKINS (nee McCuaig) - On January 26, 2013, at Glenary Ward, Mid-Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead. Margaret, aged 51, with her family by her side, after a long battle with illness, borne with great courage and determination. Dearly loved wife of Ronald, adoring and devoted mother of Stephanie and Douglas and cherished daughter of Alex and Mary. Much loved and sorely missed by all family, friends and colleagues - an incredible woman whose spirit lives on in the hearts of all who loved her. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Thursday 31 January at 11.15 am thereafter to Ardrishaig Parish Church, at 2.30 pm, for a celebration of Margaret's life, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

LIVINGSTONE - At Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on January 23, 2013, Mary Jane Livingstone, (née Campbell), of 2 Croft View, North Connel and formerly of Ederline Farm, Ford, beloved wife of Alistair, loving mother of Douglas and mother-in-law of Kate. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, January 29 in Ardchattan Church, followed by interment at Achnaba Cemetery. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

MACCOLL - Peacefully at home, 1 Foothan Cottages, Kilmore, after a short illness, on January 24, 2013, in her 91st year, Margaret Urquhart (née Gibson), beloved wife of the late Ronnie, mother of Morven, Christina, Deirdre and Duncan, grandmother to Angela, Margaret, Fiona, Marie, Isabel, Neil, Jacqueline and Charlotte, great grandmother to Angus, Morgan, Paige, Keilidh, Lewis, Katie, Cameron and William and great great grandmother to William. Funeral will take place at Kilmore Parish Church, Kilmore, on Thursday, January 31, at 1.00pm. Thereafter to Kilinver Cemetery. Family flowers only, retiral collection/donations will be taken for Macmillan Cancer Support.

MACDONALD - Kenneth John, formerly of Claggan, Fort William. Peacefully at home on January 28, 2013, after a long illness Kenneth John Macdonald aged 83 years. Devoted husband of Eileen for fifty seven years. Proud father of Kenneth and Lesley, father-in-law of Elaine and Kenny. Loving grandpa of Sarah, Emma and Andrew. Last family member of Neil and Christina Macdonald, Cledale, Isle of Eigg.

SMITH - Suddenly but peacefully at home, after a short illness, on Wednesday January 23, 2013, in his 77th year, Angus, 60 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg. Loving husband to Myrtle, devoted father to Angus, Isobel and Calum, much loved Grampa and great grampa. Sorely missed. Safe in the hands of Jesus.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - (Comely Bank, Edinburgh). The family of the late Nan Campbell (nee Donn) would like to thank family and friends for their kind sympathy, cards and flowers. Thanks to the Rev Jonathan de Groot for a lovely service and to Purves Funeral Directors for their kindness and professionalism.

COLTHART - David and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. Grateful thanks to all medical staff for their care and attention. Special thanks to Rev. Roderick Campbell for his comforting service, to D&A Munn for their excellent care and professionalism, and to all those who paid their last respects to Lilian at the church and graveside. A generous donation of £625 was made to the ABCD.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Jimmy MacKinnon wish to thank all friends and relatives for their love and support following their recent loss. Special thanks to Dr Glen and the extended team at Lorn and Islands Hospital for supporting Jimmy throughout his illness. Thanks also to D&A Munn Ltd for their compassionate handling of his funeral, to Rev. Dugald Cameron and Jimmy's friends for a very moving tribute. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended the service and for your kind donations to the Oban Hospice in Jimmy's memory.

MEMORIALS

BIRCH - Betty Strang (nee Henry). At rest January 30, 1998, the perfect wife of Peter - loved and forever remembered.

KIRKPATRICK - In loving memory of our family, father John died January 20, 2011, mother Rachel January 21, 1974, brother William died September 11, 1990 and brother John died July 1, 1996.

- Angus and Heather and family.

MACINNES - In loving memory of our dear parents Effie, who died January 31, 2007 and John Lachlan, who died April 2, 1988. Loved and remembered always.

- Hugh, Mary, Ellen, Christine and families.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Agnes, our dear mother, mother-in-law, granny and great granny, who died on January 29, 2011. Fondly remembered.

- From the family in Oban and Lochgilphead.

MACKENNA - Ronald Gillies, of Oban and Inverness, on your tenth anniversary, January 15, 2003. All we love you and miss you every day.

- Jo, Ronald J, Tracy, Loret, Deirdre, Giovanna, Ishbel and the family.

NEWTON - In loving memory of my dear husband, who died January 31, 1976. Loved and remembered always.

- Amy, 2 Soroba Park Terrace

POULTON - Treasured memories of my dad, Chris, who died on January 30, 2006. Remembered with love,

- Hannah, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

POULTON - In memory of my good friend Chris, who died January 30, 2006, very sadly missed. Catriona

RUSSELL - Treasured memories of my dear wife Mary who died on January 29, 2010. More than ever I miss her - Love never ends.

RUSSELL - Precious memories of our most loving mum and nana Mary who died on January 29, 2010.

Not, how she died, but how she did live

Not, what she gained, but what she did give.

Love and miss you every day.

- Kirsty, Rebecca, Scott and Callan xxx

RUSSELL - Treasured memories of our dear mum and nana Mary who died January 29, 2010.

Those we love deeply become a part of us.

- Mhairi, Ian, Katy, Fiona and Morven

VENNARD - Freddy died January 28, 2011.

You have been gone

Two years love,

But remembered,

Every single day.

- Your loving wife Stella and all the family

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Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban

01631 571009

Oban Hospice

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MEMORIALS

BIRCH

- Betty Strang (nee Henry).

At rest January 30,

1998, the perfect wife of Peter - loved and forever remembered.

KIRKPATRICK

- In loving

memory of our family,

father John died January 20,

2011, mother Rachel January 21,

1974, brother William died

September 11, 1990 and brother

John died July 1,

1996.

- Angus and Heather and family.

MACINNES

- In loving

memory of our dear parents

Effie, who died January 31,

2007 and John Lachlan, who

died April 2, 1988.

Loved and remembered

always.

- Hugh, Mary, Ellen, Christine and families.

MACKAY

- In loving

memory of Agnes, our dear mother, mother-in-law, granny and great granny, who died on January 29, 2011.

Fondly remembered.

- From the family in Oban and Lochgilphead.

MACKENNA

- Ronald Gillies,

of Oban and Inverness,

on your

tenth anniversary,

January 15,

2003. All we love you and miss

you every day.

The potential for a Shetland oil disaster on the west coast was shown vividly when a German cargo ship was caught in a violent storm off Islay.

The four crew of the 12,000 tonne vessel rode out the storm 55 miles west of the island, after turning down the chance to abandon the ship - minutes after rescue aircraft made a long journey to assist the vessel.

The weather was so treacherous

that the ship was forced to drift for over 24 hours, eventually ending up off Tiree. It was only here that the weather dropped to a force eight gale, allowing the skipper to cope with the conditions.

The watch officer at Clyde Coastguard last Thursday, Richard Snape, said the crew were 'very fortunate' to escape an extremely dangerous situation.

'All concerned were lucky that the engine didn't cut out. We

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

20 years ago

Thursday, January 28, 1993

Storms batter west coast communities

The west coast took another battering this week as gale force winds swept the country. Roads were closed as high winds brought slates and bricks crashing off buildings.

In Oban, Dunollie Road was closed on Thursday evening when part of the roof of the Dunollie Health and Leisure Centre was blown to the ground. Dunollie Road was blocked until 10am on Friday, when the way was declared safe.

A section of Oban's North Pier was closed when part of the Columba Hotel's stonework fell off the roof and smashed onto the road. Part of the Caledonian Hotel's sign was destroyed over the weekend in the winds.

The A8 Tyndrum to Fort William road was closed on several occasions between Thursday and Sunday. Vehicles were advised not to travel because of the high winds.

Most householders on the west coast have been affected, at some point over the past week, with power failure. Hydro-Electric has been swamped with faults resulting from the storms.

Mr John Hyde, Assistant District Engineer, said: 'Virtually

everybody has suffered at some stage or another, not only due to local problems, but also due to problems we have had on lines which feed local sub-stations. We had a problem on the transmission system which leads into Inveraray and up to Taynuilt. When it then goes off, as it did, it affects everybody on the west coast.'

The potential for a Shetland oil disaster on the west coast was shown vividly when a German cargo ship was caught in a violent storm off Islay.

The four crew of the 12,000 tonne vessel rode out the storm 55 miles west of the island, after turning down the chance to abandon the ship - minutes after rescue aircraft made a long journey to assist the vessel.

The weather was so treacherous that the ship was forced to drift for over 24 hours, eventually ending up off Tiree. It was only here that the weather dropped to a force eight gale, allowing the skipper to cope with the conditions.

The watch officer at Clyde Coastguard last Thursday, Richard Snape, said the crew were 'very fortunate' to escape an extremely dangerous situation.

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Alleycats lead the way from Council
TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER week seven of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre Alleycats lead the scratch division with 33 points.

Council sit in second place seven points behind the leaders, with Splitheads in third place on 24 points.

Alleycats also lead the handicap division with 28 points, with Ardtroe/Nevis Radio second on 24 points whilst Rotavators are in third place with 22 points.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Tony Whitelocke of Alleycats with 212. Other games of note were a 174 from Tommy McKnight (Alleycats) and a 171 from Brian Stewart (Council).

Whitelocke also rolled the top handicap game of 232 and the top two game scratch series of 349. Dave Cameron (Council) had the top two game handicap series with 426.

Top team games of the week were 650 scratch (the season's high) and 828 handicap by Alleycats. The best scratch two game team series was 1,150, also from Alleycats, whilst the best handicap two game series was 1,576 from Council.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 174, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 154 and Rossamy Wareing (Ardtroe/Nevis Radio) and Colin Pinkett (Council) both on 148.

Plumblime pull no punches
SQUASH

LOCHABER Plumblime won a close match with Inverness MRG 8-6 in Fort William last Thursday.

