

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8081

Thursday 9 February, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

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Three arrested in Oban drugs raids

TWO men have been arrested on drugs charges after raids on properties in Oban's Lorn Court on Friday.
A 27-year-old man was charged with being in possession of a controlled drug, and a 26-year-old man reported for being in possession of heroin.
Meanwhile, a man was arrested at a Corran Esplanade premises on Saturday, charged with being in possession of a dealer-quantity of cocaine.

Appin and Lismore ferry meetings

MEETINGS to discuss how the Scottish Ferries Draft Plan will affect Lismore and Appin will be held this Saturday.
The plan recommends the Isle of Lismore has just one ferry route - a vehicle and passenger ferry service operating from Point to Port Appin.
Lorna Spencer of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) has agreed to prepare a presentation and to answer questions.
Lismore Heritage Centre will host the first meeting at 11am and the Appin meeting will be held in Appin Village Hall from 2pm.

Lifeboat stations praised

LIFEBOAT crews in the west Highlands and islands have been praised for their work during 2011, a year that saw 1,006 launches across Scotland.
Barra, Islay and Mallaig stations were commended with letters from the RNLI's Operations Director Michael Vlasto.
And stations at Campbeltown, Stornoway and Islay were among those that recorded more than half of all shouts in darkness.

A83 campaign

THE CAMPAIGN to have the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful upgraded is stepping up as Transport Scotland finalises its brief for a study of possible remedial works.
Sign up for A83, led by Argyll First, is hoping the news will prompt more signatures on the e-petition before it is handed to ministers next month.



Salmon company reveals plans for 100 new jobs

A LEADING supplier of salmon in Scotland has revealed plans to create more than 100 jobs across the west coast over the next five years.
The Scottish Salmon Company, which operates more than 50 sites in the Hebrides and on the west coast, is to invest £40 million in the region, boosting the local economy and job market.
The company has confirmed two new fish farms for the isle of Mull at Loch Scridian and Loch Tuath and is currently in the process of scoping, consulting on and lodging planning applications for new fish farm sites elsewhere.
Three information events were recently held on Mull to give local residents the chance to find out about the new sites. The Scottish Salmon Company already operates three sites on the island employing 11 people, which is due to increase to 17.
Both sites will benefit from an infrastructure investment in the region of £1.5m - £2m and the company has vowed to use local suppliers and contractors whenever possible.
The five-year development plan also includes plans for a further 10 fish farms around Argyll and the Western Isles, increasing farming capacity and developing harvesting, processing and freshwater operations.
The company has confirmed

Glen Orchy gold test drilling proves 'highly encouraging'

SCOTGOLD Resources, the company which is to establish a gold mine at Cononish by 2013, has announced 'highly encouraging' results from test drills in Glen Orchy.
Explaining that there is a strong and growing demand for Scottish salmon, Stewart McLelland, chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'People are key to our vision for expansion.
'We are keen to bring talent into our business, developing skills, and experience to support our growth plans. We are committed to the communities and economies in which we work and understand the real benefit that developing business and providing employment has in these rural locations.'

Oban leisure centre is icon of social enterprise success

ATLANTIS Leisure, Oban, is being used as a framework of how social enterprises should work as part of a programme to develop similar services in Africa.
The Social Enterprise Academy (SEA), the Oban based Imani Development and Imani Development Foundation (IDF) visited Atlantis Leisure last week to meet with director, Neil Matheson, and find out what is needed to ensure social enterprise ventures are a success.
The organisations arranged the trip as part of a project with Fairtrade Africa to plug the gap in infrastructure in the continent's developing countries, aimed specifically at rural, agricultural communities.
For Roy Clunie, chief executive of IDF, the trip was less a venture into unfamiliar territory, as one of the founding directors of the Atlantis social enterprise. He said: 'Scotland

is the world leader in Social Enterprises and Argyll is ahead of most because of the real community spirit that exists here.
'There are few better examples, if any, of a successful social enterprise than Atlantis Leisure. It has shown that the model can be successful and what needs to be done to ensure success.
'Imani and the Social Enterprise Academy have been working together to develop

this framework for use in Africa. We have identified South Africa as an ideal country to try this model and we think it would see real benefits from social enterprises.'
Murdoch Gattward is director of Imani Development, which is based in Oban and employs nine staff.
He said: 'Atlantis is easily the best example of a successful social enterprise and its one of Scotland's best kept secrets.'

grades of silver and significant lead, zinc and tellurium values in addition to gold.
'Whilst these initial two holes were targeting the gold vein below the high grade gold rock chip samples taken in the river, they also intersected a number of molybdenum bearing fractures (a type of metal) with highly anomalous values.'
Two further test drills have been carried out at the prospect, with results expected soon.
There are currently no plans to develop the site. Scotgold say the results from this drill will only determine if any further prospecting is worthwhile at this stage.

Kerrera yacht haven deal done

Sale of marina business welcomed

A DEAL to save Oban Marina, on Kerrera, was due to be concluded as *The Oban Times* went to press, saving seven jobs.
BDO Administrators confirmed all the paperwork had been concluded for the sale on Tuesday, with the handover expected to be concluded by Wednesday morning.

The deal brings to an end uncertainty surrounding the future of the business, which went up for sale in November following the collapse of parent company, Shawhead Developments Ltd.
While Shawhead Developments had suffered difficulty, Oban Marina continued to make a profit. As such, interest in taking over the business was high, with six bids lodged by the end of December.

A spokesman for BDO Administrators said: 'We do have a preferred bidder and we can confirm that a deal is imminent that will protect the future of jobs at the marina.
'We are, however, restricted on what we can actually say until the sale is complete.'

News of the deal has been welcomed by local councillors Neil Mackay, spokesman for tourism and enterprise, and Duncan MacIntyre, spokesman for transport and infrastructure.
Councillor Mackay said: 'I'm very, very pleased a buyer was found so quickly.
'It also is a boost for the Kerrera ferry and we're hopeful it can use the planned pontoon for the north pier.
'Hopefully that will alleviate

EXCLUSIVE REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

'... a deal is imminent that will protect the future of jobs at the marina.'

Spokesman for BDO Administrators

congestion for that slip for other traffic and other plans in future.'
Councillor MacIntyre welcomed the sale, saying not only was it a great boost for the island in terms of jobs saved, but for the future of the Lorn Arc.
He said: 'I was only too pleased to hear someone was going to buy it and so quickly.
'Kerrera marina is, without a doubt, part of the future of Oban. The Lorn Arc starts at Oban's north pier and the marina is part of that.'

Business at the marina continues as normal and it announced last month that the ex-Royal yacht, *Bloodhound*, will return in July and August.
Northern Light's 22-metre charter yacht, *Suzan*, will also be based in Oban for the first time this summer.
Oban Marina Ltd was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

Police focus on speed in response to local concerns

ROAD safety is to be prioritised by police in the Oban and Lorn area after a community consultation revealed it to be among locals' biggest concerns.
A number of motorists have been reported for speeding offences over the past two weeks as officers crack down on poor motoring.
Roadside spot checks for compliance with seatbelt and mobile phone laws have also been increased.
Oban-based chief inspector Brian Auld hopes to present the findings of the consultation at this month's meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.
He said: 'Speed and safety of vehicles is a concern for the community, so that's why we're giving it extra attention.'

Rona wins Young Trad title

AN OBAN fiddler hopes to bring her music to a wider audience after winning BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year at her first attempt.
Rona Wilkie was one of four fiddle players among the final six musicians, who all played in Glasgow City Halls on Sunday at the end of the Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow.
The 23 year old who also sings, had to make an alteration to her performance after losing her voice in the week leading up to the final.
By winning the title, she will have a recording session with BBC Scotland, a performance at the Scots Trad Music Awards and one year's membership of



Oban's Rona Wilkie is the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year

Musicians Union.
Rona, who recently graduated with a Masters in Music from

Edinburgh University, told *The Oban Times*: 'I am absolutely delighted to have won but a bit surprised too.
'I am looking forward to the year that's coming.
'The competition was a great platform and I hope I can now bring my music to a wider audience.
'More importantly, it lets me continue being a full-time musician.'
The other finalists were Kirsty Watt from Lewis with Gaelic song, Katie Boyle from Glasgow on fiddle, Catriona Price from Orkney on fiddle, Roisin Anne Hughes from Glasgow on fiddle, and Alistair Ogilvy from Strathblane with Scots song.
Rona, part of a duo with Marit Fait, from Scandinavia, has been travelling around Argyll's Gaelic Medium Unit schools as part of a film project with Alasdair Satchel.

Valentines EE-USK Weeks
Valentines Specials available from Saturday 11th - Saturday 18th February
6 Oysters Thermidor £10.95
Chargrilled Langoustines with garlic butter £8.95
Fillet Steak with Lobster £27.95
Whole Stuffed Sea Bass £19.95
Dessert Platter £9.95
Chocolate Shot, Crème Brulee, Lemon Cheesecake and Fresh Cream Meringue
North Pier, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565666
www.eeusk.com

Exciting champagne cocktails and great food,
A candle and a rose will set the mood,
We'll share a special table you and me,
And dream our dreams of how our life will be.

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The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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Westminster hears from sub-postmaster of Isle of Islay's frequent power problems

ISLAY sub-postmaster Alastair Redman, of Portnahaven, has given evidence to a Select Committee for Scottish Affairs at Westminster about difficulties caused by frequent power failures across Islay's Rhinns.

Complaints

Complaints have been made to SSE/Scottish Hydro Electric by householders and businesses in Portnahaven and Port Wemyss, who have been badly affected

by power cuts over the past 18 months.

These complaints have been supported by Alan Reid MP, Mike Russell MSP, Jamie McGrigor MSP and Councillor Anne Horn, and as a result, Mr Redman was invited by Mr Reid to give evidence.

Portnahaven and Port Wemyss have had more than 25 significant power cuts during the last 12 months, plus many more

minor outages accompanied by equipment-damaging power surges.

During the early January hurricane, while Bowmore's power was off for an hour, many on the Rhinns were without power for four days and so without mains water for nearly two days.

Others in the Rhinns were off supply for even longer.

Fergus Ewing MSP, the Scottish Minister for Energy,

has expressed concern over the fragile state of Islay's energy supply and is instigating a post-storm national inquiry into how Scotland's power infrastructure can be strengthened and made fit for purpose. The Rhinns will also be represented at this enquiry.

Mr Marchant, chief executive of SSE, agreed the level of service available in the Rhinns should have been better.

He added: 'We are currently developing a plan that addresses the network issues you describe, and will start with a thorough refurbishment over the next two months of the lines which feed the Rhinns area.'

Mr Marchant explained because the islands' power supply lines runs to Islay through forested areas on the Isle of Jura, falling trees or boughs may damage the power lines.

Gaelic writers invited to bid for Meek award

GAELIC writers of any genre are being invited to enter the Donald Meek Award 2012 with the lucky winner scooping £5,000.

Now in its third year the award aims to encourage and support Gaelic writers in their craft.

Rosemary Ward, Director of the Gaelic Books Council said: 'The Donald Meek Award is an annual competition which seeks to encourage new and creative Gaelic writing and we are seeking new works in a variety of genre from emerging and established Gaelic writers.'

'We are interested in receiving new Gaelic creative works - poetry, short stories, novels or drama - which are as yet unpublished but are nearing completion and could be progressed to publication.'

Academic works and research studies with a Gaelic subject matter will also be accepted as long as they have not been published before the closing date. Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, April 27.

Lord Robertson to chair 150th Glasgow Islay Association meet

The 150th annual gathering of the Glasgow Islay Association will be chaired by former Defence Minister and NATO General Secretary Lord Robertson of Port Ellen.

The meeting, to be held in the Mitchell Theatre, on Friday March 2 at 7pm will have a musical accompaniment provided by the Islay Pipe Band and Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir.

Other notable attendees include Bette C Bell, gold medalist at the National Mod in 1967 and Nina MacKellar who enjoyed Mod success in Oban in 1992.

The Glasgow Islay Association was founded by city printer Archibald Sinclair in 1862 and has contributed to shaping the culture in Scotland's largest city.

Island distillery comes to aid of Jura Care Centre

THE MOBILITY of Jura Care Centre staff and service users has been boosted by the generous donation of a £500 cheque from the Isle of Jura Distillery.

The money will be used to pay for the running costs of the mobility vehicle purchased by the group.

The vehicle is crucial for helping transport Jura residents to activities such as the popular Wednesday lunch club, which resumed again after a winter break.

All at Jura Care Centre would like to extend a very big thank you to the distillery for their generosity in making this donation.