Lochaber's Andrew MacMaster was first up in the Highland Squash Association Premier League match, and took on Jamie Durkin. MacMaster took a comfortable win 11-6, 12-10, 11-8.

Recently crowned Lochaber club champion Alan Love lost the first game of his tie against Fraser MacDonald, but responded to win the second 11-9 and the third 11-6.

MacDonald regained his composure to level the tie and set up a cracker in the deciding game.

At 10-10 Love had a great chance to take the lead but, unfortunately hit the ball down letting MacDonald in to win 10-12.

Bruce Love faced Highland champion Garry MacKay in the final game, with MacKay taking the win 11-9, 11-8, 11-9.

Plumblime won the overall match 8-6.

David is captain
GOLF

FORT William Golf Club have elected David Matheson as the club captain, with Willie Duncan as vice captain.

Their positions were confirmed at the club's recent AGM, where Brian Stewart and Toby Richardson were also elected to the committee.

Membership fees for 2013 remain unchanged, with the deadline for payment at the end of February.



Fort captain Liam MacIntyre in a tussle for the ball with Oban's Iain MacMillan during Saturday's match. 20_f05for01

Disappointing defeat for Fort William

FORT William fell to a disappointing 3-0 defeat to newly promoted Oban Camanachd in their first pre-season friendly at An Aird on Saturday.

First match in charge

New men in charge Victor Smith and Adie Robertson were eight players short of having a full strength side for their first match in charge, and the pair chose former Oban player Liam MacIntyre to captain the inexperienced side.

Despite heavy rain in Lochaber, Saturday was

dry but chilly with the An Aird surface looking ready for the new season ahead.

Oban's Robert Alexander scored the only goal in the first half, with Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish on the scoresheet in the second half as Oban ran out comfortable winners.

Fort are due to welcome south division one side Glenorchy to An Aird for another friendly this Saturday, with throw up at 1.30pm.

More friendly shinty coverage on page 23



The field set off at the start of the Leanachan Race on Sunday morning.

John wins Leanachan Race
ATHLETICS

A FIELD of 45 runners braved the elements to take part in Lochaber Athletic Club's Leanachan Race on Sunday morning.

Lochaber runner John Binns took the win, finishing the 10-mile forest course in 1 hour 3 minutes and 33 seconds – 41 seconds ahead of second-placed Alan Smith, of Deeside Runners.

Binnie's clubmate Jon Gay took third spot in a time of 1 hour 4 minutes and 48 seconds. Diane Baum - who has only

recently joined LAC - was the fastest female runner, with her time of 1 hour 11 minutes and 1 second giving her 10th place overall.

Amanda Blackhall and Lucy Prins, both LAC, were second and third respectively. Blackhall finished in 1 hour 13 minutes and 59 seconds, with Prins recording a time of 1 hour 17 minutes and 56 seconds.

Funds found for Fort William Falcons
REPORT BY

STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

NETBALL in Lochaber has received a major boost after local club Fort William Falcons received final funding to line a full-sized netball court at Lochaber High School.

For three years the Falcons' training has been complicated by a combination of basketball, football, and badminton markings.

But now the club can play home games against their rivals, with the junior team playing Oban once the court is ready next month.

Active Schools coordinator for Lochaber High School, Lia Hunter said: 'This is a huge step forward in the development of this sport for girls and women in Lochaber.'

'In the past we have always had to travel large distances to compete in games and tournaments and now we have the opportunity to host these in Fort William.'

'I think having this facility here will only encourage netball

to grow from strength to strength and inspire more girls and women to participate in sport.'

She added: 'The new indoor court will provide an important venue connecting teams from the west and east coasts of Scotland.'

'As part of Highland and Moray Netball, the Falcons are already in contact with teams from Dingwall, Inverness, Lossiemouth,

and Grantown-on-Spey who are keen to play senior fixtures in Fort William.'

Highland Council, fundraising events and a £400 donation from Marine Harvest helped the team



The Falcons netball team celebrate receiving the £400 donation with Jane MacKay of Marine Harvest - 20_f05netball01

Calum picks up a silver medal
BOXING

KINLOCHELEVEN-based boxer Callum Clement picked up a silver medal after a close fight in the final of the Scottish Championships at Ravenscraig Sports Centre in Motherwell.

Current Scottish novice champion Clement, of Tyndrum, missed out on two weeks of training in the build up to the fight due to illness and weather conditions prevented him from travelling to Kinlochleven.

But the Claymores ABC fighter pushed Darren Lafferty of Keir Hardie ABC all the way in the intermediate final.

The 15 year-old made a slow start, but went up through the gears and Lafferty found himself boxing on the back foot.

Both boxers probed for gaps, bobbed and weaved, fainted and tried to draw their opponents on. The fitness of both fighters was very impressive as they kept pace with each other.

Lafferty on this occasion had the edge and the decision went his way.

Clement will be in action again this Saturday at Peterhead ABC's show.

Tight at the top in Ali Young League
INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER Leisure and Achintore FC remain tied at the top of the Ali Young Premier indoor football league after both sides picked up wins at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Leisure racked up a 9-3 win against second-bottom Portoway, while Achintore narrowly defeated Caoil FC 1-0.

League top scorers Gooon Squad put up one of the biggest wins of the season so far, beating Old Codgers 15-3. The win keeps them close on the tail of Ballachulish in the race for third. Balla won 6-2 against All Blacks.

Meanwhile, bottom side AA Young lost 3-0 to HWEnergy No Stars.

NETBALL

reach their £3,000 target.

Thanking everyone who contributed, Falcons chair Claire Lumley-Holmes said: 'After three years of travelling to the east coast for matches, we are really excited to host our first home fixture.'

'Netball is a great sport to build fitness, have fun and find friends so it is important that it is accessible to as many people as possible.'

'If you haven't played since primary school, now is the perfect time for juniors and adults to get back to netball.'

Netball Scotland predicts the 2013 World Youth Netball Championships in Glasgow and Scotland's elite team bid for Commonwealth Games netball gold in 2014 will prompt a surge of interest in the sport across the country.

Senior training for Fort William 'Falcons' Netball Club is held weekly on Wednesdays from 5.30pm to 7pm. See 'Fort William Netball Club' on Facebook for further details.

Photo: GILLIAN MCKEE

WIN £1200

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

C Duncan
Salen, Aros, Isle of Mull

J Fraser
Ross Place, Fort William

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

All you have to do

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.

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.

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, or by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the 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 The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Name
Address
Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) 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



Oban High School's under-19 badminton winners, from left: Eilidh Maclean, Gregor Brydon and Erin Kelly, with their trophy haul. 16_t05badminton01

Feathers fly at schools badminton championships
BADMINTON

in the under-19 section alone, while 11-year-old Glenbarr boy Neil Littleton dominated the under-14 category, winning the junior singles and the doubles alongside Declan Wilson to claim Campbeltown's only two trophies.

Third time lucky

The Lochgilphead duo of Ruaridh Aitken and Alasdair MacVicar made it third time lucky at the competition when they won the senior boys doubles after missing out in 2011 and 2012.

Dunoon equalled Oban's haul of six trophies.

Shinty gets underway with pre-season friendly matches

BALLACHULISH'S preparations for the start of the 2012 season got off to a perfect start with a fine 4-2 win against Newtonmore's second team on Saturday.

Former Newtonmore player David Campbell Jnr has recently rejoined Ballachulish - his home town club - and helped organise the fixture against last year's north division two champions as part of Balla's pre-season preparations.

Recent work to improve drainage at Jubilee Park seems to have worked a treat as the game was played out on a firm, flat surface.

The home side raced into an early lead, with David Grant opening the scoring in the seventh minute, and went on to double the lead 10 minutes later.

Balla were playing good stuff in front of their home fans and two goals in the space of a minute from Scott Henderson and Lorne Brown gave the home side a 4-0 lead with less than half an hour on the clock.

'More pulled back two goals in the second half but the home fans left happy having seen their side take the win.'

Balla's next friendly sees them take on Kilmallie's second team at Jubilee Park on Saturday February 9.

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Angus 'Gussie' Campbell praised his new recruits after a 3-0 win over a makeshift Fort William at An Aird on Saturday but warned there were much harder games to come.

Robert Alexander opened the scoring in the first half with a 40-yard run to the byeline before shooting from a tight angle.

Into the second half, goal-keeper-turned-forward Gavin Stobart and Andrew 'Papa' MacCusie sealed the victory.

Gussie had called up junior players Craig 'Winky' MacDowell, David 'Skinny' MacInnes, Gavin Stobart and Josh Rippon to see how they coped in a senior set up.

Lewis Cameron, who has been playing football with Oban Saints, impressed as a substitute but, despite reports to the contrary, the youngster has not yet made a decision on whether he will play shinty this season.

Gussie said: 'We need to keep our feet firmly on the ground be-

cause although we won, Fort had a weakened team. We are very grateful to them for arranging a friendly at short notice.'

'Having said that, we had four junior players and they all really impressed me.'

'Our fitness and performance levels could not have been better.'

'I moved Craig MacMillan to half back to try and solve our defensive problems and I thought he was man of the match, although David MacInnes at centre was very impressive.'

LOCHSIDE ROVERS also played last Saturday and an unfamiliar line-up lost 2-0 to Lochcarron at Mossfield, with Lochcarron's goalkeeper in superb form.

Scorers for the Highland team were Iain Cameron and Alan MacKay.

Oban Camanachd president Tony Howlett, who was at the game, said: 'It's nice to win but that game was just to improve match fitness.'

'We were also able to have a look at potential new players like Michael MacQueen, Scott Turnbull, Ewan MacCorquodale

and George MacMillan.'

Lochside play Kilmory in another friendly a week on Saturday.

A lack of players has forced **LOCHCARRON** to pull out of Marine Harvest north division one and focus on their junior team for the 2013 season.

As it stands just six teams will take part in division one this year - Kilmallie, Skye, Beauly, Inverness, Strathglass and Caberfeidh - with Lochcarron competing in north division three.

Lochcarron committee member Andrew MacKenzie told The Oban Times the club had recently lost a number of first team squad members.

He said: 'We just didn't have enough players. All the young boys are still there, but the fill in players and the more experienced ones have been dropping off quite quickly.'

'We'll just try and rebuild now. All the young players will be in from the start and we'll try and get the fitness up.'

MacKenzie managed Lochcarron's first team last season but has stood down as he felt he couldn't devote enough time to the role.

SHINTY

The new Lochcarron manager is expected to be named before the start of the new season on March 2.

Lochcarron travelled to Mossfield last Saturday and defeated Lochside Rovers 2-0.

It is expected north division one sides will play each other three times, as happened last season, but the Camanachd Association is likely to consult the clubs before a final decision is reached.

KINLOCHSIEL'S good pre-season form continued with a crushing 8-1 win away to Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday.

John MacRae scored a hat trick against the Marine Harvest south division one side, with his brother Keith hitting the back of the net four times. Teenager Jordan Fraser was also on the scoresheet.

'Shiel defeated Lochaber 4-3 in their first warm up game on January 12.'

The Balmacara side's next friendly will see them visit Caol to play Kilmallie on February 9.



Balla' goalscorer David Grant tries to steal the ball from Newtonmore's Owen Fraser. 20_f05balla01

Joe enjoys conditions in Glen Loy

ROUND four of the Nevis Cycles sponsored Wheelers Winter League saw Joe Barnes take a comfortable win at Glen Loy.

Barnes finished almost four minutes ahead of second placed Gary MacDonald and clearly enjoyed the conditions on the course, which featured a mix of long climbs and rooty, singletrack descents.

Stephen Dent was third, one minute and two seconds behind MacDonald.



Riders set off in tricky conditions for the Glen Loy race on Sunday.

CYLING

Fiona Beattie was the first lady home after a strong ride.

Thanks to Colleen and Andrew Foggo for hosting the event and to Ruari Watt of the Forestry Commission.

Next event is the popular route at Inchree at 11am on February 10.



Lochside's Connor Howe in action against Lochcarron during last Saturday's friendly at Mossfield. 07_t05camo01

Igor just misses out in major title fight

BOXING LOCHABER Phoenix ABC light welterweight Igor Slivinski narrowly missed out on claiming gold at the Scottish Intermediate Championship in Motherwell last weekend.

The teenager took on old foe Robert Gordon of Insch ABC in the final but appeared over confident in the first round, allowing Gordon to attack vigorously.

Round two followed a similar pattern as Slivinski could not seem to rouse himself. The determined Gordon stormed forward and appeared in a commanding lead by the round's end.

Slivinski seemed to realise he had work to do in the third and immediately drove Gordon to a corner of the ring scoring some good points. But he could not

BOXING

sustain the pressure and soon reverted to boxing off the back foot.

At the final bell it was clear Gordon had done enough to win the contest.

Slivinski hopes to have a quick shot for revenge this weekend however when Lochaber Phoenix hold a Sunday afternoon show at the Ben Nevis Hotel for under-16 boxers called 'Battle of the Little Big Men'.

Up to 10 locals fighters will take part, along with visitors from across Scotland.

Doors open at 1pm, with tickets available from Niall Clark (07554 994 744) or Steve Docherty (07767 069 532).

Grappler 'Coogie' comes back with a gold medal

A MEMBER of Oban Mixed Martial Arts has come back from a national grappling tournament in Glasgow with a gold medal.

Iain 'Coogie' Potter had low

expectations on entering the submission grappling knockout tournament in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on Saturday but won the intermediate 97.5kg division. Stablemates Tomasz Kapusta and Brendan McMillan also gave excellent accounts of themselves, with Tomasz picking up a bronze medal in the same category.

Coogie said: 'I just entered to get experience on a competitive stage and did not expect to place so it was a nice surprise to see all the training we have been doing in club pay off by winning gold.'

'We also plan on entering more of these events in the coming months and hope to build on this success.'

MARTIAL ARTS

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'We also plan on entering more of these events in the coming months and hope to build on this success.'

REGION FIVE hold first competition of the new year

REGION five of the Scottish Eightball Pool Federation (SEPF) recently held its first competitions of the new year but there were familiar names in the final match of the senior competition.

Geo Adam, recently called up

to the Scottish Men's squad for 2013, and Jim Muir again fought it out in another epic final of the Oban and the isles event.

Although it looked like Geo could do no wrong, he snookered himself during a routine clear up when up 5-3 and Jim

took full advantage to win the newly named James Maitland Memorial Trophy.

The winners from Saturday's tour were donated to Vasculitis Research. Chairwoman Laura Ann Sneddon congratulated both players, as well as the nine players from Oban who will be representing Scotland in various matches at this year's European Championships, which is three weeks away in Blackpool.

She added: 'This is a massive improvement on the three players who have claimed international honours over the past two years.'

The newly formed junior pool club held in the Lancaster Hotel on a Wednesday between 4-6pm is also proving extremely popular.

The first local tournament, sponsored by Oban Sports Shop saw the juniors split into two groups (under-12 and 12-and-over) to play a round robin format with the top two from each group going through to a semi final.

Tournament favourite Brandon Ferris beat Domhail Iain Simpson in the 12 and over section to reach the final but the 15 year old came unstuck against talented eight-year-old Sean Sneddon to lift his second trophy of the day.

The juniors will be starting

Glasgow Mid Argyll win Johnstone Trophy

GLASGOW Mid Argyll's return to the annual five-a-side Johnstone trophy after an extended break saw them defeat Glengarry 5-2 in the final.

Women's teams from across

the west coast gathered at the Nevis Centre in Fort William for the tournament, which has been running since 1998.

Glengarry are perennial winners of the competition, but after

falling behind 4-1 in an hard fought final they could not make a comeback.

As well as winning the event,

GMA forward Laura McCafferty was named player of the



Champions: Glasgow Mid Argyll receive the trophy from sponsor Ailsa Johnstone. 20_f05women01

WOMEN'S SHINTY

tournament.

Sponsor Ailsa Johnstone handed out the medals and trophies after the final.

Last year's winners Glengarry lost out in the final. 20_f05women02



The winners from the first junior SEPF competition are given their trophies by Malcolm Croarkin, on behalf of tournament sponsor Oban Sports Shop.

POOL

The second additional needs competition was held the same weekend as the junior competition. Stuart Hammick of Kilmelford was runner up, with Paul McKenzie of Paisley taking the winners trophy, sponsored by Peter Campbell Builders.

PONY CLUB LETTERSHUNA Pony Club Centre restarts this Saturday after winter break.

The club, which has been running for four years, aims to encourage children to get involved in horses, especially those who do not have their own ponies.

The centre currently has 14 members but is hoping to expand in the near future. The senior children work toward attaining achievement badges, whilst the juniors work towards their mini achievement badges.

The children also work to achieve the pony club's efficiency tests and can also work to gain bronze, silver, gold and platinum progressive tests.

The centre meets once a month at Lettershuna Trekking Centre between 10.30 am and 1pm by kind permission of the Craig family.



Pictured at the centre's fancy dress Christmas rally before the winter break are, from left, Charlotte Collins, Megan Hart and Lola MacIntyre with Spike, the Shetland Pony.

Pony club starts up again

PONY CLUB

LETTERSUNA Pony Club Centre restarts this Saturday after winter break.

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Green Machine prove too powerful for the islanders

Size does matter as giant pack dominates derby



RUGBY
West Division 3
Mull 0
Oban Lorne 33

OBAN Lorne once again proved size does matter as their giant pack dominated the derby against Mull to set up a convincing away win.

Mull had hoped for revenge after suffering a similar scoreline in Oban in the season opener and were confident of a win at Fortress Garmory.

But the clear weight advantage Oban Lorne had in its Green Machine pack stifled any threat from the potent Mull backline, which was starved of possession.

The first test of Mull's serum came after just a few minutes and immediately from the put-in, it was clear that the much larger pack of The Green Machine had the upper hand, forcing Mull backwards to create the turnover.

Lorne's Tommy Sutherland impressed at loosehead prop, causing all sorts of problems for his opposite number.

After a nervy opening 25 minutes the Oban Lorne forwards started to settle and Mull were pinned back on their own try-line. Eventually the ball came to Sutherland, who blasted through tackles to touch down near the posts. A successful conversion from the cultured boot of Craig Wright made the score 7-0 to Oban.

Despite some creative passing and quick feet from the Mull back line, Oban's much larger pack continued to be the thorn in the side of their opponents and Louw broke through the line once more to score his second try of the game on 55 minutes.

Craig Wright made it three from three with his conversion to take the score to 21-0.

But buoyed by the partisan support, the defiant Mull squad continued to test the mettle of their local rivals.

Red card

Tempers began to flare on both sides and, on the hour mark, Oban's Calum MacLachlan was shown a straight red card for allegedly swinging a boot out in anger at an opponent.

Despite playing with 14 men, Oban managed a third try soon afterwards. Some good running from Jamie MacMillan paved the way for Cammy Smith, who found a hole in the Mull line and, after breaking two tackles, touched down for his first try of the game.

As Mull fought to prevent the score from increasing, they turned to experience, bringing on Angus MacColl to bolster their pack. The introduction of the veteran gave the hosts a boost, as the intelligent forward took charge of the line.

Another period of powerful pick-and-go, combined with some impressive mauling allowed the giant Springbok, Corrie Louw, to touch down for Oban's second

Oban Saints youths - results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: Riverclyde 2, Under 13s 9. On target for Saints were - Martin Remnie (2), Craig Easton, Lewis Buchanan, Cammy Scott, Couper Munt, Sean Gordon, Scott Rowley and Ruairidh Horne.

Under 14s 2, Blair Thistle 0; Saints marksmen were Liam Higgins and Patrick McIntyre.