Ayrshire ferry option viewed

BUSINESSES interested in developing a new ferry service between Campbeltown and Ayrshire are being urged to make their views known now.

The Scottish Government's Ferry Review suggests a ferry service between Campbeltown and Ayrshire, but South Kintyre councillor, John Semple, says businesses need to tell the transport minister behind the suggestion, Keith Brown, what they need from the service.

He said: 'I firmly believe there is a strong commercial case to be made for a service between Campbeltown and Ayrshire.'

'Current proposals in the government's consultation are not ideal but I believe the minister is prepared to listen to a reasoned argument and I am calling on Argyll business interests who might benefit from such a service to contact me.'

Loganair launches year-long celebration of company's 50 years

Air ambulance service to Coll, Colonsay, Oronsay, Mull and Oban started in 1967

A COMPANY which became almost a household name within the island transport network has launched a year-long celebration to mark 50 years as 'Scotland's Airline'.

Loganair began in 1962 as the air taxi service of the Logan Construction Company Ltd, operating a single Piper Aztec aircraft from a base near Edinburgh.

Argyll islands

From this single aircraft a fleet rapidly grew and in 1964 Loganair mounted an inter-island scheduled network in Orkney and a similar network in Shetland commenced in 1970 - the strong association with these island communities continues today.

Air ambulance services were established in 1967 covering Coll, Colonsay, Oronsay, Mull and Oban and it continues to provide cover with dedicated Britten Norman Islander aircraft at Glasgow, Kirkwall and Lerwick.

Over the years it has gone through various ownerships until it was bought by management



in 1997, led by current chairman Scott Grier.

Mr Grier, who has written a book on its history, says no other airline has operated for nearly as long under its original name.

'During the lifetime of Loganair, at least 50 Scottish-based airlines and aviation companies have come and gone, but we're still here and thriving,' he says.

'There have always been airline failures and this will continue, but we're in good shape to face

the endemic uncertainties and vagaries of the airline industry for the next 50 years.'

'Following the buy-out in 1997, the company had just five eight-seat Britten-Norman Islanders and a single Twin Otter aircraft. Today, Loganair now operates a fleet of 20 aircraft delivering vital services throughout Scotland and beyond.'

To mark the anniversary the company's fleet of aircraft is now carrying the new Serving

Scotland for 50 years -1962 to 2012 logo featuring a Saltire and the Loganair name.

Amanda McMillan, managing director of Glasgow Airport, said: 'Loganair's success can be attributed to the dedication and enthusiasm of its team led by Scott Grier, who has been instrumental in steering the company through the recent economic downturn and ensuring it is well placed to tackle yet another 50 years.'

Islay's musical maestro Megan celebrates national success

First Scot selected for National Children's Wind Orchestra

TALENTED Islay student Megan Hastings took the latest step on her musical odyssey last week when she was chosen as the first Scot to be on the National Children's Wind Orchestra.

Flautist Megan, from Port Charlotte, said she was 'thrilled' at the prospect of working with musicians from across the country and especially working with Scottish conductor Paul Rissmann.

Awarded scholarship Caroline Marriott, administrator of the orchestra said: 'We are delighted to welcome Megan to the orchestra which will meet, rehearse and perform in Cambridge in the summer.'

'If Megan chooses to pursue a career in music then this will stand her in good stead and she will be performing with people who she will encounter again and again in her professional career.'

Megan was awarded a scholarship to attend the musically renowned Lomond School in



Islay's Megan Hastings.

Helensburgh, where she is now in S5. A pupil of well-known Rhu flautist Louise Burnet, she hopes to carry on her musical studies at Aberdeen University at the end of her S6 year.

Megan's previous successes include receiving a prestigious Award for Young Musician Bursary last year, and playing with the National Children's Orchestra for Scotland.

New oral culture jamboree for Isle of Jura

THE ISLAND where George Orwell wrote '1984' is to celebrate its own oral culture with a spectacular new festival in April 2012.

The event, called 'Bàrr mo Theanga' or 'tip of the tongue' will feature a new song cycle based on the works of the Islay bards, alongside workshops, ceilidhs, song cycles, oral histories and a full children's programme.

Anne Michaels, the Canadian author whose Orange Prize for Fiction winning novel 'The Winter Vault' is set partly on the island, will make an appearance.

Other headline performers are Ian Stephen, Lewisman, storyteller, poet and man of the sea, and renowned musician and folklorist Alasdair Roberts.

In a more recent addition to the programme, storyteller Katrice Horsley and travel writer James Horsley will appear at a special event themed around Easter's roots in the lunar calendar.

With a cast list such as this the festival promises to be a new highlight in Jura's already thriving cultural calendar, combining the best of today's talent with a strong connection to the ancient roots of the island's oral culture.

Ballachulish Primary School to host family Gaelic and music event

FÈIS LOCHABAIR staged its first pilot fèis teachlaich (family fèis) at Ballachulish Primary School on Saturday.

The event gave parents the chance to learn or improve

their Gaelic while the children enjoyed Gaelic songs, drama and art classes.

Musicians from Fèis Lochabair and Lochaber music school, led by Banavie Primary

Freeze on council tax in Highland is recommended

HIGHLAND Council is being recommended to freeze council tax for a fifth successive year when it meets in Inverness today (Thursday).

The council is also expected to confirm no further cuts next year following its three-year drive to find £18.6 million of savings.

New spending in its £602 million revenue budget for 2012-13 includes £650,000 on enhanced pupil support in the classroom and £1 million on provision for the elderly.

A new council will be elected in May - but will remain in a financial straitjacket in 2013/14 and 2014/15 as public sector spending cuts continue to bite.

Further substantial savings to cover pay inflation, price inflation and budget pressures are almost certain to be required.

Budget leader David Alston said: 'There is still a lot of work to do but I am confident that we leave a legacy of sound budget management.'

The extra cash for classroom support follows a recommendation from a working group to create a new unified post of pupil support assistant across all schools, with staff being deployed where demand is greatest. Council leader Michael Foxley confirmed last month that the changes would involve no job losses.

The welcome news came almost a year after the council proposed axing 344 classroom assistants in a £1.5 million cost-cutting drive. That move sparked a furious political reaction, forcing the council to abandon the plan and devise a new model for classroom support.

Report highlights 'unusually rich' marine life off Canna

THE SEABED around Canna hosts 'unusually rich' marine wildlife, according to a Scottish Natural Heritage report.

The study follows a series of dives by marine biologists from SNH and Marine Scotland in the Sound of Canna, a steep

sided channel between the island and Rùm.

Species discovered include rare fan mussels, first spotted in 2009, which have now been confirmed as the largest colony in UK waters. Well over 100 mussels covering more than 170



CHAN EIL MISE IDIR AN AGHAIDH Fred Goodwin a bhith air a pheanasachadh airson a chuid mi-rìan ann an saoghal an ionmhais agus an cron a rinn e air slughadh na dùthcha, ach chan aontaich mi gur e urram ridire a thoirt buathair ann dòigh as iomchaidhe sin a dhèanamh. Agus cha b' ann san aon àite bha an t-oile!

Tha pàirt mhòr den trìobaid leis a' cheist seo ag èirigh a cuid den dileab a dh'fhàg Ìmpireachd Bhreatainn againn agus a tha fhathast stèidhichte ged a tha mòran den chiall air a shon air falbh.

Tha mise làidir den bheachd gur còir daoine a tha air obair shònraichte a dhèanamh ann an raon sònraichte air choreigin a bhith aithnichte agus gu h-àraid, ach an e an aon rud a th'ann an lethidh sin de dh'aithneachadh agus a th'ann an urram, gu sònraichte an seòrsa urramach a tha gam buileachadh dà uair sa bhliadhna às leth na Bànrigh? Tha mi ag ràdh "às leth" oir saoilidh mi fhìn gum bheil cus làmh aig luchd-poilitigs anns na co-dhùnaidhean air còr theid a mholadh airson duais. Agus a bharrachd, saoilidh mi gum bheil na duaisean air an luach a chiall gu ìre mhòr leis gum bheil e na chleachdadh gum faigh feadhainn a th'ann an dreuchdan àraid anns an t-seirbheis chatharra urram air choreigin aig àrd ìre gu fèin-ghluasadach mar gum biodh.

Na mo bheachda, tha lethidh mo charaid Lachaidh MacLeòid làn-àirdh air an MBE a th' aige, agus 's dòcha barrachd, airson na tha e air a dhèanamh thar còrr air fichead bliadhna a' togail airgid airson cùram a thoirt dha daoine bochda ann an Romàinia a tha a' fulang le aillse 's gum chobhair eile aca. Tha an carthanas aig Lachaidh Something for Romania na chladhan tròcair dha mòran aig nach eil an còrr agus ma tha duine agaibh a tha a' leughadh seo air chomas beagan taice a thoirt dha obair Lachaidh, tha fiosaig gun cuir e mòr luach air sin. Tha am facal "urram" ri lorg eadar dà fhacal inntinneach eile san fhacal. An toiseach, tha "urralach", a' ciallachadh a bhith aghach agus na dhèidh tha "urranta" a' ciallachadh dànachd! Gu ìre, tha obair Lachaidh an urra ris na dhà!

I ANTICIPATE A RENEWED ATTACK on our honours system but whatever the outcome we must retain a means of recognising the unique efforts of people like my former school friend Lachie MacLeod MBE! For over 20 years Lachie's charity Something for Romania has been providing palliative care, and spiritual support, for terminally ill people who have no other source of succour. I commend the SFR website to you and if anyone feels able to offer any help I know it will be greatly appreciated!

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

MULL LINES

DERVAIG Post Office is to relocate - but it won't be going very far.

Post Office Ltd announced last Thursday that it proposes to relocate Dervaig Post Office branch into better, brighter premises. But far from taking the service to another part of the village, it is expected to move directly to the rear of the current building at The Old Village Hall.

The Post Office has written to community representatives explaining the move and seeking views on the relocation.

Kenny Lamont, field change advisor for Post Office Ltd, said: 'Post Office Ltd intend to relocate this service to improve facilities to our customers and to help safeguard Post Office services in the long-term.'

Post Office Ltd are now launching a consultation period to seek feedback from customers.

Submissions should be submitted, by March 13, to Kenny Lamont, c/o Post Office Ltd, National Consultation Team, PO Box 2060, Watford, WD18 8ZW

MULL Community Council will meet next Tuesday at Craignure Village Hall.

Ferry issues dominate the agenda, including RET, fares and the Ferries Draft Plan response.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

MULL Beekeepers will welcome Phil Moss, secretary of Oban Beekeepers, to its meeting next Wednesday.

Speaking at Corry Meadows, Fishnish, Phil will give a talk on 'How the Bee Sees the Beekeeper', looking out from inside the hive.

The Mull Beekeepers teach-in with Graeme Sharp will take place on April 19, also at Corry Meadows, and is free for under-18s.

AN INDUCTION to crofting is starting today (Thursday) on Mull.

The 10-week part-time course is designed for aspiring crofters and provides an entry-level qualification.



One of the rare fan mussels found in the Sound of Canna

Search on for heritage heroes

HISTORIC Scotland has launched a hunt to find and celebrate the young 'Heritage Heroes' of Argyll who spend their free time protecting and supporting the nation's historic environment.

The award is part of the Young Scot scheme, which aims to counter the often negative perception of today's youth, and seek inspirational individuals aged 11 to 26 who make a positive difference by improving their community.

Historic Scotland are asking members of the public to nominate deserving youngsters for the award and Chief Executive Ruth Parsons said: 'We are delighted to be sponsoring the 'Heritage Hero' award again this year.

'Our heritage, which is known and celebrated throughout the world, helps define who we are, and forms a key part of our culture. It is extremely encouraging to see so many young people with a passion for Scottish history. Their enthusiasm for the stories that reveal so much about the nation's character and identity, and their desire to share this knowledge with others, is an inspiration we can all draw hope from.'

Last year's 'Heritage Hero' winner was Jamie O'Rourke, who developed, managed and conducted history tours in Falkirk town centre.

Those wishing to nominate their own 'Heritage Hero' can find full details on the Young Scot web site. Nominations can be made until February 26.