Referee Tim Woodcock wisely took the players off the park in the Under 14 game midway through the second half to allow a hefty hail shower to pass.

Mull have no game this weekend.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

The game was delayed for ten minutes.

Under 15s 3, Morton BC 8. Saints goalscorers were Daniel MacVicar, Jamie MacPherson and Stewart MacLean.

The Milngavie v Under 16s game was postponed due to a frozen pitch.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Renton; Under 14s v Helensburgh; Goldenhill v Under 15s; Kilpatrick v Under 16s.

Weather

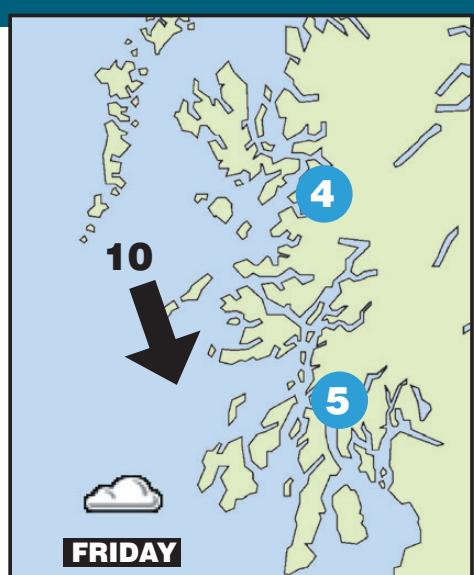
Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate, west south westerly
Temperatures 4C to 7C

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate, north north westerly
Temperatures 3°C to 5°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist
Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate
Moderate
Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, January 31, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	01.57	0.8	07.55 3.9 14.22 1.2 20.16 3.7
Fri	02.33	0.9	08.29 3.8 14.55 1.3 20.54 3.5
Sat	03.15	1.1	09.10 3.6 15.40 1.4 21.38 3.4
Sun	04.06	1.2	09.59 3.4 16.40 1.6 22.36 3.6
Mon	05.12	1.4	11.06 3.1 18.03 1.7 *** **
Tues	00.01	3.0	06.33 1.5 12.59 3.0 19.30 1.7
Wed	02.10	3.1	07.59 1.5 14.56 3.2 20.50 1.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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Third time lucky for Oban Saints?

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team will attempt for the third Saturday in a row to play their Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup 5th round tie against Burntisland United.

The game due to be played at Myers Park, Kinghorn, was called off for the second time last Friday afternoon when an inspection found the pitch to be unplayable.

The winners of the Burntisland v Saints game have been drawn at home in the last 32 of the national competition against top Caledonian League team Cambusbarron Rovers. This tie is due to be played on Saturday, February 9.

Cambusbarron knocked Saints out of the competition last season so if the Oban lads were to get past Burntisland, which will be a difficult tie for Saints, then it would be a great opportunity for them to gain revenge over the Stirling outfit.

The Oban side have been drawn at home to Carlton YM in the second round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy. A date has still to be allocated for this game

Matthew picks up silver and bronze

SWIMMING

OBAN swimming sensation Matthew Anderson could not retain his Scottish Schools title at the weekend but won medals in both his events.

The teenager took a silver medal in the 400m individual medley, the event he won last year, and a bronze in the 200m butterfly.

The Scottish Schools Championship held this year at Dollar Baths, East Kilbride, limits competitors to two events and does not offer a race at 1500m freestyle, one of Matthew's strongest events.

Tight at the top in Oban Pool League

POOL

RESULTS Week 12: Kelvin 1, Cellar 9; Lancaster 'B' 8, Gluepot 2; Claredon 4, Markie Dans 'A' 6; Lochnell 7, Lochavullin 3; Markie Dans 'B' 5, Lancaster 'A' 5.

Results Week 13: Cellar 8, Claredon 2; Markie Dans 'A' 6, Markie Dans 'B' 4; Lancaster 'A' 8, Lochnell 2; Lochavullin 5, Lancaster 'B' 5; Gluepot 4, Kelvin 6.

League Table	Pts
1 Markie Dans A	19
2 The Cellar	18
3 Lancaster B	17
4 Lancaster A	15
5 The Lochnell	11
6 The Lochavullin	10
7 The Claredon	7
8 Markie Dans B	6
9 The Kelvin	4
10 The Gluepot	3

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The prizewinners from this year's Open Portsmouth Competition, hosted by Oban and Lorn Archers. 16_t05archery01

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.



Get ready for

Valentines Day

Feature on page 12

for full details
on how to claim
your local
residents Sea Life
Annual Pass see
page 13

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**FORT WILLIAM &
LOCHABER EDITION**

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8132

Thursday 31 January, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

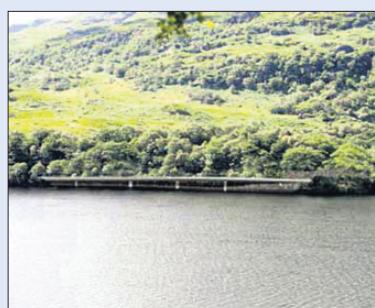
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Inside this week

Dramatic sea rescue off Tiree page 9



A82 Pulpit Rock solution page 7



Can you tow away a mine? page 5



Cheers! Glenbeg Distillery meets 2013 whisky target



Banavie pupils step out in style at ballet class

Banavie Primary School P4 pupils took another step towards learning dance as part of the Curriculum for Excellence last Thursday. After expert tuition from classically trained instructor Jasmine Adams, centre, and her team, the class performed 'Nutcracker in a Nutshell' for pupils and staff. Jasmine visited Ullapool and Plockton primary schools with her routine before her tour of Lochaber schools. 'Nutshell' is an introduction to ballet for children who perhaps would not have encountered ballet first hand. The tour promotes Scottish Ballet performances and recommends local ballet classes. Class P4/5 teacher Izabela Dolzyk is pictured behind, second right.

Clubs back call for better pitch maintenance

HIGHLAND Council is spending £330,000 on overhauling three grass pitches it owns in Lochaber, it emerged this week.

The figures came to light at Lochaber Sports Association's (LSA) meeting at Lochaber High School on Monday. Club representatives revealed recent groundworks at Jubilee Park at Ballachulish and Fort William Shinty Club's An Aird pitch cost £120,000 and £130,000 respectively. Upcoming repairs to Lochaber rugby club's sodden park will cost a further £80,000, LSA members heard.

Both Iain Brown of Ballachulish Shinty Club and Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall were pleased with the repairs but backed calls for a united LSA campaign for effective pitch maintenance programmes across the area to save the council spending such huge sums in future.

Mr Gall asked: 'How much has Highland Council got in its budget for each playing field?'

LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard replied: 'We are still waiting for an answer. To date everybody is expecting tech services to do the maintenance but they are running out of manpower and resources. Clubs are getting more and more frustrated with all the games that are getting cancelled. It is very bad for morale.' The meeting

agreed to press for an audit all grass pitch maintenance in Lochaber, including how much the council spends on each pitch and what machinery and manpower was available. *The Oban Times* reported last week that both new Lochaber High School pitches were unusable because of serious drainage problems. Ron MacKenzie, Highland Council's head of sporting services, vowed the issue would be addressed.

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

nearby Nadura Visitor Centre, Mr Falconer said, so tourists could enjoy learning about Ardnamurchan's natural history and wildlife as well as malt whisky production.

'We anticipate between 11,000 and 14,000 visitors annually,' he said. 'By the time the main tourism season arrives in July and August next year we should be a pretty well oiled machine and ready to welcome them.'

Adelphi director of sales and marketing, Alex Bruce said:

'The interest in the distillery is fantastic. Despite being told of the timescale of the development, we have already had a number of international visitors to the site and have several VIP visits lined up over the next few months.'

Director Donald Houston added: 'The stills have been ordered and large sums have been spent or committed, so we are very much further forward than the site itself would show.'

Recruitment of staff has already begun. Adelphi say they are 'actively looking' for a distillery manager to join the team.

Asked about other posts, Mr Falconer said: 'We are going to need at least two more people in the distillery and two in the shop.'

'We are optimistic we will have that number employed by the middle of next year.'

'Also, there will be extra forestry jobs on Ardnamurchan Estate in producing the woodchip fuel for the distillery.'

He added: 'A great deal of thought has gone into the design of the equipment and process and with the heat coming from locally sourced timber, the water from a nearby spring, the majority of the barley grown organically in Scotland and malted at the distillery, the bakers are confident of producing a first class whisky.'

Adelphi would work 'in close collaboration' with the

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Long-awaited school work to start in March

THE LONG awaited multi-million pound works to complete the refurbishment of Lochaber High School are due to start in March.

The £11 million project, known as Phase 3, includes a new dining, kitchen, entrance, admin and library block and new guidance offices. Landscaping will be carried out and a new lift will be created. New bus shelters will also be installed, roofing will be improved and the car park will be resurfaced. The new entrance is due to open in October 2014, with the rest of the work scheduled to be complete by March 2015. This saw a new sports and drama centre created, ended in January 2011. Phase 2 included demolition and refurbishment of buildings from the 1960s and 70s and finished in May 2011.

Port seals landmark deal

KISHORN Port Ltd is one of four Highland companies set to benefit from a potential £100 million offshore renewable energy bonanza after sealing a landmark deal with Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Under new agreements, HIE will support Kishorn, Global Energy Nigg, Port of Ardrossier and Cromarty Firth Port Authority to secure consents, market opportunities, attract investments and enable further development.

First Minister Alex Salmond announced the move in a keynote speech at the Offshore Wind and Supply Chain Conference in Aberdeen on Tuesday.

Kishorn director Alasdair Ferguson, who also runs Corpcach-based Ferguson Transport, was

'delighted' with the tie-up. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We see it as a formal commitment by HIE and the Scottish Government to the west coast.'

'It gives a clear message to the offshore renewables sector that Kishorn is open for business and that HIE and the government are keen to support both infrastructure and developers on site.'