Warning for 'heads not hearts' to rule on former school building decision

RESIDENTS of Oban are being urged not to let their hearts rule their heads when it comes to deciding the future of the former Rockfield Primary School building.

community groups time to table a bid. **Centre of Oban** However, any potential bids subsequently fell through leaving the building vulnerable to decay. Speaking at the recent Oban

Community Council meeting, Oban North and Lorn Councillor Duncan MacIntyre pointed out many had fond memories of the school and said extra care would have to be taken when considering its future, not least as the tree outside the school

grounds marked the centre of Oban. **Not energy-efficient** However, secretary Duncan Martin warned of further delay, adding: 'We saw the situation with the Argyll Hotel, which could have been saved if we had

done something 20 years ago. 'We would love someone to come in and take over the old Rockfield school, but it's not an energy-efficient building. 'I think we have a head and heart problem here. 'Our heads need to start

thinking if there is a serious solution for this.' Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish, who initially raised the discussion said: 'I feel we have been here before. 'Not too long ago there were

80 people at a meeting in the fire station about its future and the Oban and Youth Community Centre was keen to take it on but nothing happened.' Argyll and Bute Council has marketed the property at £475,000.

Care and cuts at core of budget proposals

PROPOSALS to cut staff and outsource the care of vulnerable people living in Argyll and Bute will be debated by councillors next Thursday.

The proposals are part of Argyll and Bute Council's draft budget which aims to save £8.2 million over the next three years.

Outsourcing care The budget, which will be put before the full council, proposes outsourcing mental health care and additional care of the elderly services to external providers, with a view to saving more money.

The plan, if approved, would see the caseload of adult care workers increased, mental health care provided by council support workers slashed and a loss of 30 full-time equivalent posts.

A further 50 jobs could be cut from the council's street scene department. The budget proposes to integrate streetscene and roads department posts on Mull, Bute, Islay and the Kintyre peninsula, saving £938,000 in the next three years.

There will also be a three per cent increase on charges for council services across social, leisure and waste management services for the next three years.

Fares for council run ferries to islands including Easdale, Jura and Lismore will also rise by an average of three per cent if the budget is approved.

Respite services for people with disabilities will go up by £10.90 a week if the budget is approved, along with a 10p increase in every meal supplied

by meals on wheels and lunch clubs. School meals have been set at £2.05 for the 2012/13 school year.

The cost of weekly respite services for the elderly still has to be agreed by COSLA but the council budget proposes hourly rates for home help, housing support and elderly day care all remain at the current price.

Investing In more positive news the council's capital budget proposes to invest £14.5 million in education, improving the quality of the school estate and raising the condition of school buildings.

Roads and amenities will benefit from £29.5 million over three years, whilst the private sector housing grant could receive a £4 million cash injection. A further £21 million has been set aside for CHORD projects.

Commenting on the draft budget, council lead Dick Walsh said: 'Given the ongoing challenging financial situation which all local authorities are facing, Argyll and Bute decided last year to adopt a strategic, three-year approach to setting our budget.

'The next financial year represents the second year of this approach, and I am confident that the way forward we are proposing will put us in the best possible position to meet the challenges we will undoubtedly face.'

The proposed budget was referred to the full council for discussion and decision following the meeting of the council's executive last Thursday.



Pupils from Barcaldine Primary School during filming to launch the Royal Zoological Society's new Deep Blue Scotland website. 15_106sealfife2

Barcaldine pupils star on new marine science website

PUPILS from Barcaldine Primary School are set to become the envy of the nation after featuring in a video to launch a new marine science website.

Seal pup release They took a trip to the neighbouring Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary last week to help launch the new Deep Blue Scotland website, run by the Royal

Zoological Society for Scotland (RZS) and the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU).

Designed for schools, it will not only allow visitors to delve into facts and photos of different marine species, but rescued seals can be tracked via their electronic tags.

The website team will return to the site this month to cover

the release of five-month-old seal pup, Holly, back into the wild.

Raising awareness Brendan Duggan, education officer for RZS for Scotland, said: 'RZS have been working on numerous terrestrial species websites, but we had nothing for marine species. 'This website will help raise

awareness of marine science and the various marine species that live in and around Scotland.'

Barcaldine was picked for the launch, not just for the presence of the Scottish Marine Institute in Dunbeg, but because of the work the Sea Life Sanctuary does to rescue seals.

Sanctuary manager, Craig Connor, said: 'Holly was

brought in here in October aged about three weeks. She was very prickly and that's how she got her name.

'We hope to release her back into the wild in the coming weeks and we'll be delighted to welcome the website team back here for the release.'

To see the website, visit deepbluescotland.org.uk.

Emma wins chance to work outdoors via Vodafone competition

A LOCAL charity has an extra pair of hands after a young Oban woman won a competition to pay her to work for them.

Emma Kersel, 19, has been volunteering full-time with social enterprise outdoor activity charity Stramash since August. She entered the Vodafone World of Difference competition as a means to be paid for her work.

She said: 'I'm still living at home and I work on a Saturday to pay for the extras. I hope to become an apprentice with Stramash through the New Apprentice Scheme after my Vodafone placement is up.'

Emma starts her two month placement in March and plans on setting up a youth board, allowing young people to express

themselves and contribute to the community as well as help with the running of Stramash.

She said: 'I think we do a lot for the community and a lot for young people in general. During my placement I just want to get more experience working with people.'

Stramash provides exciting experiences for youngsters

through a range of outdoor activities including, canoeing, kayaking, climbing and sea trips in summer.

Gordon Smith from the charity said: 'Stramash are delighted Emma has been successful in her application to the Vodafone World of Difference programme. 'Emma has been involved

with Stramash for many years, participating on many of our courses and progressing her own development in many outdoor activities. During her time with us we will help her to improve these skills, furthering her own development as well as enabling her to gain an insight into the type of work Stramash does.'

LORN LINES

IN A late change to Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society's programme Elaine McChesney, curator at Dunollie House delivered an entertaining account of the rebirth and continuing restoration going on at Dunollie House.

Despite equipment difficulties on the night, her in-depth knowledge of the items and love of the McDougall of Dunollie characters from history brought a welcome breath of fresh air to the proceedings.

In a vote of thanks by Duncan Campbell, he stressed how Elaine had helped rekindle enthusiasm for Dunollie and helped promote the cause.

The Society's next meeting will be at the Undercroft, Glencruitten Church centre on Friday, February 17 at 7.30pm when Christopher Fleet of the National Library of Scotland will talk on "Lorn on the Map, a cartographic journey over four centuries."

Senior Map Curator Christopher's part in the new book "Scotland, Mapping the Nation" has been well received and is available locally.



OBAN Charities Day and Street Fair, which is held each year and organised by Oban and Lorn Lions club, will this year be held on Saturday June 9.

This is a great day out for everyone with local groups, playschools, and other organisations hosting stalls to raise much-needed funds and raise awareness of their activities. Last year's charities event brought a high turnout of interested groups and stallholders, with an even bigger parade than was expected.

This year interest in participating has started early with a number of stalls already booked. If any group or organisation would like further information about taking part, or to make a stall booking, please contact the secretary, John Lloyd on 01631562762 or by e-mail at Oban3108@aol.com.



MEMBERS of Oban Photographic Club turned out at the Regent Hotel, Oban for their usual Monday evening meeting on January 30 to bring, and judge, entries for the Argyll Trophy.

The subject for the trophy, which was donated by Peter and Katy Weir of Ledaig Caravan Site several years ago, was, as chosen by them, 'Argyll Weather'.

As can be imagined, the storms and severe weather we have experienced in the last year featured heavily! First prize was given to an image of the sun's rays bursting out from behind clouds over Kerrera taken by Jim Kirkpatrick from McCaig's Tower.

Second prize went to an image taken by Maurice Wilkins of one of the storms hitting a headland near Arduaine Gardens.

Third prize was awarded to Bob McCulloch for a picture taken during the hard frosts of 2011 and showed smoke-like mist rising off Oban Bay. Bob reckoned that the temperature was -16 degrees!

The next meeting of the club is on Monday, February 13 when the results of 'Landscape/seascape' will be given by judge Neil MacGregor from Bearsden.



A DISCOUNT retail outlet on Argyll Square in Oban closed its doors for trading last Saturday with a final 'everything must go' sale.

Pound Crazy Jane's had been trading at the site since April 2010. Shop tenant Jane Scott explained that the shop 'just wasn't making enough money' which led to the decision to close down.

Massage expert called as witness in Oban gym indecent assault case

AN EXPERT witness in the trial of Oban gym co-owner Robin Morton has told the court a lack of communication was the source of most complaints about masseurs.

Osteopath Margaret Brookes Carter, chairwoman of Scottish Massage Therapists Organisation and secretary of the General Council for Massage Therapy, was giving evidence at Oban Sheriff Court, as the defence opened its case last Thursday.

Mr Morton, aged 49, of Tigh na Craig, Clachan Seil, is charged with indecently assaulting two women during massages by touching them on the breasts and is also accused of offering one of them £50 to allow him to massage her. The Crown has dropped three other charges.

The messages were scheduled to allow Mr Morton to give the women tips ahead of job interviews at Energise Fitness.

A special defence of consent has been lodged from the outset of the trial. Giving evidence to defence solicitor Gary McAteer, Ms Brookes Carter said

communication was the main source of complaints and when training therapists, she encouraged them to explain what they were doing and ask, 'can I do this?'

'When people come for a massage they can become relaxed, almost in a dream-like state and therapists have to be very careful what they are asking,' she added.

Ms Brookes Carter admitted there were techniques to massage the breast but she would not have included that area of the body in a full-body massage.

She said: 'Doing the pectoral muscles, you can't help but touch breast tissue.'

A submission by Mr McAteer of no case to answer was not supported by Sheriff Ruth Anderson. Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court: 'The consent that gets her [one of the victims] onto the massage table does not give the accused the carte blanche consent to go as far as he did.'

The trial was adjourned before Mr Morton gave evidence and will continue on March 9.

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Drama festival deadline looms

TIME IS running out for drama clubs to enter this year's North Lorn Drama Festival.

The 58th North Lorn Drama Festival of one-act plays will be held from March 21 - 23 in Appin Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm each evening.

Entry forms are available from the secretary 01631 730309 or email nlornfestival@btinternet.com.

The closing date for entries is next Tuesday, February 14.

Storm damaged iconic Islay hall to be repaired

A COMMUNITY hall on the Isle of Islay, which had its roof blown off in the New Year storms, is scheduled to be repaired in the next six weeks.

Port Ellen's iconic Ramsay Hall has been closed since the beginning of January when high winds ripped its red roof from the rafters.

Following an inspection by owners Argyll and Bute Council the cost of repair has been estimated at around £65,000.

Work to replace the roof will begin within the next week.

Inveraray to host learning 'awareness' day

LEARNING options for young adults in Argyll and Bute will be the focus of an 'awareness raising event' run by Argyll and Bute Council in Inveraray tomorrow (Friday).

Agencies from across the area will meet to discuss the future delivery and support of the 16+ learning choices strategy.

The council's spokesperson for education and lifelong learning, councillor Ellen Morton, said the aim was 'to give delegates the tools to build, within their organisation, a strong foundation from where they can advise young people about the learning opportunities here in Argyll and Bute.'

The event will take place at the Inveraray Conference Centre and begins at 9.45am.

Talk on 1752 Appin murder

THE 1752 Appin murder of Argyll Factor Colin Campbell is the theme of a talk at the Free Church Hall in Oban tomorrow (Friday). The talk (in English) by Robin Banks is put on by the Comunn Gàidhealach and starts at 7.30pm.

Resurfacing work to cause delays

WORK ON a £145,000 scheme to resurface the A86 between Spean Bridge and Kingussie will get underway on Monday. The works, expected to last until Friday February 24, reduce the road to one lane in places with temporary traffic lights and a convoy system in place. Two narrow sections of the trunk road will be closed for periods of up to 20 minutes at a time. The work will be carried out between 7am and 6pm, Monday-Friday.

A83 campaign steps up pressure

THE CAMPAIGN to have the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful upgraded is stepping up as Transport Scotland finalises its brief for a study of possible remedial works.

Sign up for A83, led by Argyll First, is hoping the news will prompt more signatures on the c-petition before it is handed to ministers next month.

Islay rowing club hosts first AGM

MEMBERS of the newly-formed Islay rowing club discussed their plans for an exciting 2012 at their first Annual General Meeting last week.

With around 21 people attending, officer bearers for the new committee were elected and plans were put in place for the summer's events.

Committee member Bryony MacFarlane said the club was keen to get more young people on Islay involved, and said that anyone of secondary school age was welcome to join or come along for a try.

After the success of last year's Islay Festival of the Sea, when rowers rowed from Port Ellen on Islay to Moville in County Donegal, Ireland, this year's edition promises to be the highlight on the calendar once again.

Argyll and Bute school holidays

SCHOOL holiday dates for the 2013/2014 and 2015/16 academic years were agreed by Argyll and Bute councillors last week.

The dates provide a framework through which teachers' in-service days and local holidays will be incorporated. The dates will now be sent to schools and appropriate authorities to ensure the remaining in-service days are agreed, before they are distributed to all relevant parties.

Argyll and Bute Council's spokeswoman for education and lifelong learning, Councillor Ellen Morton, said: 'I know parents and carers like to know holiday periods well in advance, and I'm pleased that the holiday dates for the two years from August 2013 have now been agreed.'

Politicians pledge to support Barra campaign

POLITICIANS of all colours have now pledged to oppose environmental designations for waters off Barra as campaigners prepare to protest outside the Scottish Parliament.

SHAMED travelled to Holyrood on Wednesday to unveil a banner showing handprints of the island's children in opposition to the proposed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation for the Sound of Barra. Islanders say the move would have a devastating impact

Scottish Government reject Kintyre windfarm planning appeal

IT IS unlikely the company behind a proposed wind farm at Southend, Kintyre, will pursue its interest into the side further after its appeal was quashed.

'Significant loss' Kilchattan Wind Farm submitted a planning application for a development of 16 wind turbines, which was refused in

March last year by Argyll and Bute Council.

The appeal, held at a public hearing in the village in December, was rejected last week. The Scottish Government has rejected the plans for a number of reasons which included because the development would result in a 'significant loss' of visual and residential amenity

for the area, especially for the village of Southend and the surrounding houses.

Disappointed Reporter Jill Moody said in her report the wind farm falls into the adopted local plan as predominantly Very Sensitive Countryside.

'I am satisfied that in this case, the balance in favour does not

outweigh the potential for this extremely sensitive location to suffer unacceptably severe negative effects if the proposed wind farm were to proceed,' she concluded.

Sarah Dooley, Senior Development Manager for Wind Prospect Developments Ltd, which acts as agent for Kilchattan Wind Farm Limited said

the group were understandably disappointed at the outcome of the appeal.

'Throughout the planning process we, along with our expert consultants, considered the site to be suitable for this scale of development,' she told The Courier.

'However, unfortunately we have been unsuccessful in

obtaining planning consent for this particular proposal and whilst we will carefully consider the points made by the Scottish Government Reporter, we are unlikely to pursue further interest in the site.'

She thanked all those in the community who played some part in the development process over the last five years.

Roofer's new home victim of 'cowboy' repairs

A ROOFER who got the keys to a new flat after a year on the homeless list has criticised the housing association owners for carrying out 'cowboy' repairs to the property.

Oban father-of-two Peter Laird claims Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) gave him keys to the top floor property at Colonsay Terrace, Soroba, in 'move-in condition' but upon inspection of his loft space was shocked to find part of the roof missing.

Following a sustained period of rain, water poured through his living room ceiling and there is now evidence of damp in other rooms.

A makeshift repair had been carried out in the form of a polythene sheet, which was tacked to the roof trusses to collect rainwater, before redirecting the water down into the cavity of the wall.

'When I complained, ACHA was hitting me with all this rubbish about the polythene but I know what I'm talking about and if I had done that on a job I would be out of business,' said Peter. 'At the very least, Cowboy Builders would be after me.'

'The polythene didn't even catch a lot of the water and because the ceiling is always damp, there's no point painting or decorating.'

'All I want is for them to fix the leak and I can get other tradesmen in to do the rest.'

'As it stands no-one could be expected to live here, so I am back on my brother's couch. There's certainly no way my kids could stay here.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

To compound Peter's misery, just one storage heater in the flat works.

ACHA has provided temporary heaters and just £5-per-week towards the increased heating bill.

ACHA chief executive Alistair MacGregor told *The Oban Times* there had been no evidence of water ingress prior to allocation of the property.

He added: 'Following the recent spell of inclement weather a temporary internal repair was carried out to the roof area to prevent further water penetrating into the living area.'

'A small water-damaged area of ceiling has been removed and this work is progressing. I understand that Mr Laird has been advised that this property is due to get a new roof as part of ACHA's investment programme and this work will start shortly.'

'As a roofer myself I'm sure Mr Laird will be aware that it is not unusual to carry out a temporary repair as a holding exercise if you intend to replace a roof.'

'I can also advise that Mr Laird's home is about to get re-rendered as well.'

Mr MacGregor also stated quotes had been sought on work to replace the heating system in the property.



Roofer Peter Laird inspects the water damage to his ceiling. 16_106100702

Villages rally round Bonawe bus threat

'I'm delighted by the community's response,' says community council chairman

VILLAGERS in Bonawe came together en masse last week to form a plan to fend off potential cuts to rural bus services.

More than 50 locals squeezed into Ardchattan Primary School for the meeting, prompted after a council leak suggested the 408 Oban-Bonawe service was to be axed as part of budget savings.

While the local authority insist there was and is no plans to cut the service and no plans to discuss it - contrary to the leak - the community has rallied to devise a way to protect the lifeline service.

The meeting was chaired by the convener of Ardchattan Community Council, Iain Mac-

Donald. He said: 'I'm delighted by the community's response to this. I'm really excited about what we can do in future if this is the response.'

Villagers agreed to form a committee to take forward suggestions on how to safeguard public transport links, including the possibility of creating

a community bus service to serve not just Bonawe but the wider community, including Benderloch and Barcaldine. An online survey is to be carried out to assess what the community needs first. The group aim to invite Colin Craig, managing director of West Coast Motors, to a future meeting.

Acharacle teacher nominated for top award

A LOCHABER primary school boss has been nominated for Headteacher of the Year at the annual Scottish Education Awards.

Lyndsay Bradley, who leads Acharacle and Ardour primaries and commutes 26 miles between the two, had 'no clue' she had been put forward.

She said: 'I was embarrassed but honoured that the parents thought I was worthy of it. [The job] has a lot of challenges but it brings a lot of joy. It's absolutely what I've always wanted to do.'

The Scottish Education Awards, established in 2001, recognise achievements made within the Scottish education system by primary, secondary, and nursery schools.

Other categories include teacher of the year, entrepreneurial learning award, lifetime achievement and educational supporter of the year.

Previous winners include Keills Primary School on Islay, which won the numeracy across learning award last year. Nominations close on March 2. The awards ceremony will be held on June 12.



Nominated: Ardour and Acharacle head teacher Lyndsay Bradley

Drink driver ordered to work

A WOMAN who was driving while so drunk she swerved into oncoming traffic has been told she must complete 240 hours of unpaid work as part of her punishment.

Charlene MacDonald, 26, also forgot to turn on her car lights 'through her state of drink', Oban Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday. MacDonald, currently residing at Ledaig Caravan Park, has been banned from driving for four years and must attend addiction services as part of her Community Payback Order (CPO). Her defence Agent Sandy Mitchell said: 'She is appalled at her actions.'

Sentencing MacDonald, Sheriff Small said: 'It is with great hesitation I have decided not to send you to Cornton Vale.'

MacDonald had previously pled guilty to failing to stop for police on December 3, continued to drive despite losing a tyre and drove over a spiked stop strip and continued to drive while the tyres were deflated.

She also failed to provide breath specimens when requested by police.

Oban paedophile jailed for 632 days

A PAEDOPHILE jailed this week for having 276 indecent images of children on his computer claimed he found them on an abandoned computer.

Ian Kirkpatrick, 50, was on Tuesday ordered to serve 632 days behind bars, backdated to October 3 2011, after admitting hoarding indecent images of children.

In addition to having 276 images of children and 17 pieces of film footage, Kirkpatrick admitted using a hidden camera in the bathroom to take 186 images and 11 videos of four people - three of teenagers and one of a woman.

In mitigation, defence agent, Eddie Thornton, said: 'Mr Kirkpatrick is something of a computer buff. He builds computers and regularly visits amenity disposal sites and effectively 'cannibalises' computer equipment.'

'The cache of pornographic material, although accepting he was in possession of them, was found there.'

'With regards to the photographs he took, he has repeatedly denied any form of sexual gratification. He accepts that that may be difficult for people to accept.'

Sentencing Kirkpatrick, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'The offences to which you have pled guilty are serious offences and distasteful.'

Kirkpatrick was placed on the Sex Offenders' register for 10 years, backdated to his guilty plea on December 21 last year, and he will be unable to work with people under the age of 18 in future.

On his release, Kirkpatrick will be on licence for one year.

Landfill staff take first steps towards strike action

STAFF at Shanks' landfill sites across Argyll and Bute are planning to escalate strike action after walking out for two hours on Monday.

Members are currently being consulted on the possibility of whole day strikes as the latest round of talks over pay and conditions between the GMB and Unite unions and Shanks broke down.

Staff are unhappy at a proposed significant cut to sick pay entitlement and a one per cent pay increase offer over three years.

While people were allowed entry into Shanks' sites, including Oban's amenity centre at Moleigh, council staff would be unable to work or unload bin lorries there, as they would not be covered by health and safety legislation.

A full day closure would result in significantly more disruption.

Alex McClucky, of the GMB Union, said: 'Shanks made a minimal change to their offer and it didn't address our members' concerns.'

'We'll now be looking to escalate strike action over the coming weeks and months.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Until we have notification of any strike action we cannot comment.'

Home improvements to face new rules

HOME alterations will be easier in future following new rules introduced by the Scottish Government.

Argyll and Bute Council welcomed the changes, which are designed to reduce the number of planning applications received by councils.

Chair of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee Councillor Daniel Kelly said: 'These new rules mean that smaller projects like sheds, extensions and garages are unlikely to need planning permission. However, if you live in a conservation area or in a listed building you may still need to apply for permission.'

'If you are in any doubt you can always check with the council's planning department who will be happy to help you.'

Lack of court time delays scheduled alleged assault cases at Fort William Sheriff Court

TWO TRIALS due to be heard at Fort William Sheriff Court last week were postponed due to a lack of court time.

Lee Murray, of 72 Glenkingie Street, Caol, is accused of assault-

ing his then-girlfriend. The alleged incidents happened between November 7 and 10.

The 24-year-old will now stand trial on March 29.

Meanwhile, William Plunkett

and his father Ronald, both of 56 Lochaber Road, Fort William are now due to stand trial on February 28 accused of carrying out a racially motivated attack on a man in Ballachulish.

William, 26, denies assaulting the man on October 31.

Ronald Plunkett, 57, denies making a racially aggravated comment to the same man during the incident.

Mull eagle case appeal thrown out

WILDLIFE photographers who disturbed a sea eagle nest on the Isle of Mull have failed in a bid to have their conviction overturned.

Yuli Panayotov, 32, from London, and 36 year old Ivalyo Takev, from Norwich, were fined £1,100 at Oban Sheriff Court last year after being found guilty of disturbing the nests of the rare white-tailed eagles at Killiechranon, Mull, on May 1, 2010.

The pair had lodged an appeal on grounds that they did not have a fair trial, alleging their defence team did not call in expert witnesses to counter Crown evidence.

At the Judiciary Appeal court in Ed-

inburgh last week, Lord Carloway ruled that the appeal was without 'substantial merit'.

He said: 'All that the [appeal] says is that there was no evidence led from an expert about certain matters of ornithological possibility. There is no statement that such evidence from an expert actually exists.'

'There is no statement that this was part of the defence to be advanced by either applicant.'

Lord Carloway also pointed out that there was no indication that the convicted pair's instructions were disregarded by their solicitors or that their defence was incompetent.

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Wednesday 22nd February, Hunters Quay Dunoon, 11.30am-2pm

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theCHPshop This day is aimed at those with large heating demands for large private and public buildings (not for single domestic dwellings)

If you would like to attend this event please contact Louise McMillan on 01397 706412 or email louise.mcmillan@hwenergy.co.uk

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Soroba residents unite in rejecting ACHA roughcasting proposals

SOROKA residents, both homeowners and tenants, have united to reject Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) existing proposals to repair the scheme's crumbling roughcasting.

ACHA wants private homeowners in the area to contribute between £18,200 and £18,000 on average to its £1.1million roughcasting repair scheme, with many of the walls in the scheme deteriorating on an almost daily basis.

However, there is widespread acceptance that the bill is unrealistic, with many pointing out that the sum is equal to more than a quarter the value of many of the homes there.

Some have suggested that the previous owners, Argyll and Bute Council, should pay for the work, seeing as it was under their charge the botched roughcasting was applied.

Others believe ACHA should pay for all the work and should have been planning for the repair since it took over the scheme in 2008.

Reaction
The reaction from residents comes after ACHA's chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, said it was considering statutory orders to force private residents to pay for the work.

Two residents at McCaig Road showed *The Oban Times* mould that has been growing in their homes, caused by the damp seeping in through the walls. One had to move her young child from the room because it was so cold, while the other says her health is being affected by spores from mould constantly growing behind her bed.