The First Minister said the ports were 'ideally positioned' to become centres for offshore wind, wave and tidal energy. He said: 'We are working hard with our enterprise agencies both to secure overseas investment into our world-leading renewable energy industry and to support Scottish businesses to seize the huge opportunities available,

working in partnership with inward investors and the rest of the supply chain to create jobs and help re-industrialise communities right across Scotland.'

HIE chief executive Alex Paterson said the organisation was ready to support 'manufacture, fabrication, assembly, deployment and operational support' at the ports for the Scottish, UK and European offshore wind market.

The move is another boost for Kishorn, a former oil platform fabrication yard, as it moves into the lucrative renewable energy sector. Last month it agreed a lease with independent developer Trident Energy to test attachable wave power devices for oilrigs and wind turbines on a deepwater jetty.



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Mallaig's Kayleigh in London show

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

A FORMER Mallaig High School pupil turned fashion designer has been invited to take part in a prestigious show at this year's London Fashion Week.

Kayleigh MacBeth was asked to enter the 'Fashion's Finest' event on Saturday February 16 after organisers saw her hand-made collection 'Alba' at a show in Glasgow.

The 22-year-old then made it through a selection round against a number of other entrants and told *The Oban Times* being given a 45 minute slot in the show for emerging designers was 'really humbling'.

She said: 'They got in touch and asked if I would like to be part of the show. At first I thought they wanted me to help out another designer or something, but when they said they wanted my collection in the show I just couldn't believe it. It's mind boggling to be selected for something like this. It's absolutely the biggest show I've done. I wouldn't even dream of putting on a show on my own.'

After finishing school in 2007, Kayleigh left Lochaber to study at Cardonald College in Glasgow. From there she went to Heriot Watt University to study fashion design, and graduated in June last year, and now runs her own small independent fashion label.

'A lot of my cousins and some of my best friends are still up in Mallaig, so I go back up all the time,' she said.

'Alba' - a character created by Kayleigh - is a half-human half-robot from 2097 and inspired the outfit in the collection.

A profile of Kayleigh on the Fashion Finest website says: 'Priding herself of offering bold, unique and out of this world garments, Kayleigh MacBeth is edgy, sexy and fierce and not for the faint hearted.'

But Kayleigh admits the designs for the show are unlikely to be found on the streets of Lochaber anytime soon.

She said: 'The shows I've been doing in Edinburgh and Glasgow are great, but in London, some people might actually be crazy enough to wear this kind of stuff!'



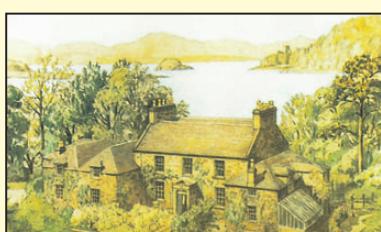
From Mallaig to London Fashion Week: designer Kayleigh MacBeth will show her hand-made collection.

Jackpot winner

INVERLOCHY women Lesley Carnegie picked up £400 in Fort William FC's weekly lotto competition last weekend.

The winning numbers were 8-11-12. The jackpot will be £100 for this weekend's draw.

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Assurance given on health funding

HEALTH Secretary Alex Neil has assured Ardnamurchan residents that funding for local emergency responders will continue.

Money had been due to run out at the end of March but in Kilchoan on Monday Mr Neil said the scheme's success meant it would carry on.

Health officials will assess local out-of-hours care later this year, but Mr Neil was confident it was likely to pass evaluation.

He said: 'I think the emergency responders will become a permanent aspect of health cover in this area. The locals were very, very supportive of the service.'

'I met with a range of healthcare staff and patients from the Ardnamurchan area and I found it invaluable to hear first hand about the particular challenges for this community. I was delighted to see the emergency responder service up and running, and providing an invaluable service for people living in this area.'

West Ardnamurchan Community Council chairwoman Rosie Curtis said: 'He was very encouraged by what the emergency responders are doing down here.'

But after the evaluation we want something like a 10-year plan. We don't want to be fighting like this every year.'

Meanwhile, Mr Neil also announced that Kilchoan is to host Scotland's first telehealth booth.

Expert medics in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary will advise emergency responders on treatment by video link, potentially saving patients making long journeys to hospitals in Glasgow, Fort William or Inverness.

If successful, the pilot scheme could be extended to other remote communities across Scotland.

A 'pretty impressed' Mrs Curtis said: 'It was clear as a bell. You would think the guy is in the room with you.'

Society looks back at medical services

LOCHABER Historical Society will host a talk on how Ballachulish pioneered state-run medical services 35 years before the inception of the NHS at its monthly meeting on Thursday February 7.

Inverness GP Dr Miles Mack

will give a talk discussing the Highlands and Islands Medical Service called 'The Dewar Report: Remote and Rural Healthcare Reform, 100 Years on' at the Ben Nevis Hotel at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Kyle Lifeboat rescues war veteran from beach



The Kyle lifeboat crew ferrying the casualty across to Kyleakin in the Spirit of Fred Olsen.

Police name fifth person to die on Lochaber's mountains in a week

POLICE have named the fifth person to die on Lochaber's mountains in the course of a week.

Ben St Joseph from Essex was killed when he fell around 100 metres from the notorious Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis' north face on Saturday.

A nearby group of climbers saw him fall around 11am and raised the alarm.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) was alerted but was not required after a break in the weather allowed the Royal Navy helicopter from HMS Gannet in Prestwick to airlift the victim out. LMRT team leader John Stevenson told *The Oban Times*: 'It appeared he fell into Observatory Gully and a couple of boys

that were up there called the police to tell them they had seen someone fall. He was probably about halfway up Tower Ridge - it's a big winter route, a classic mixed route of rock and heavy snow. But there are a couple of tricky corners where you have to step out to the side. The helicopter managed to get right in and take the boy off the hill. They started to resuscitate him but there was no response.'

A report on the accident is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Oban student Chris Bell, doctors Rachel Majumdar and Rachel Finnegan, and PhD student Tom Chesters all died in a 1,000-foot avalanche on Bidean nam Bian in Glencoe the previous Saturday.

Skye clarsach player takes part in final of BB2 Radio 2 Young Folk awards

SKYE clarsach player Coirstaidh Beaton took part in the final of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk awards at Celtic Connections in Glasgow last night (Wednesday).

Coirstaidh, from Kilmuir, and her duet partner Graham Mackenzie of Inverness, were among the final four nominees in the prestigious event.

The pair, who now study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, made it through the semi-finals in October. Also in the final four were Thalla - four traditional musicians from across Scotland who met while studying at the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton.

Rotary appeal to take on ridge challenge

SKYE Rotary Club this week launched an appeal for walkers and runners to take part in a major mid-summer fund-raising event on Saturday June 29.

The Trotternish Ridge Challenge, being billed as 'The Trott', will feature competitive runs and non-competitive walks over 36, 21 km and eight kilometres.

Sub-committee chairman John Taylor encouraged people to have a go in the new outdoor challenge and help the club support a number of local charities.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This is an opportunity for a fabulous day out for walkers and runners on the beautiful Trotternish Ridge.'

'It is one of the most spectacular landscapes in Scotland, home to golden eagles and white tailed sea eagles.'

'At the same time you'll be raising money for Rotary charities and good causes here in Skye and Lochalsh. There's a choice of three different routes to suit ability and experience.'

The Trotternish Ridge is widely regarded as one of the finest ridge traverses in Britain. The entire ridge is a high level escarpment formed by a series of major landslips - the longest in the UK.

The challenge, to be held annually, is scheduled when the hours of darkness, especially up on the ridge, are very short, Mr Taylor added.

For more details visit www.thetrott.org.uk.

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Canna community shop to open all year round



Derelict now – but the roofless shed will soon become Canna's new community shop.

Islanders celebrate successful bid for £80,000 EU Leader funding

CANNA residents are to open the first all year round community shop in spring 2014 after Highland Council approved a bid for EU Leader funding.

Community had been looking at the shop project for two years. The outlet, he suggested, could follow Eigg in operating a franchise agreement with a Mallaig-based retailer to sell provisions. All profits from sales, as happens with the pier shop, would go toward community projects.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We expect construction to be completed by October this year and that the shop will be fully operational by spring 2014. We are out to tender for contractors' pricing. It will make a huge difference. It just brings another dimension to the place. It is going to open up new opportunities, not just to sell things but as a meeting place as well. Community shops are where the community gets together on a daily basis.'

The enterprise hopes to get help from the Community Retailing Network, which has helped establish similar community shops at Glenug and on Eriskay, Scalpay and Harris, Mr Connor added.

Efforts are also underway to boost Canna's permanent population of 12 following the departure of several families last year. Mr Connor said: 'We have placed an advertisement for new people to come in and we are pretty hopeful that by the middle of this year we will be up the mid twenties.'

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Argyll and Bute favour two of three A83 options

TWO OF the three options recommended in Transport Scotland's Rest and Be Thankful landslip report should be pursued, according to Argyll and Bute Council.

A full meeting of the authority met last week and discussed their preferences from the study, which put forward three possible options to mitigate the effects of landslips on the road.

In its report, Jacobs recommended the Red Option, which at £10million was the cheapest and least effective option. It would see new gutters and drainage installed on the road with extra netting and vegetation put in place.

The Yellow Option would see a new viaduct created adjacent to the existing road, costing £83-95million, while the Green Option would see a new 4km stretch of single carriageway created on the opposite side of

the glen, costing between £27-91million.

While councillors expressed a need to see rapid action the red option would present – and the comparative lack of disruption it would create during construction – it was suggested the green option could also be pursued.

However, councillor Dick Walsh urged caution with how the authority responded. He said: 'My worry is we get the Red Option and that's it. Should we not put forward that the preferred option is the green one?'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'The clear option is the green one, that's what we really want.'

Meanwhile, the council's lead councillor for roads, John Semple, said progress was being made on upgrading the A83 between Kennacraig and Campbeltown to trunk road status.



The Pulpit Rock plan includes the construction of a viaduct running parallel to the shoreline

Inveraray gains £970,000 development boost



Inveraray is one of Scotland's first planned towns

INVERARAY'S renowned whitewashed facade and the troubled Reliefand building will be restored to their former glory this year as the Royal Burgh is awarded almost £1million in conservation funding.

'Great news'

The burgh, one of Scotland's first planned towns, has been awarded £970,000 from Historic Scotland's Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS).

The money will be used to fund repairs to eight key buildings in Inveraray and offer financial assistance to the 10 private homeowners of Reliefand, who each face a repair bill in excess of £25,000.

The eight buildings are Arklands tenement, Marriage Rooms, Relief Land tenement, Front Street East corner building, Front Street West Corner Building, Community Hall, Argyll Hotel from elevations, Main Arch to Avenue, Inveraray Parish Church and Inveraray Courtroom.

Frances O'Hagan of Inveraray Regeneration Group, said: 'This is a major boost to the area, as far as I know we have never had anything like this before.'

The residents of Reliefand are all very relieved as it means they will get financial support to do up the building. This will make a huge difference to them especially to those on low incomes, young families and pensioners.

Argyll and Bute Council had submitted the bid to Historic Scotland.

John Semple, lead councillor for development and infrastructure, said: 'This is great news for Inveraray which is an iconic town and very popular with visitors to Argyll and Bute.'

Argyll scientist struck by lightning

SAMS team suffers second tragedy

A LEADING Argyll scientist, who is believed to have died from a lightning bolt strike while out walking, was the second member of his workplace to die in a week.

Appin man Dr Tim Boyd, aged 54, worked at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, the same institution where PhD student Christopher Bell, who perished in the Glencoe avalanche last week, was based.

The mood at the science centre this week has been described as 'grief stricken'.

Dr Boyd, a married father of two daughters, was walking across Jubilee Bridge in Appin at around 1.20pm on Sunday when a lightning bolt struck.

Local woman Alison Gourlay was first on scene and raised the alarm but the emergency services were unable to revive him.

The American-born scientist, who enjoyed hillwalking, cycling, sailing and travel, was internationally respected as a physical oceanographer and was a leading light at SAMS. It was at the Dunstaffnage lab that he pioneered development of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle technology programme at SAMS, and interpreted the data from these platforms. Tim was also a talented lecturer who will be sorely missed by his students.

Tim Boyd pursued his research work with passion and integrity and was always willing to advise and support colleagues. He truly enjoyed his science and we will all miss our discussions with him. Tim was man of energy and generosity who will be deeply missed by friends and colleagues near and far.

'We all feel loss and hurt, and will always remember the contributions he made to oceanography, Arctic science and SAMS. Our thoughts are with his family.'

Strathclyde Police could not confirm a lightning bolt had killed Dr Boyd, adding that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death and a post mortem would be carried out in due course.

"Our hearts go out to his wife and two talented daughters he was so very, very proud of."

Thanks to his outgoing personality and easy-going nature he established himself quickly as a key researcher at SAMS.

'Through hard work and dedication he pioneered the development of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle technology programme at SAMS, and interpreted the data from these platforms. Tim was also a talented lecturer who will be sorely missed by his students.'

Tim Boyd pursued his research work with passion and integrity and was always willing to advise and support colleagues. He truly enjoyed his science and we will all miss our discussions with him. Tim was man of energy and generosity who will be deeply missed by friends and colleagues near and far.

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Dr Boyd, a married father of two daughters, was walking across Jubilee Bridge in Appin

Picture - Kevin McGlynn

False fire calls could lead to charges

NEARLY half of all Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's call outs in Argyll are false alarms.

Local area commander, Jim Scott, told Argyll and Bute Council that 44 per cent of all the force's call outs were unnecessary fire alarm calls.

He said many of these were due to heat sensors fitted in care homes but insisted the force would rather work with overly sensitive equipment than deal with fires. Mr Scott divulged the statistics during a presentation last week, partly to discuss how the single Scottish fire service would operate after coming into effect on April 1.

Where premises are inhabited they can tell quite quickly whether it is a fire or not, without putting people in danger – the only way to reduce false alarms is to check whether there is an incident.'

He added: 'I am 100 per cent against any proposal to look at charging businesses or other premises who have a high number of fire brigade call outs due to false alarms.'

'It is far better that premises have a fire alarm than be disincentivised to have one due to possible charges if the alarm goes off in error.'

But a retired fireman told *The Oban Times* that with costs being cut, the new national service is faced with two options – charge for callouts or stay in the station.

He said: 'People will have to pay for the fire service to go out to false alarms or they will stop going unless the automatic alarm is backed up with a phone call to say there is a fire.'

'Where premises are inhabited they can tell quite quickly whether it is a fire or not, without putting people in danger – the only way to reduce false alarms is to check whether there is an incident.'

Councillor Fred Hall, who sits on the board of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, said while the fire service had to attend every call to ensure the safety of the public the high number of false alarms was an 'issue' which had to be solved.

He added: 'I am 100 per cent against any proposal to look at charging businesses or other premises who have a high number of fire brigade call outs due to false alarms.'

'We would like there to be some dialogue in the future though as we would like to work with them on Rockfield.'

Historic Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council had been in discussions to have the building de-listed to allow it to be demolished, but no formal application was made.

Old Rockfield study to cost £50,000

UP TO £50,000 is to be spent on hiring consultants to carry out a feasibility study to use the old Rockfield Primary School site for social housing.

Argyll and Bute Council last week approved an urgent motion to allocate cash from its strategic housing fund for the options and feasibility report on the Grade-B listed building following a request for funding from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

The social housing provider will now put the study to tender, although the council say it could still cost less than £50,000.

Local businessman John MacGregor, the only person to have expressed an interest in buying the site, says the report is to be welcomed as it will lead to the building being demolished.

He said: 'The feasibility study is simply part of the process Historic Scotland require if it's to be taken down.'

'If this is a box that has to be ticked, so be it. It will come down.'

A full site investigation will be carried out as part of the survey, along with an options analysis, outline design, cost, timber and asbestos survey.

The Oban Times previously revealed talks were ongoing between ACHA and the local authority in a bid to use the site for social housing.

At the time, the chairman of new business association BID4Oban, John Forteith, said he hoped he would have dialogue with the council on its future plans for the site before any firm decisions were taken. However, this week the new BID4Oban manager, Nic Jones said there had been no discussions between the parties.

He said: 'There is nothing to say they have to speak to us first, but we would quite like the dialogue to be there.'

'We would like there to be some dialogue in the future though as we would like to work with them on Rockfield.'

Historic Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council had been in discussions to have the building de-listed to allow it to be demolished, but no formal application was made.

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Alan Reid MP

Meet your MP

Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Friday 8 February 2013 at the Kilmore & Oban Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, between 1.30pm & 2.30pm.
To make an appointment please phone Alan Reid's office (01369 704840)

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Police charge driver with four offences after alleged stolen car crashes off road near Lochaweside village

OBAN police have confirmed that a 23-year-old man has been charged with four driving offences after he allegedly stole a car before crashing it into a roadside ditch near Portnochuan, Lochaweside on the A819.

Police were called at 9.30pm last Wednesday following the lochside incident and subsequently charged the man with theft of a car, driving without a licence, driving without insurance and careless driving.

Meanwhile, Oban police

are seeking information from residents of Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, after two parked cars were 'keyed' by vandals.

Scratches to the bodywork of a parked Citroen and a Vauxhall were reported on Friday, January 25 and it is believed the

damage was caused the previous night.

Anyone who knows anything about this, or any other incident

can contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Burns Club of Oban chairmen past and present, Roy Wood, left, and John MacLean, present Robert McCulloch with his 100th birthday gift. 16_105b0b01

Blood donors required

BLOOD donors from Argyll are being urgently sought to help meet the demand from hospital patients.

The mobile donating team will be in Oban's Corran Halls next Wednesday, February 6 from 4pm until 7.30pm and Thursday, February 7 from 1.30pm until 3.45pm and 5.15pm until 7.30pm.

Only five per cent of the eligible population currently give blood and every day 1,000 donors are needed to meet hospital requirements for blood.

Tyndrum chip shop 'best in Britain'

A TYNDRUM café has been crowned the best independent outlet serving fish and chips in the whole of Britain.

The Real Food Café picked up the accolade at the 25th annual National Fish and Chip Awards in the Lancaster London Hotel last week. The café was also nominated for the Amanda Seafoods Challenge Award in the national competition which celebrates traditional fish and chips and rewards outstanding businesses across a variety of award categories.

Woman shoplifter is reported

A SHOPLIFTER has been made the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal after stealing from premises in Oban's George Street.

The 40-year-old woman allegedly committed the offence at 5pm last Thursday.

Alcohol seized from teenagers

BOOZING teenagers in Oban had their alcohol seized by police officers last Friday night.

The group of six youths were traced by police to Mossfield Stadium, in the Glencruitten area, in the town.

In December, *The Oban Times* revealed children as young as 11 in Oban had been treated for alcohol intoxication.



The top table at this year's Burns Club of Oban annual dinner. 16_105obanburns01

Council compiles 30-year plan of future projects

'Ambitious' £20million proposal for Lorn

A WISH list of future projects including superfast broadband and an expansion of Oban Airport has been compiled by Argyll and Bute Council.

A total of 11 projects have been put forward by the council to be included in the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework (NPF), which covers the next 30 years.

Cruachan expansion

Among the projects is an expansion of Cruachan Power Station, which Scottish Power say is something they 'may consider' in the future but are not progressing at the moment.

Other ideas include an 'ambitious' £20million proposal, the Lorn Arc Project, to improve marine and road infrastructure in the area.

Road upgrades are also mentioned, with the continued improvement of the A82/A85 Oban to Glasgow and A83 from Campbeltown to Glasgow named.