Highland calls for extra £2 million for road repairs

THE CHAIRMAN of Highland Council's TEC Services committee will ask for an additional £2million to be spent on road repairs in the next year at a meeting in Inverness today (Thursday).

Councillor John Laing said the extra funding would be used to address damage caused to roads by very low temperatures of the past winter periods.

He said: 'The additional funding will be targeted at carrying out structural road repairs and increasing the level of drainage maintenance, and we will be employing local contractors to supplement our own workforce.'

'The additional funding is very welcome, and while we have seen an overall reduction in the staffing level across TEC Services, this has been achieved through natural wastage and we have managed to protect the number of staff employed on front line services such as winter maintenance service and road repairs.'

Kinlochleven man admits throwing rock at window

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has narrowly escaped jail after throwing a rock through the window of a house of a woman he had at one time been romantically involved with.

Nicholas Egan, 8 Lochaber Road, pled guilty to recklessly damaging the window, causing an estimated £165 of damage on January 6.

The 52-year-old also pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner.

Egan also admitted sending the woman a blank text on January 12 despite bail conditions banning him from contacting her.

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced Egan to 140 hours unpaid work and ordered him to stay away from the victim, saying: 'I could quite easily send you to prison for this.'

'Put an end to this behaviour.'

BID4Oban results to come at evening reception

BUSINESSES in Oban will soon know the results of a survey by BID4Oban.

The town-centre development group has revealed it had a 46 per cent return of questionnaires but are keeping the news of the results for an event next Thursday, February 16 at 6pm in Cuan Mor.

Graham MacQueen, chairman of the BID4Oban steering group, said: 'The event will showcase the results of the survey and give an opportunity for discussion. While we are very pleased with the results and can see where to go next - we are waiting until this evening reception to tell businesses in the town the result.'

Pauline Cameron, project co-ordinator, added: 'I would like to thank everyone for taking part and filling out surveys and giving some great feedback.'

'All are welcome to event in Cuan Mor. The evening will include a talk from Diageo on the future of the Oban Malt and a whisky tasting.'

Pair left in a hurry without paying for their curry

TWO Caol people accused of trying to leave a Fort William restaurant without paying for their meal are due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court March 29.

Appearing from custody, Stuart Lawrie, aged 21, of 22 Glenpane Street and Carol Lawrie, aged 25, of 20 Camaghael Road pled not guilty to trying to leave Spice Tandoori without paying their £46.20 bill on February 1.

Ms Lawrie also denies assaulting a police constable by kicking her on the leg and spitting on her during the alleged incident.



Officers acting on information received from the public begin to gain entry to homes during drugs raids in Campbeltown last week.

Kintyre drug raids net two

Campbeltown police team swift to act on tip-off from concerned community

TWO MEN were arrested following raids and subsequent searches of five houses in Campbeltown last week.

Quantities of drugs were seized by officers from the Criminal Investigation Department, Dog Branch and the local Community Policing Team during the intelligence-led operation last week.

As a result of the operation, drugs were seized in two of the houses and a number of people detained under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Strathclyde Police Inspector Tom Harper at Campbeltown said the illegal use of drugs continues to be one of the areas identified by the local community as giving greatest concern.

'For that reason it remains as one of our very high priorities and we continually and actively seek intelligence or information from our community in order to tackle the individuals who deal in, or use, illicit drugs,' explained Inspector Harper.

'Our aim of keeping people safe is dependent on people giving us information about those who cause concern in our communities.'

He said the operation was an excellent example of the good results that could be achieved when police are provided with this sort of intelligence.

'I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who were concerned enough to contact us and urge anyone with information about drug misuse to speak to one of your local Community Team Officers or telephone Campbeltown Police Office on 01586 862200.'

Alternatively information can be given to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or online. Information is treated in the strictest confidence and can be left anonymously.



Several people were detained as a result of searches carried out at five addresses within Campbeltown. Pictures - Kevin McGlynn

£142,000 grant to aid wood fuel venture and campsite at Strathmashie

Enterprise Growth Fund - 'shows a real confidence in the community of Laggan'

LAGGAN Forest Trust (LFT) is drawing up plans for a new wood fuel business, a trail building company and a campsite for Strathmashie Forest after being awarded a £142,000 grant by the Scottish Government.

The grant was awarded through the Enterprise Growth Fund, a scheme set up to assist social enterprises, and LFT also plans to use the money to help improve high-speed broadband internet connection for the surrounding area.

Development manager Robin Jackson told *The Oban Times*: 'We are delighted that the Enterprise Growth Fund has chosen to make this award. This new grant to related social enterprises in the Laggan area shows a real vote of confidence by The Scottish Government in the community of Laggan.'

He continued: 'This support will provide us with the opportunity to make a real difference and achieve ambitions expressed by the community, creating real jobs.'

The new projects will run alongside LFT existing efforts to create a visitor centre in the woodland. The group plans to hold a public meeting to inform local people about plans for the



LFT board of directors chair Davy Roberts and development manager Robin Jackson shake hands on the funding deal at Strathmashie Forest.

new projects, as well as update them on the visitor centre. Enterprise Growth Fund administrator Diane Greenlees said: 'Laggan Forest Trust will contribute greatly to the Scottish economy and make a positive difference to the lives of the individuals and communities in the area.'

Laggan Forest Trust's Board of Directors chairman Davy Campbell said: 'In making this award, the Scottish Government clearly shows they consider the community of Laggan has great potential as a sustainable location for businesses and as a holiday destination.'

LFT owns three parts of the forest and manages the rest after Laggan became one of the first communities in Scotland to enter into an ownership agreement with the Forestry Commission in 1998.

£185,000 road resurfacing project for Strone Hill

AS PRESSURE builds on the trunk roads authority to improve road safety at the Surgery Junction in Dalnally, resources are being readied to upgrade the nearby Strone Hill.

From February 20 there will be a £185,000 resurfacing project over a 1.1-kilometre stretch of the accident blackspot, including improved skid resistance, signage and an easing of the gradient on each bend.

The work will be carried out Monday to Friday over two weeks, between the hours of 7am and 6pm. A 10mph convoy will be set up but no closures will be necessary.

Scotland Transerv engineer Liam Black told residents at a recent meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council the improvements would reduce the number of road accidents there.

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has passed on concerns over the Surgery Junction to Transport Minister Keith Brown.

The MSP presented a 240-signature petition to Mr Brown, highlighting the community's frustration at overtaking manoeuvres at the new junction.

Laggan drink drive crash leads to four-year ban

A DUNDEE man who crashed his vehicle into a fence outside a house at South Laggan while drunk has been banned from driving for four years and fined £600 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Stuart Parkin, of 1 Fraser Street, Dundee, admitted driving while twice the legal alcohol limit on the A82 near the village at around 12pm on January 6.

The 62-year-old also admitted failing to give his details to the owner of the house after the incident.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose told the court that Parkin had been working in the Fort Augustus area and was driving home when he lost control of his car.

Mr Melrose added: 'He had been drinking the night before and into the early hours of the morning.'

Man who threw girlfriend's shoe at her ordered to behave by sheriff

A MAN who threw a shoe at his partner during a drunken row in Fort William has had his sentencing deferred for nine months for good behaviour.

Robert Smith, of flat 22, 41 Dorchester Avenue, Kelvingrove, Glasgow admitted picking up her shoe, which had fallen off during a scuffle, and throwing it at her.

Smith, aged 23, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on Fassifern Road on January 8.

Taynuilt whist raises funds for PTA

A WHIST drive held in Taynuilt Village Hall with card master Leslie Servant on Friday, January 27 raised £126.00 for Taynuilt Parent Teachers Association.

Gents: 1st Florence Anderson, 2nd Brenda MacLean, 3rd Roanne Lilley, 4th Hector MacKenzie. The consolation prize went to Emily Hunter.

Ladies: 1st Andrea Harris, 2nd Jane McCracken, 3rd Margaret Forbes, 4th Marina MacInnes. Sophie Carswell picked up the consolation prize.

The next whist will be on Friday, February 17.



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How the competition works

This year it is up to you, our readers, to vote for who you think should win the title of The Oban Times' 'Bonniest Baby' and £500 worth of shopping vouchers to

spend at The Co-operative! We will publish a selection of Bonnie Babies each week of the competition, between now and early spring. At the end, the babies with the

most votes from each week will qualify for our grand finale. All finalists will then feature in The Oban Times for one last time, again for public vote. The baby with

the most votes will then be crowned The Oban Times' 2012's bonniest! For rules and terms and conditions, visit www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.

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001

Jack Steven Groom
 5 months Taynuilt

002

Matthew Duncan Cameron
 7 months Oban

003

Evie Rose Wardle
 2 months Oban

004

Levi Colin Armour
 13 months Oban

005

Helen Melanie James
 4 months Oban

006

Archie Morrison
 7 months Oban

007

Matilda Service
 19 months Fort William

008

Freya Nicolson
 8 months Kinlochleven

009

Christopher Gemmill
 32 months Oban

010

Aida Matijaskaite
 13 months Oban

011

Brooklyn Young
 13 months Ballachulish

012

Caragh Mackay
 11 months Lochgilphead

013

Joel Law
 8 months Campbeltown

014

Jayden McQueen
 25 months Isle of Mull

015

Kyle Sharman
 26 months Mallaig

016

Peyton McMullan
 8 months Inveraray

017

Lucy Rogers
 27 months Rutherglen

018

Emily Bria Nicol
 3 months Oban

Vote for this week's finalist!

How to vote

Readers can vote for their favourite baby by text or by post, using the coupon provided on this page. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like until we announce the closing date to register your votes. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting.

By text:

To vote by text, text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the child's photograph to **88010**.

Text messages cost **£1** plus one message at standard network rate. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.

By coupon:

Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.



Example text.
DON'T FORGET TO PUT IN A SPACE.

019

Eoghan Bain
 3 months Kilmichael Glassary

020

Calvin Symmers
 21 months Fort William

021

Bailey Symmers
 4 months Fort William

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*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.

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Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The deadline to receive votes will be announced in a future issue and on The Oban Times website. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk.

ISLAY

THIS year, Feis Bheag for younger children has been extended to run every day in parallel with the main Feis Oigridh Ile agus Dhiura for children aged eight to 18. Feis Bheag is designed for children from pre-school to seven years old, to introduce them to traditional music and Gaelic song in a fun environment. Feis Bheag is entirely funded by Iomairt Ghàidhlig Ile is Dhiura. The Feis activities are wonderful opportunities for children. Please support them and come and see them perform on Friday, February 17 at 7pm in ICCI. Intending pupils for any of the Feis events: please ensure you have registered to secure your place: email Info@FOID.org.uk

DOG TRAINING

has resumed in Islay Service Point, for new pupils, and in Bowmore Village Hall, for previous class members.

The current session began last Thursday and classes will be held weekly.

If you would like to bring your dog to classes for the first time, please get in touch with Peggy on 840648 for details.

No dogs are allowed in training classes without a current vaccination certificate.

BRIDGE OF ORCHY

TACKLING Bridge of Orchy's long-running water problems was due to be the subject of a residents' meeting in the village on Monday.

Since 2010 villagers have been in a battle with Argyll and Bute Council over its responsibility to provide a clean water supply for the village.

The council has argued that after the closure of the last public building - the primary school - it now falls to the residents to pay for the upkeep of a clean water resource for themselves.

Villagers were due to discuss whether forming a community trust is the best way forward.

TARBERT

TARBERT Academy Folk Group took to the big time with a performance at the Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow.

The group, comprising Lucy Kemp Smith, Emma Kok, Emma McFarlane, Niamh MacKaveny and Hannah Prill, played to an audience of 350 at the Royal Concert Hall.

Their curtain-closing set was broadcast live on Celtic Music Radio and anyone interested can listen to an interview with the girls at <http://canstream.co.uk/celticmusic>.



Members of Pix in the Stix on their recent visit to Lismore.

CONGRATULATIONS to Brona and Peter MacDougall of Tirfiru on the birth of their son, Cormac Sean MacDougall, who arrived on December 31.

ISLANDERS enjoyed a Burn's supper hosted and catered by Beth Campbell in Lismore Hall.

Barbara McDougall led the Selkirk grace and Tom Campbell Paine piped in the haggis which was then addressed by Jack Scorgie from Appin. Freda Drysdale gave her very engaging rendition of 'Tam o' Shanter and Sarah Campbell sang my Love is like a Red Red Rose. Throughout the evening Colin Black entertained, singing and playing his guitar. Congratulations to Tom and Colin - both Oban High School pupils - for their musical contribution to the evening and to Beth for delicious food.

LISMORE

PIX IN the Stix is a lively group from East Lothian dedicated to bringing the magic of cinema to rural communities.