Chairman of the planning committee, councillor Sandy Taylor, said: 'These projects have been chosen by the council in consultation with its community partners as being the most likely to boost sustainable economic growth, improve our connectivity and reduce our carbon footprint in Argyll and Bute.'

The recommended projects will now be considered by Scottish Ministers for inclusion in the next National Planning Framework.'

The NPF sets the national framework for land use development planning in Scotland. This means the NPF has the potential to influence future Argyll and Bute Local Development Plans over the next 30 years and how individual planning decisions are made.

Each project put forward by the council has to make a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic growth and must be of regional significance.



Frances O'Hagan of Redshanks Kiltmakers measures up five-year-old Gregor King, who was the first child to hire one of the community kilts. 16_105kit02

Community kilts for kids scheme at Inveraray

A COLLECTION of unique kilts made in Inveraray will be hired out to local children to help parents overcome the cost of buying new.

Adorned with the Loch Fyne tartan, the kilts were donated to Furnace Primary School Gaelic Choir by the late Bernard O'Hagan, of Redshanks Kiltmakers, who made them especially for the school choir.

But following the retirement of head teacher and choir conductor, Mary Gillies, the kilts went into storage and stayed at the school until Bernard's widow, Frances, brought them back to Inveraray.

The kilts, which were designed by Mr O'Hagan and Islay kiltmaker Gordon Covell, will now be hired out from Redshanks for a nominal fee to the parents of children in Inveraray and the surrounding district.

Frances' first customer on Sunday was Inveraray lad Gregor King. The son of Highland games legend and Inveraray games stalwart, Steven, the five-year-old's need for a kilt is clear.

Frances explained: 'The school said it had no use for the kilts, so I decided this was the best use for them.'

'Children like Gregor grow out of a kilt in a year, so it is a lot of money for parents to buy a new one.'

'The kilts were for local children, so I only wanted to hire the community kilts to families in the local area.'

Burns club celebrates births of two well-known Roberts

100-year old attended his first Burns club dinner in 1947

THE BIRTHDAYS of two special Roberts were celebrated at the Burns Club of Oban dinner last Friday as one well-known local shared the spotlight with the bard.

Longest serving

Robert McCulloch, the club's oldest and longest serving patron, had turned 100 the day before and was presented with a case of classic malts by new club chairman John MacLean and outgoing chairman Roy Wood.

The Oban native, whose grandparents moved to the town and started a family in the 1860s, went to his first Burns club dinner in 1947 at the Station Hotel (now the Caledonian Hotel). He has since attended every year, bar one when he had a swollen foot and only missed out because he couldn't get his shoes on.

Although most of Robert's family have lived long lives, his own father died at the age of 40 from a poisoned kidney, meaning Robert had to work from a young age to support the family.

A joiner for 20 years, during which time he served in WWII, Robert became clerk of works with Argyll and Bute Council and served the 26-and-a-half years up to his retirement without missing a single day through illness.

Asked for his secret to a long and

healthy life, the sprightly centenarian replied: 'When I'm having a wee joke with people, I say wine, women and song – in any available order.'

'But I really think it is down to knowing what your capabilities are and being happy when you get a job done.'

The Robert Burns fan was a special guest at this year's dinner when John MacLean toasted The Queen to open proceedings.

Roy Wood gave The Immortal Memory and there were songs from Peter Sinclair and fiddle player Maurice Duncan.

Guests from Inveraray, Jim MacMillan and Ken Stark, recited Death and Dr Hornbook, before Philip Preston toasted the Land We Live In.

The Reply came from Sheriff Richard Davidson and former Oban police officer Scott McEwen, now based in Glasgow, gave the Toast to the Lassies.

The vote of thanks was given by John Horne and piper Torquhil Telfer played for a rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

Robert, who has eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, will get a special visitor today (Thursday) when one of his sons, Jack, returns from Canada.

Islanders on Mull directed to NHS 24

RESIDENTS on the Isle of Mull who need health care outside GP opening hours are being asked to phone the NHS 24 service.

The change comes following the opening of the Mull and Iona Progressive Care Centre in Craignure.

Previous arrangements which had seen residents contacting nursing staff directly out of hours will end on February 11 with the NHS asking locals to call 0845 424 2424 from that date for help when their GP surgery is closed.

Professor George Crooks, NHS 24's medical director explained how the service works: 'If you feel ill when your GP surgery is closed and you cannot wait until it reopens, we will take your call and once we determine what the problem is we will either be able to give you advice and reassurance or refer you on to the most appropriate service,' he said.

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Green Machine prove too powerful for the islanders

Size does matter as giant pack dominates derby

West Division 3

Mull 0

Oban Lorne 33

OBAN Lorne once again proved size does matter as their giant pack dominated the derby against Mull to set up a convincing away win.

Mull had hoped for revenge after suffering a similar scoreline in Oban in the season opener and were confident of a win at Fortress Garmory.

But the clear weight advantage Oban Lorne had in its Green Machine pack stifled any threat from the potent Mull backline, which was starved of possession.

The first test of Mull's scrum came after just a few minutes and immediately from the put-in, it was clear that the much larger pack of the Green Machine had the upper hand, forcing Mull backwards to create the turnover.

Lorne's Tommy Sutherland impressed at loosehead prop, causing all sorts of problems for his opposite number.

After a nervy opening 25 minutes the Oban Lorne forwards started to settle and Mull were pinned back on their own tryline. Eventually the ball came to Sutherland, who blasted through tackles to touch down near the posts. A successful conversion from the cultured boot of Craig Wright made the score 7-0 to Lorne.

As the game progressed, the passion of the players became more evident, with some spirited running and stodgy defending. At the half hour mark, Oban lost winger Allan Wright to a knee injury, the player aggravating an existing knock whilst breaking a tackle.

The Oban scrum continued to dominate the smaller pack of the island team, forcing turnovers at an alarming rate.

Another period of powerful pick-and-go, combined with some impressive mauling allowed the giant Springbok, Corrie Louw, to touch down for Oban's second

RUGBY

try of the game five minutes before half time. Craig Wright split the posts beautifully to add the conversion but as the first half ended, the wind was picking up in Garmory, causing problems for kickers on both teams.

As the second half began, the physicality of this fixture was taking its toll on the players and injuries became more frequent. These included a suspected nose break for Mull's young star, Eoghan MacLachlainn, who had made the long trip up from Strathclyde University for the game.

Despite some creative passing and quick feet from the Mull back line, Oban's much larger pack continued to be the thorn in the side of their opponents and Louw broke through the line once more to score his second try of the game on 55 minutes. Craig Wright made it three from three with his conversion to take the score to 21-0.

But buoyed by the partisan support, the defiant Mull squad continued to test the mettle of their local rivals.

Red card

Temps began to flare on both sides and, on the hour mark, Oban's Calum MacLachlan was shown a straight red card for allegedly swinging a boot out in anger at an opponent.

Despite playing with 14 men, Oban managed a third try soon afterwards. Some good running from Jamie MacMillan paved the way for Cammy Smith, who found a hole in the Mull line and, after breaking two tackles, touched down for his first try of the game.

As Mull fought to prevent the score from increasing, they turned to experience, bringing on Angus MacColl to bolster their pack. The introduction of the veteran gave the hosts a boost, as the intelligent forward took charge of the line.

However, Mull soon found themselves in trouble on their

RUGBY

try line, allowing Oban's forwards to add pressure with repeated attacks from heavyweights Robbin MacQueen, Corrie Louw and Andy MacDougall. As MacColl dug in at the breakdown, he was penalised for handling the ball on the deck, receiving a yellow card for his efforts.

With the numbers now evened up, it was just a matter of time before Cammy Smith finished the game off with his second try, cementing his place as Oban's

RUGBY

top scorer this season. Oban Lorne are now second in the league, two points behind Loch Lomond and with a game in hand.

This weekend Green Machine will play host to Paisley in the semi-final of the RBS West Regional Bowl at 1pm and following the game, supporters are welcome in the clubhouse to watch live coverage of the Calcutta Cup Six Nations match.

Bill said: 'A special thank you must go to those who donated prizes for the raffle and to Atlantis Leisure for their help with the competition. This is greatly appreciated by the club.'

Thanks also go to Eleanor Wilson who judged throughout the day.'

Organiser Bill Murray welcomed 17 new archers to the competition, who shot alongside the regular visitors and local club members.

The new faces included some from the recently formed archery club at Oban High School, with six of them shooting under the watchful eyes of Iain Morrison and Irene Biddle, teachers at the school who are members of the Oban club.

They were joined by Ross McCulloch, who is also at Oban High but shoots with the host club.

Bill said: 'A special thank you must go to those

RUGBY

Results (out of a possible 600):

Gents Recurve – Gareth Fleming, Lasswade, 573; Gents Barebow – Robert Campbell, Glasgow, 494; Gents Longbow – Tony Peacock, Oban, 449; Ladies Recurve – Irene Biddle, Oban, 512; Ladies Barebow – Helen Ap Rhisiart, Carnan Stables, 423; Gent Compound – Frank Maguire, Ayr, 575; Ladies Compound – Ann Ward, Ayr, 554; Boys Recurve – Ross McCulloch, Oban, 423; Girls Recurve – Laura Murphy, Oban High School, 278; Novice – Alan Beckett, Giffnock, 516; Best Oban and Lorn Archer – Diarmid Reid, 566; Recurve Team – Linwood, (James Wilbraham, Lawrence Thompson & Kenneth Hume) 1637 (1800); Compound Team – Ayr, (Frank Maguire, Steven Laing & Ann Ward) 1689 (1800).

ARCHERY

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Oban Saints youths - results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: Riverclyde 2, Under 13s 9. On target for Saints were - Martin Rennie (2), Craig Easton, Lewis Buchanan, Cammy Scott, Couper Munt, Sean Gordon, Scott Rowley and Ruairidh Horne.