Their work has been so successful that they won the British Federation of Film Society Award for best new Film Society in 2011 and now they plan to bring their enthusiasm and expertise to the island for a weekend in June as part of their rural cinema exchange project.

The idea was born when Suzie Queripel, secretary, who has been coming to Lismore since she was a child - her mother is a Campbell from the Ballinmackilican family - was chatting to various locals about their work in East Linton and Tynninghame.

Now, following discussions with a sub group of the hall committee, Pix in the Stix will visit from June 1 to 3 complete with groups and families and, not only make a film with locals about community cinema, but also run a workshop about how to run your own cinema, show a variety of films to a variety of audiences and with the help of the hall committee put on a music, food and dance evening in the hall on the Saturday.

In September Lismore people will be invited to Tynninghame Hall for the premiere of the community film and another celebration of community cinema and music.

If you would like to get involved or have suggestions for possible films you can read all about them on www.pixinthestix.co.uk or contact a hall committee member.

LOCHYSIDE



Feast rounds off Roman class project

Youngsters from Lochyside RC primary School got into the 'Roman' spirit for a class feast at the school recently. The day rounded off the P5/6 pupils' class project on Romans.

GLENCOE AND DUROR



Primary pupils take to the ski slopes

Fifteen pupils from Glencoe and Duror Primary schools recently completed a four-day ski-ing course at Glencoe Mountain Resort.

NETHER LOCHABER



Country dance club members rewarded

Youngsters from Nether Lochaber Country Dance Club were recently awarded certificates for their achievements, with five dancers passing with distinction. The prizes were presented at the club's annual Christmas dance at the Onich Hotel. Three of the girls were given passes, with a further 18 gaining passes with credit. The dancers are now practising for the upcoming music festivals in Inverness and in Lochaber.

KILLIN

CEILIDH dancing fans will have the chance to perfect their dashing white sergeants and eight-some reels in classes being run in the big shed at Tombrek farm near Killin. The next class is on Thursday February 9 from 8-9pm.

PLANNING permission has been granted for the Killin Community Council Bio Mass Project.

The excess heat that will be created is to be put to good use for the community and should create extra employment. It will cost approximately £20m to build the project with a time scale of about 20 months. Access to the National Grid should be available next year. The project has a lifespan of 40 years and money will be put aside for de-commissioning purposes. A meeting was proposed with KAT Eak and the Big Shed to discuss a community project that will make use of the excess heat. Road maintenance: Ardeonaig Road not to be fixed until next year. Trees are to be cut at the golf course and open in due course. Trees opposite the ambulance station are to be trimmed.

A street lamp at the ambulance depot not working has been reported. Sign at Riverview to be cleaned. Work has started on the Dochart and Lochay Bridges.

Playpark: £1,047 has been awarded from the Community Pride fund. Breadalbane Forum: Les Goodfellow is helping with the ideas of the Community Forum for the village maintenance strategy.

Cemetery: Vastly improved and the moles have been reported. Costcutter site: Stirling Council have purchased the site and 12 units are to be built. Tony Cain to be asked to the next meeting Community Futures: Community Action Plan is complete.

Old Mill: A meeting will be held to discuss next move. The Healing Stones are now in the church. Artefacts are to be stored in local homes. Brown Breadalbane Folklore Signs will have to be removed. Turning circle: All the kerbs are destroyed as lorries and buses keep hitting them. Fireworks insurance: Community council to pay. Stirling: There is a choice between 'Steadfast as the Rock' and 'Heid High and Gang Forrit' for the motto at the site of the Battle of Bannockburn in 2014 involving all schools in the Stirling Council and Clackmannan Council.

Winter maintenance: £100,000 spent on capital, outwith grit, six pavement spreaders, 20 snowploughs for farmers, two tractors maintained spreaders, 14 pavement blowers, four for

community use, and 500 snow shovels. The job of clearing snow would be much easier if everyone took responsibility for their own area.

TWENTY three Duke of Edinburgh participants from McLaren High School have gone on their gruelling qualifying expedition.

Each group started at Ledcharrie Farm near Killin then walked up through Kirkton Glen to Balquhider and on to Immeroin Farm where they camped for the night.

The next day they headed off to Glen Finglas and finally their destination at Brig O Turk. The groups experienced all types of weather but they all managed successfully to complete their expeditions. Seven S5 pupils have completed their silver canoe training and have also gone on their practice expedition to Loch Tay. A further nine pupils recently took part in their silver walking expedition from Crianlarich to Corruir and then walking from there to Kinlochlaggan.

Charity Event: McLaren High School Charities Committee would like to thank staff and pupils for their donations during the charity event. £1,140.95 was raised.

Half of the money went to Macmillan Cancer. The other half will help to fund former pupils Sean, Neil and Darren Ferrier's trek across the Sahara Desert, which they are undertaking to raise money for the Cardiomyopathy Association in memory of their brother Callum. Bracklinn secured more points by winning the bake off. The winner of the 'Keepy Uppy' challenge was Calum Wylie, S5.

European Day of Languages: McLaren High celebrated the European day of Languages with a series of events. Thanks are due to the following pupils who read the daily announcements over the tannoy system: Laura MacDougall, Spanish; Maya Capbell, Japanese; and Marina MacLaren, Ukrainian.

Thanks are also due to the pupils who helped to teach the teachers a foreign language and the team in the cafeteria who prepared snacks from different European countries.

Annual former pupils re-union: This was attended by former pupils from all over the UK. McLaren High School PTA: The PTA would like to thank the parents and staff who donated bottles and baking and bought raffle tickets for the Kindle. The sum raised was £660.

Parent Council Recruitment Drive: The numbers are now better. If anyone is interested contact Janet Al-Asadi email joe@blairhill.fsnet.co.uk. Wheelbarrow Challenge: Thanks are due to all pupils and staff who took part in the wheelbarrow challenge during Sports Day. Congratulations to the winner Omar Al-Asadi and Rory Wilson.

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GLENGARRY

GLENGARRY and District Community Hall's successful Burns Night supper and ceilidh dance saw award-winning Roy Bridge piper Sandy Cameron play a selection of songs with his brother Finlay. After being piped in by Sandy, the haggis was addressed by Alex Sandilands, followed by Molly Veitch's Selkirk Grace. After the meal John Durning recited a Burns' Poem and the Toast to the Lassies was given local MSP Dave Thompson, which was replied to by local lass Ann Stewart. A ceilidh followed with music from Andrew MacDonald's Dance Band and a selection of Burns' songs from Fiona MacCormack.

LOCHEARNHEAD

LOCHEARNHEAD Scout Station is looking to get in touch with people who attended its opening in 1962 as part of its 50th anniversary celebration in August. The two-week event will include hiking, sailing, mountain biking and overnight camping. The station is also looking for explorers and leaders to take part. Anyone interested in attending can find out more on the station's website at lochearnheadscoutstation.org.uk.

KENMORE

PUPILS from Kenmore Primary School will participate in the Perth and Kinross Cross Country Championships on Monday February 13. The event, for children in P6 and P7, will take place at Perth Racecourse.

BALLACHULISH

ST BRIDE'S Primary pupils recently visited Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall to watch Manran perform at the Celtic Connections festival. P4-P7 youngsters from the Ballachulish school set off at the crack of dawn to watch the band, which includes Lochaber's Gary Innes.

Head teacher Susan Kemp said: 'Our pupils all regard this annual trip as one of the highlights of the school year. Over the years we have seen some great performances but Manran would be hard to beat.'

Around the Rurals

Oban

JANUARY saw two meetings for members of Oban SWRI. On January 24, Karen Mackay demonstrated how to make paper flowers, under the close scrutiny of a Herald journalist and photographer, who were writing a feature on members Sally Weaser and Lyndsay Elliott.

A photoshoot and interview were held earlier in the day, at Oban's CalMac Pier and at McCaig's Tower.

On January 31, Dr David Hughes from the Scottish Marine Institute gave an informative presentation on the 'Undersea Life of Loch Creran' and brought examples of tube worms and green spoon worms.

Interesting facts included there were once polar bears in Scotland, and there are over 8,500 known plants and animals in Scottish waters.

Loch Creran has been a marine special area of conservation since 2005 and in 2007 scallop dredging was banned to preserve the coral reefs.

As Norwegian lobsters reside in the mud flats, prawn trawling is still allowed although only one boat regularly uses the loch.

Dr Hughes invited everyone to attend the May Festival of the Sea.

In the monthly competition, golds were awarded to Jenny Moody's knitted summer top and Ann Malloch's Border tart.

Kilbrandon

PRESIDENT Linda Brown wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the January meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held in Seil Island Hall.

Linda then welcomed Jean Campbell, who gave a fascinating insight into the work of the Children's Panel.

Jean pointed out that it was particularly appropriate to give such a talk to Kilbrandon SWRI, since it was Lord Kilbrandon who had chaired a committee set up in 1960 to investigate the way society dealt with children and young people in trouble or at risk.

As a result of the findings of that committee, the Children's Hearings System was established as part of the Juvenile Justice System in Scotland.

Jean explained that the hearings are based on the principle that the welfare of

the child is paramount, that the child's views must be sought, and that a policy of minimum intervention is followed.

Of the cases heard, 75 per cent relate to issues of care and protection and 25 per cent relate to juvenile offending.

Betty Clark thanked Jean for such an interesting talk.

Arisaig

NINE members of Arisaig SWRI met on January 19 when Carol Duncan gave an interesting talk and demonstration of various squashes and fusions.

Competition: Nicest wine glass - 1 June Cairns; 2 Vera MacDonald; 3 Rose MacEachen. Design a wine label - 1 Margaret MacEachen; 2 Vera MacDonald; 3 June Cairns.

The raffle was won by June Cairns and tea was served by Margaret MacEachen.

Killin

AT THE first meeting of the winter visitors and members were welcomed.

The speaker was Dr Mairi MacColl who gave a memorable talk on her life in Killin. At the end of the month Killin hosted the Breadalbane Group Meeting.

Members from Dull, Ardeonaig, Amulree, Comrie and Fearnan were present. The evening was hosted by Group President Charlotte Smith from Dull and District.

The speaker for the evening was Allan Stewart, a retired Police Wildlife Protection Officer from Tayside Police. There was a large number of entries for the competitions.

A wonderful picture of puffins in Shetland entered by Kay Riddell won the wildlife entry.

The following week there was an excellent attendance to hear May Nicholson of the Preshal Trust. This charity was set up by May nine years ago in Linthouse, Glasgow, to help people suffering social exclusion through poverty, drug and alcohol addiction, low literacy and low self-esteem.

There is to be a timed food collection for Preshal Trust and any contributions would be very welcome. Competitions: Pot of Jam - Margaret Galloway. Local photograph - Cathy Reid. Flask of soup - carrot - Jane Anderson. Pennies in a matchbox, donated to the Preshal Trust, Margaret Galloway.

CALLANDER

A PUBLIC toilet in Callander has won a coveted title in the Loo of the Year Awards, a competition which has been hunting out the best and worst facilities in the UK since 1987.

The Station Road loos were visited in September last year by a Loo of the Year inspector whose impression was favourable enough to gain victory in

the 'away from home' category and result in a National 5 star grade status for 2012.

Scott Farmer from Stirling Council praised the staff who maintain the toilets, saying: 'The team do an outstanding job to keep our public toilets clean and welcoming for the many visitors and tourists who come to Callander each year.'

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Encouraging local picture emerging

LAST week, a wave of encouragement swept over the community of Bonawe as it planned on enhancing its rural bus service, despite the threat of cuts.

That wave, it seems, has carried over as far as Oban, with two terrific pieces of news for the town; the saving of Oban Marina on Kerrera and a much deserved win for Rona Wilkie at Celtic Connections, who was named BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year.

This week we also hear of 'encouraging' gold prospecting results at Glen Orchy by Scotgold Resources, while The Scottish Salmon Company promises to create more than 100 jobs across the west coast over the next five years.

While these last two announcements may be source for as much debate as they are celebration, this wave of local enthusiasm is more than welcome.

As far as signs of reassurance go, little can be more satisfying than sourcing them from your own locality.

GLASGOW LETTER

Oban success at Celtic Connections

A HIGHLIGHT of the final day of Celtic Connections since 2001 has been the final of BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year and 2012 proved to be no different with the honour this year going to Rona Wilkie of Oban.

Listed on the programme for fiddle and song, Rona had to make a late change as she lost her voice but accompanied by her own band she saw off the challenge from three other fiddle playing finalists, Katie Boyle and Roisin Anne Hughes, both from Glasgow, and Catriona Price, Orkney, as well as from singers Alistair Ogilvy, Strathblane, and Kirsty Watt, Lewis.

Rona can now look forward to enjoying the many musical opportunities which accompany success in this high profile competition.

In addition Rona, as part of a duo with Marit Fait from Scandinavia, was a winner of one of the Danny Kyle Open Stage Awards 2012.

While the judges deliberated, the audience at the final was treated to several sets of tunes from Kristan Harvey and her band 'The Sanna' who secured a nomination in the 'Best Up and Coming category' at the 2011 MG Alba Scots Traditional Music Awards. During 2012, all the finalists, together with last year's winner, will go on tour.

Skipinnish sell-out

IF, SO far, this column has highlighted promising young musicians the sell-out Skipinnish and Friends concert in the Strathclyde Suite was surely an illustration of how to make success in a musical career.

While much of the Skipinnish brand may today be directed towards their business enterprises, this concert showed that the ability to entertain is core to all they have achieved. Skipinnish concerts always have surprises and the first of these was the treat of listening to the youngsters who spent last summer providing the entertainment in the Ceilidh Houses.

Accompanied by Rachel Walker they were terrific and a superb warm-up for the Skipinnish Band which on this occasion was augmented by Alan Henderson and Duncan Nicolson as well as some of the earlier mentioned youngsters. The programme included the whole range of traditional music, some of the old favourite songs and some newer compositions together with a variety of sets of tunes, from beautifully played slow airs to fast jigs and reels and all while modelling the latest west coast musician's attire - the second surprise - boiler suits and wellies! If concerts are to be fun this evening had it all with the audience totally enthralled by the music and the 'cratic' from and on the stage. Maybe the next Skipinnish Ceilidh House will be in Glasgow!

During the concert it was intimated that the band will soon be recruiting young musicians for next summer's

programme and if you have the ability and the stamina for a 12 week programme, they will be pleased to hear from you.

Mull and Iona Association

THE MULL and Iona Association will be holding its Annual Concert and Dance in Glasgow University Union tomorrow evening (Friday) with the concert starting at 7.30pm and the dance at 10.30pm.

The singers this year will be Alasdair Whyte, Jennifer Campbell and Stuart Jackson and the Mull and Iona Ceilidh Band. The Mull and Iona Pipers will complete the programme. The chairman will be Jim Corbett, Lochbuie. Camus will be the band providing the music for the dance.

Gaels le Cheile

THIS coming Saturday there will be another day bringing together Scottish and Irish culture through language, music and dance at the Glasgow Gaelic Centre on Mansfield Street.

Language classes will start at 10am and then 2pm while the Singing Workshop will start at 2pm with Sineag MacIntyre. In the evening there will be music, song, story and dance with much fun in St Peter's Hall starting at 8pm.

Diary dates

Thursday February 9: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tich Frier.

Friday February 10: Mull and Iona Association Annual Concert and Dance - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday February 11: Paisley and District Highlander's Association Burns Ceilidh, High Parish Church, off Ludovic Square, Johnstone. Stirling branch of An Comunn Ceilidh, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm. Gaels le Cheile - see above.

Wednesday February 15: An Evening of Scottish Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 7.30pm.

Thursday February 16: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jim King.

Friday February 17: Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Mike McGoldrick/John McCusker/John Doyle.

Saturday February 18: Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, James Coutris Trio.

Pub scene

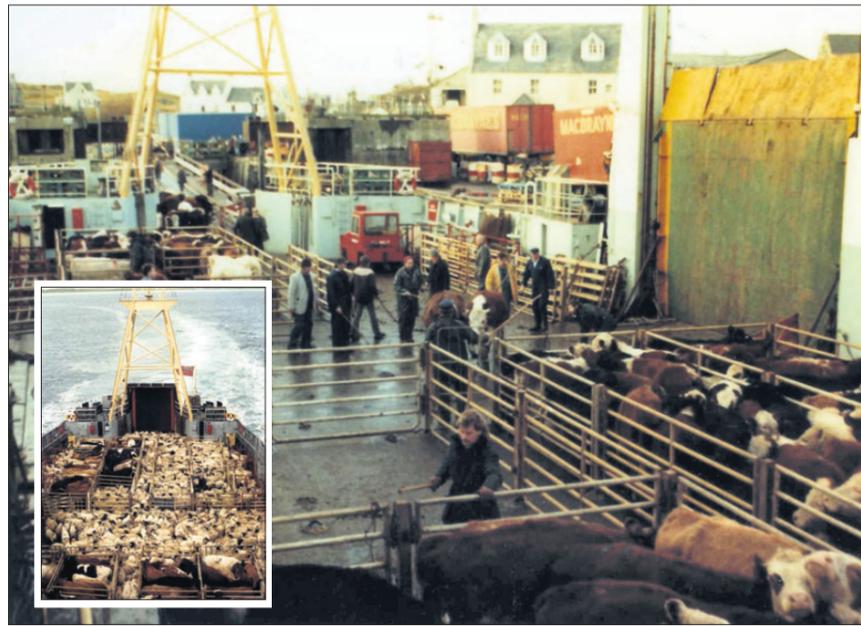
ROBERT Robertson and his Ceilidh Band will play in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday evenings with Calum Iain MacCorquodale playing there on Friday.

In the Ilay Inn it will be Country Folk on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

On Sunday, the Ilay Inn will host the second round of its annual piping competition, compered by Stuart Cassells.

The winners from the previous round were Callum Moffat and Graham Drummond.

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



Livestock travelling to Oban by ferry - 1984

Reader Charlie McCurdy of Hunter's Quay submitted this week's flashback photograph. It shows livestock being loaded onto the pens on Caledonian MacBrayne's *Claymore* ferry in Lochboisdale, South Uist, in 1984. Inset: Leaving Tiree with a full load. In those days the livestock was discharged onto the links in Oban and herded through the streets of Oban to the market - now occupied by Tesco. This could be interesting as the cattle and sheep sometimes had a mind of their own and would end up in gardens and shops. This practice was common until 1989 when the *Lord of the Isles* came into service and from then on all livestock movements were carried in floats to and from the islands. 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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www.obantimes.co.uk

A waste of money on consultants

Sir, Instead of trying to shift the blame from one another, our local councillors should explain why they have spent over a million pounds on consultants for the CHORD project and why Oban has seen nothing happen in the last five years?

A total of £600,000 has gone on surveys for the development road, so when many local tradesmen are struggling for work and shops are closing what are they doing?

The business case for this latest project at the pier has still to be proven, so will this be another fancy plan that will never materialise. Just imagine what our building industry could do with the money that is being wasted on consultants. New representation in the council elections in May would expose all the mismanagement and jobs that are not needed which drain valuable resources away from our communities and residents.

No economic benefit for Oban

Sir, I am disappointed and shocked to hear that the Executive Committee of Argyll and Bute Council has approved spending £1.84m of borrowed money through the beleaguered CHORD project.

The aim of the CHORD project was to assist regeneration and economic development in five of Argyll and Bute's waterfront towns - Campbelltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon - hence CHORD. The proposals approved by the Executive Committee include a new pontoon for visiting cruise ships' tenders, reconfiguration of traffic management at Oban High School and a transport hub at the railway pier/station.

Visiting cruise ship tenders already successfully use the existing *The Oban Times* slip. Traffic tailbacks in the morning and evenings at Oban High School but only for a few minutes each day. Leaving earlier or walking would alleviate this. The transport hub talks of spending a lot of money to achieve very little extra.

Councillors who voted this through should explain to their constituents how these projects will assist regeneration and economic development in Oban.

There is no direct or indirect economic benefit to be derived from these projects to help pay back the money being borrowed. The loan repayments will have to be met from the annual budget which in turn, will only lead to savings from existing services. Surely our children's

education and the care of elderly are more deserving causes than an unnecessary pontoon and reconfiguration of roads?

These same councillors from the Council Executive have previously voted for school closures to make budget savings. Surely I am not alone in wondering how, in these financially difficult times, they feel comfortable proposing school closures to save money and then borrow money for a pontoon? I would like to see the business case that makes the financial case for borrowing such a large sum of public money.

Bus service not a luxury

Sir, There is no question we are living in financially challenging times but how can we justify cutting essential services for those who depend on them to continue with normal daily life?

The loss of the 6.45pm service from Oban and, outside of school term time, the loss of the early morning service from Bonawe, will throw local residents out of jobs because they will be unable to get to and from work.

Assurances have been made that high school pupils who live in Bonawe will be provided with bus services, but only if they travel at the beginning and end of the school day. As a result those pupils will be excluded from any after school activities, not only recreational activities, but also supported study sessions. What of those residents who simply need to get to the shops or to medical appointments?

The bus route does not only service Bonawe. We live in North Connell and both of my daughters use this service to and from Saturday jobs.

If we were to think only in terms of money, what would the cost be to the community of isolating Bonawe residents? Benefits would have to be paid to support those people who want to work, but have just had the means taken from them.

The increased healthcare costs that go with loss of self reliance, sense of purpose, hope and an increased dependency.

The cost of special transport to get people to and from essential appointments.

The loss of revenue that those people, currently in employment and travelling regularly in the area, spend in the local economy.

The non viable nature of the proposed ACHA development in an isolated village.

This bus service is not a luxury. It is already a skeletal service. The only way to attract people onto public transport is to make it more useful, not useless.

Andrew Pallas.

Don't axe rural bus service

Sir, The 408 bus service which runs from Bonawe to Oban and back is a lifeline service for a wide range of people and must not be cut.

There are many people who live along the 408 route who need the service to get to and from work. Without the bus many will need to stop working which will place a greater need on the benefits system.

There are people who use the service to go into Oban to do their shopping which is an essential for anyone. There are people who use the service to visit friends and family, those who use it to attend after school activities and those who need it for medical appointments.

It was stated during the recent council Ardchattan Primary School closure proposals that the community of Bonawe/Ardchattan could use the halls and facilities in other towns and villages due to having the bus service, if the school were to close. This cut in service could potentially leave the community empty if new school closures do arise.

My greatest concerns are for the young members of the community who will miss out on the opportunities which their peers, who live in other outlying villages, can access.

Also for the older population of our community who need the bus to fulfil the most basic of needs. There are many people who do not have access to a car.

I ask you to please help our community to convince Argyll and Bute Council to reconsider the proposed changes to the existing 408 bus service, with a view to the great impact that such cuts would have on the future of our community.

Self defeating

Sir, I don't think it is appropriate for elected councillors, or anyone for that matter, to criticise Argyll and Bute Council when that criticism is based on unsubstantiated rumours regarding bus services.

I also think it is nonsense to suggest that withdrawal of services is a choice between Easdale and Bonawe. Most of the rural services across Argyll have been regular and scheduled for some time and in my opinion they should remain so, without cuts. At most they cost in subsidy £500,000. Instead of cutbacks on existing services, we should be talking about delaying future borrowing and spending on tourist services.

Taking bus services back to the 1980s is self defeating.

By cutting to the bone essential social, economic and business services, we lessen the chances of creating a sound social economy for the future by tourism or any other means. In the 2012 May elections, I hope that parties, groups and individuals will set aside flags, badges and slogans and remember that councils and parliaments were constituted to give good and fair government to everyone and not to further the ambitions or programmes of any one party, group or individual.

George Doyle, Easdale.

Hypocrisy over RET?

Sir, Might there be a touch of hypocrisy in the Scottish Crofters Federation's allegation that the withdrawal of RET for commercial vehicles in the Western Isles after a two-year period is an 'economic landslide' and that 'haulers will go out of business'?

Going by the published report of the findings of the pilot scheme in the Western Isles the customer benefited little from RET for commercials. There are many other cost pressures that will be impacting upon fragile profit margins, not least the cost of fuel. The haulage industry in the Western Isles will likely revert to previous agreements with the shipping company with limited impact on crofters by this change. Other islands in the west anxiously await the arrival of RET for passengers, cars and coaches to help to boost flagging economies in 2011. Certain islands resisted in the consultation any proposal for RET for commercials because of the possible effect of competition for island hauliers. There's no harm in having a grouse but the SCF will get more support from other areas in the campaign for increased support mechanisms for farming and crofting in the LFAs through the CAP reform process than exaggerating the effects for crofters of the withdrawal of RET on commercial vehicles.

Margie Currie, Shiskine, Isle of Arran.

Fantastic care at the Belford

Sir, The fabric of the NHS may be creaking but recently I had the opportunity to sample the service of the NHS on offer, in Fort William, in the Belford Hospital.

It was not found wanting. Full marks to all, from pre-assessment to discharge and before you say it ah 'he is a councillor' the lovely thing is most had not a clue that I was!

Dealing with the disposal of body fluids from morn to night, or in the case of night staff, night to morning is no easy task with patients in all types of pain and moods.