Under 14s 2, Blair Thistle 0; Saints marksmen were Liam Higgins and Patrick McIntyre. Referee Tim Woodcock wisely took the players off the park in the Under 14 game midway through the second half to allow a hefty hail shower to pass.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Renton; Under 14s v Helensburgh; Goldenhill v Under 15s; Kilpatrick v Under 16s.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

The game was delayed for ten minutes.

Under 15s 3, Morton BC 8. Saints goalscorers were Daniel MacVicar, Jamie MacPherson and Stewart MacLean.

The Milngavie v Under 16s game was postponed due to a frozen pitch.

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Mull have no game this weekend.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS - RESULTS AND FIXTURES

YOUTH FOOTBALL

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Alleycats lead the way from Council

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER week seven of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre Alleycats lead the scratch division with 33 points.

Council sit in second place seven points behind the leaders, with Splitheads in third place on 24 points.

Alleycats also lead the handicap division with 28 points, with Ardtroe/Nevis Radio second on 24 points whilst Rotavators are in third place with 22 points.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Tony Whitelocke of Alleycats with 212. Other games of note were a 174 from Tommy McKnight (Alleycats) and a 171 from Brian Stewart (Council).

Whitelocke also rolled the top handicap game of 232 and the top two game scratch series of 349. Dave Cameron (Council) had the top two game handicap series with 426.

Top team games of the week were 650 scratch (the season's high) and 828 handicap by Alleycats. The best scratch two game team series was 1,150, also from Alleycats, whilst the best handicap two game series was 1,576 from Council.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 174, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 154 and Rossamy Wareing (Ardtroe/Nevis Radio) and Colin Pickett (Council) both on 148.

Plumline pull no punches

SQUASH

LOCHABER Plumline won a close match with Inverness MRG 8-6 in Fort William last Thursday.

Lochaber's Andrew MacMaster was first up in the Highland Squash Association Premier League match, and took on Jamie Durkin. MacMaster took a comfortable win 11-6, 12-10, 11-8.

Recently crowned Lochaber club champion Alan Love lost the first game of his tie against Fraser MacDonald, but responded to win the second 11-9 and the third 11-6.

MacDonald regained his composure to level the tie and set up a cracker in the deciding game.

At 10-10 Love had a great chance to take the lead but, unfortunately hit the ball down letting MacDonald in to win 10-12.

Bruce Love faced Highland champion Garry MacKay in the final game, with MacKay taking the win 11-9, 11-8, 11-9.

Plumline won the overall match 8-6.

David is captain

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club have elected David Matheson as the club captain, with Willie Duncan as vice captain.

Their positions were confirmed at the club's recent AGM, where Brian Stewart and Toby Richardson were also elected to the committee.

Membership fees for 2013 remain unchanged, with the deadline for payment at the end of February.



Fort captain Liam MacIntyre in a tussle for the ball with Oban's Iain MacMillan during Saturday's match. 20_f05fort01

Disappointing defeat for Fort William

FORT William fell to a disappointing 3-0 defeat to newly promoted Oban Camanachd in their first pre-season friendly at An Aird on Saturday.

First match in charge

New men in charge Victor Smith and Adie Robertson were eight players short of having a full strength side for their first match in charge, and the pair chose former Oban player Liam MacIntyre to captain the inexperienced side.

Despite heavy rain in Lochaber, Saturday was

dry but chilly with the An Aird surface looking ready for the new season ahead.

Oban's Robert Alexander scored the only goal in the first half, with Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish also getting on the scoresheet in the second half as Oban ran out comfortable winners.

Fort are due to welcome south division one side Glenorchy to An Aird for another friendly this Saturday, with throw up at 1.30pm.

More friendly shiny coverage on page 23



The field set off at the start of the Leanachan Race on Sunday morning.

John wins Leanachan Race

ATHLETICS

A FIELD of 45 runners braved the elements to take part in Lochaber Athletic Club's Leanachan Race on Sunday morning.

Lochaber runner John Binnie took the win, finishing the 10-mile forest course in 1 hour 3 minutes and 33 seconds – 41 seconds ahead of second-placed Alan Smith, of Deeside Runners.

Binnie's clubmate Jon Gay took third spot in a time of 1 hour 4 minutes and 48 seconds. Diane Baum - who has only

recently joined LAC - was the fastest female runner, with her time of 1 hour 11 minutes and 1 second giving her 10th place overall.

Amanda Blackhall and Lucy Prins, both LAC, were second and third respectively. Blackhall finished in 1 hour 13 minutes and 59 seconds, with Prins recording a time of 1 hour 17 minutes and 56 seconds.

I think having this facility here will only encourage netball

Fort target Turiff for second win of the season

Both games last year were close

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William will be looking to pick up back-to-back wins when Turriff United visit Claggan Park this Saturday.

The Lochaber side secured their first victory in over a year last time out against Strathspey Thistle, and know another win or even a draw against a side just four places above them could lift them off the bottom of the Highland League.

Capable

Manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times he felt his side were capable taking something from this weekend's match.

He said: 'Both games against

Turriff last year were really close, we gave a really good account of ourselves.'

'They beat us 1-0 down here but it was a game that really could have gone either way.'

'It's a game we hope we can get something out of. We'll be looking to build on our good 20 minute spell against Keith and our performance against Strathspey.'

A number of first team regulars are likely miss the game. Andy Martin and Iain MacLellan are long-term injuries, while Sean Grant, Lewis Corbett and Danny Mackintosh may miss out due to work commitments.

Teenager Logan Barker has decided to take an extended rest from the game, while defender Farquhar MacRae has told

Conlon he has given up playing football to try his hand at Thai boxing.

Conlon said: 'The squad is really, really small. If I didn't have boys from outwith the area, I wouldn't be able to put a team on the pitch.'

Frozen pitch

Fort's scheduled game away to Devronvale last Saturday was called off the night before as the Princess Royal Park pitch was frozen.

Conlon admitted the postponement was a bonus due to a lack of available players.

'I was over the moon,' he said. 'We were going up there with a severely depleted squad - I had two 16 year-olds and two trialists in the squad just to make up the numbers.'

Calum picks up a silver medal

BOXING

KINLOCHELEN-based boxer Callum Clement picked up a silver medal after a close fight in the final of the Scottish Championships at Ravenscraig Sports Centre in Motherwell.

Current Scottish novice champion Clement, of Tyndrum, missed out on two weeks of training in the build up to the fight due to illness and weather conditions prevented him from travelling to Kinlochleven.

But the Claymores ABC fighter pushed Darren Lafferty of Keir Hardie ABC all the way in the intermediate final.

The 15 year-old made a slow start, but went up through the gears and Lafferty found himself boxing on the back foot.

Both boxers probed for gaps, bobbed and weaved, fainted and tried to draw their opponents on. The fitness of both fighters was very impressive as they kept pace with each other.

Lafferty on this occasion had the edge and the decision went his way.

Clement will be in action again this Saturday at Peterhead ABC's show.

Tight at the top in Ali Young League

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER Leisure and Achintore FC remain tied at the top of the Ali Young Premier indoor football league after both sides picked up wins at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Leisure racked up a 9-3 win against second-bottom Portowey, while Achintore narrowly defeated Caol FC 1-0.

League top scorers Goon Squad put up one of the biggest wins of the season so far, beating Old Codgers 15-3. The win keeps them close on the tail of Ballachulish in the race for third. Balla won 6-2 against All Blacks.

Meanwhile, bottom side AA Young lost 3-0 to HWEnergy No Stars.

Funds found for Fort William Falcons

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

NETBALL in Lochaber has received a major boost after local club Fort William Falcons received final funding to line a full-sized netball court at Lochaber High School.

For three years the Falcons' training has been complicated by a combination of basketball, football, and badminton markings.

But now the club can play home games against their rivals, with the junior team playing Oban once the court is ready next month.

Active Schools coordinator for Lochaber High School, Lia Hunter said: 'This is a huge step forward in the development of this sport for girls and women in Lochaber.'

In the past we have always had to travel large distances to compete in games and tournaments and now we have the opportunity to host these in Fort William.

I think having this facility here will only encourage netball

to grow from strength to strength and inspire more girls and women to participate in sport.'

She added: 'The new indoor court will provide an important venue connecting teams from

the west and east coasts of Scotland.'

'As part of Highland and Moray Netball, the Falcons are already in contact with teams from Dingwall, Inverness, Lossiemouth,

and Grantown-on-Spey who are keen to play senior fixtures in Fort William.'

Highland Council, fundraising events and a £400 donation from Marine Harvest helped the team

reach their £3,000 target.

Thanking everyone who contributed, Falcons chair Claire Lumley-Holmes said: 'After three years of travelling to the east coast for matches, we are really excited to host our first home fixture.'

'Netball is a great sport to build fitness, have fun and find friends so it is important that it is accessible to as many people as possible.'

'If you haven't played since primary school, now is the perfect time for juniors and adults to get back to netball.'

Netball Scotland predicts the 2013 World Youth Netball Championships in Glasgow and Scotland's elite team bid for Commonwealth Games netball gold in 2014 will prompt a surge of interest in the sport across the country.

Senior training for Fort William 'Falcons' Netball Club is held weekly on Wednesdays from 5.30pm to 7pm. See 'Fort William Netball Club' on Facebook for further details.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, January 31, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	01.57	0.8	07.55 3.9 14.22 1.2 20.16 3.7
Fri	02.33	0.9	08.29 3.8 14.55 1.3 20.54 3.5
Sat	03.15	1.1	09.10 3.6 15.40 1.4 21.38 3.4
Sun	04.06	1.2	09.59 3.4 16.40 1.6 22.36 3.6
Mon	05.12	1.4	11.06 3.1 18.03 1.7 *** **
Tues	00.01	3.0	06.33 1.5 12.59 3.0 19.30 1.7
Wed	02.10	3.1	07.59 1.5 14.56 3.2 20.50 1.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
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Mallaig	+0.25		

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