We are so fortunate in Lochaber to still have our hospital, run by world-class surgeons, who go the extra mile and bring all the staff with them.

I know that hospital can never be like home, but they certainly try hard to make your stay as comfortable as possible. However they are working in difficult conditions in a building designed for yesterday.

As councillors our job is clear. We must encourage NHS to invest in their staff and build a new hospital however difficult it is with capital budgets.

We have already made a start by earmarking a site close to the medical centre and proposed new ambulance station on the Blar Mor development.

The excellent staff deserve no less, than new 21st century facilities. It will certainly be my quest. Thanks to all.

Allan Henderson, address supplied.

Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SCOTTISH EDITOR

A fair cop?

THIS is a police story. It concerns the contrasting behaviour of two sets of officers in the same force and goes some way to explaining why the public is often frustrated and puzzled by the boys and girls in blue.

Episode one concerns me driving through some extensive roadworks recently and following a bus through a coned-off section. About 50 yards further on I was flagged down by a uniformed police officer, positioned with his colleague and their two vehicles in a lay-by.

Was I aware, asked the extremely polite officer, that I just driven through a No Entry sign? No, I wasn't, I replied, but added that I'd seen a bus go the same way. Ah, came the reply, only buses and taxis were permitted to use that route; all other vehicles had to follow the diversion signs, which I confessed I hadn't seen.

Oh well, I reckoned, a simple mistake that might merit a ticking-off but no more. What a hope. No warning, no 'don't do it again'. I was informed that I was being issued with a fixed-penalty notice, which, if I paid within 28 days, would be £60. Bad enough, but worse was to come. The icily polite bobby informed me that my offence would also incur three penalty points on my clean licence. Completely over the top? Yes, but apparently this is the standard tariff for such a heinous crime.

I have no complaints about my treatment from 'PC Do-it-by-the-Book' but I do take exception to whichever genius of a superior officer decided to deploy two policemen, with their expensive 4x4s, just so they could nick as many motorists as possible.

If he had two men to spare at a time when all we hear is of manpower shortages among the forces of law and order, why did he insist on using them to punish drivers? I accept I was in the wrong but why weren't those officers stationed at what was a temporary No Entry sign at some very confusing roadworks, so that they could direct drivers to the diversion? That way the bobbies would have been assisting the public and been spared the no doubt enormous amount of paperwork that my wrongdoing has given them. And I wouldn't be nursing a

grievance against the police for picking on me for making a simple mistake.

It is silly behaviour like this by the police that irritates law-abiding citizens and does relationships between us no good at all. For the record, I haven't paid the fixed penalty. I am awaiting my day in court, where I shall most certainly complain about the police tactics. I doubt it will do me much good, but watch this space.

Episode two is entirely different, I'm pleased to say. My 11-year-old daughter was recently alarmed to see two fat men in shellsuits trying to find a way into our basement. When they failed, they jumped over the garden wall into the neighbour's property. My wife saw them disappearing down the road and at that I gave chase. I caught up with them as they were trying the door of a flat around the corner.

I got a torrent of abuse when I challenged them, so I said that I'd leave things to the police and promptly dialled 999. Our heroes hot-footed it down the street and, as their luck would have it, a bus arrived in the nick of time, and they V-signed and sneered at me as it drove off. After giving the police the number of the bus I went home, delighted to have got shot of the louts, but thinking that that was that. I was astonished when, less than an hour later, two police officers arrived at my front door to say that they had been told by radio which bus the would-be burglars were on and had found it and stopped it.

Unfortunately, our fat friends were nowhere to be seen, having changed to another bus a few stops earlier, but I was massively impressed by the endeavour and enterprise shown by these officers - one man, one woman, with the latter clearly the senior of the two. Better than that, though, was the reaction of my daughter who, for the first time in her young life, saw the police in their proper crime-fighting mode. And having to give a statement was the icing on her cake. The second incident more than made up for my disappointment about the first. Mind you, that feeling probably won't last once I get those three points!

Times Diary

ONE SUNDAY morning, the Rev Alex MacLeod noticed a wee boy staring up at the large marble plaque on the wall of the church.

The plaque was inscribed with a long list of names and flags hung on either side of it.

After several moments, the minister stepped beside the boy and also looked at the list on the wall. 'What is this?' asked the boy. 'Well son,' explained Rev MacLeod: 'This is a memorial to all the men and women who died in the service.'

The wee boy was clearly shocked and blurted out: 'Oh 'meenister', was it your morning or afternoon service?'

IAN MacDonald from Islay tells us that he gave his father a present of a new laptop at Christmas.

After four weeks the silver surfer telephoned to say that a part had broken and where could he buy a replacement?

The son asked what part has been damaged. 'It's the cup holder,' replied the father. 'It doesn't have a cup holder,' said the son.

'Aye it does,' answered the indignant Dad, adding, 'you push a wee button on the side and a cup holder for your coffee pops out.'

MacDonald Snr had been using the load drawer of the CD-ROM drive as a cup holder and snapped it off the drive with the weight of his coffee cup.

WHO SAYS out of date food is bad for you!

Packs of Shreddies from 1970 have been sold on a well-known internet auction site for almost £160!

The packs were found behind shelves at a post office/shop in Hertfordshire and were initially rejected as feed by a customer's chickens.

Some packs still contain a free gift - stickers from the 1970 Disney film *The Aristocats* - making them popular bidding items online.

POLAR bears are originally Irish. Although polar bears now live in the frozen wastes of the Arctic at the top of the world, scientists now think the mother of all polar bears was Irish.

Their ancestors interbred with brown bears when climate change led to occasional overlaps in their habitats in ancient Ireland 20,000 to 50,000 years ago, a genetic study has shown. The finding overturns previous theories that the genetic material came from forebears that lived on several Alaskan islands 14,000 years ago, according to researchers in the US and Ireland.

Study co-author Beth Shapiro, of Penn State University, said: 'Whenever they come into contact, there seems to be little barrier to their mating.'

She said the findings could also help conservation strategies for the dwindling population of polar bears today.



Among the entries for our 'no-so Bonnie Babies' was this one, which better remain anonymous. But we know the 'Real MacKay' when we see it!

PRESS POLICY

WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

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

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

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

Clarification

WE HAVE been asked to clarify that in our story about the former Rockfield Primary School, January 26, Oban Community Councillor Mairi Molloy had intended to say she didn't wish a private developer to buy the site.

She has no objection to a housing association buying the building.

YOUR LETTERS

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them.

Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including an email, 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.

St Valentines day: A brief history....

THE CUSTOM of giving gifts on St Valentine's Day is almost as old as the Day itself. It owes a great deal to a similar custom observed during the Roman festival of Lupercalia of which the 14th February is the eve. The custom was for lots to be drawn for 'partners of the festival'. These would be a man and girl who were later considered 'Valentines' and for whom it was thought, marriage was a strong possibility. Lot drawing was usually followed by an exchange of gifts to further cement the relationship. In Scotland there were several variations on this theme which were practiced right up to the beginning of this century. One variation involved the lots being drawn three times, the first and second time, the names being returned to the box. Anyone who drew the same name more than once was surely destined for marriage with that person. Another variation involved the wearing of the name papers on a collar or lapel for the day and again, in some parts, the name papers were carried to the home of the person named where their parents would exchange them for a small gift such as an apple. This offered the parents an opportunity to meet and consider the potential marriage partner's suitability without a full formal introduction which usually signaled a formal betrothal.

If the 17th century Diary of Samuel Pepys is to be believed, south of the Border it was thought that the first person seen on St. Valentine's morning must be a 'Valentine' - whether or not the viewer liked the person. Mrs. Pepys found herself going about the house with her eyes closed in 1662, fearful of first seeing one of the workmen mending her chimney. Flowers have always played their part as a popular token of affection. The red rose has been internationally accepted as a gift associated with love, with its reputation enhanced by the word of Scotland's national Bard Robert Burns when he wrote the now famous words to his then sweetheart Highland Mary -

From the death of Queen Victoria until the mid-1930s, St Valentine's Day fell from favour.

It was resurrected however and is once again a popular day for celebration amongst lovers, engaged and married couples, and those courting someone special. Cards are sent, sometimes anonymously and sometimes signed. Gifts are certainly exchanged, the favourites being beautiful bouquets of flowers, casks of hand-made chocolates, exquisite pieces of jewellery, or silver photo frames containing a picture of the sender.

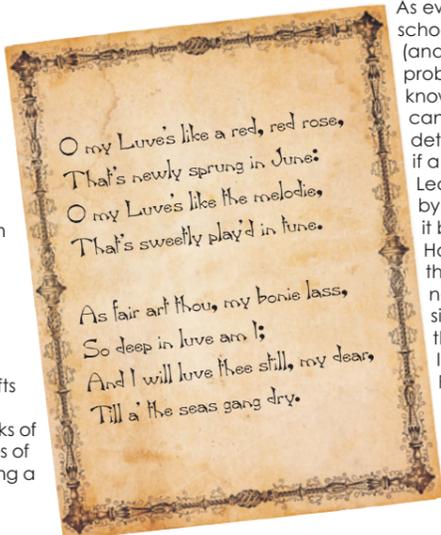
Valentines day

14th February

Remember ladies this year is a leap year - traditionally when women propose to their partner

Remember 2012 is a Leap Year

THERE have been many odd beliefs and customs built around Leap Years. One tradition that has endured for many hundreds of years and which is still occasionally practised is that governing marriage proposals. It has long been permitted for the lady to 'pop the question' on February 29th. There are stipulations however. Traditionally she should wear a red flannel petticoat to advertise what she has in mind and should carry an open fan. It is to Julius Caesar that we owe the existence of the Leap Year who, in 46BC, reformed the old Roman calendar adding one extra day every fourth year to take account of the fact that the Earth took 365 days and six hours to circle the sun. This was done by doubling the sixth day before the Calends of March. This year was called bisextile.



As every schoolboy (and girl) probably knows, you can determine if a year is a Leap Year by dividing it by four. However, things are not as simple as that. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII further ad-



justed the calendar taking into account the fact that even Caesar's calculations were somewhat out. By Gregory's calculations, years divisible by 100 did not qualify, so 'century leap years' were disregarded, which is why, although 1896 was a leap year, 1900 was not. However the plot thickens. Even this adjustment was insufficient to bring the calendar accurately into line with the facts of astronomy. Gregory further declared that 'century leap years' that were divisible by 400 could qualify for the extra day. Hence the year 2000, beginning of the new millennium, was a leap year. This rule means that only comparatively few 'new century years' can be leap years - after 2000, the next one will not occur until the year 2400. This adjustment of the calendar was not universally accepted by the then civilised world. Britain in fact refused to countenance it until 1752, by which time the error had mounted to eleven whole days. At a stroke, the 3rd September 1752 became the 14th September, and caused riots amongst the populace convinced they had had their lives commensurately shortened. There was even a popular song written called, "Give us back our eleven days" Russia was even more resistant and didn't accept the change until the October revolution of 1917. The name 'Leap Year' is thought to have derived from the fact that the intercalary (extra) day, called 'bisextus' or 'Leap Day' that is added to the month (February), is not simply pushed on one day of the week as in other years, but leaps over one day additional!

Modern customs

ONE custom that has grown in popularity is that of couples attending a St. Valentine's dinner. Many hotels, pubs and restaurants organise this specially romantic occasion complete with romantic decor, table flowers and music to 'smooch' to. St. Valentine's Day is a day steeped in history and romance. By observing it you are following in the footsteps of countless thousands of our ancestors. You are helping to preserve a happily innocent tradition. You are even perpetuating the name of the long forgotten, nebulous saint who started it all. You are certainly contributing to a bright spot in the long dreary period from Christmas to Easter, when almost any excuse to have a celebration is really welcome.

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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 20th February 2012. 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 Wyvex Media or Flower Basket employees. Photocopied entries will not be accepted.

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Climbers injured on lochan

TWO CLIMBERS were airlifted from Stob Coire Nan Lochan, Glencoe, on Saturday lunchtime after injuring themselves.

Glencoe and Arrochar Mountain Rescue teams and Royal Navy Rescue Helicopter 177 took the injured pair to Belford Hospital in Fort William. Their injuries were not life-threatening.

Hotel guests evacuated

AROUND 80 people were evacuated from the Ballachulish Hotel after a fire alarm went off around 9am on Sunday morning.

Ten minutes later, staff informed guests waiting outside the front entrance that the incident was a false alarm triggered by steam from a shower in one of the bedrooms.

The hotel was full at the time.

Rainy days in Plockton

THE WET theme at Plockton continued during the month of January with 23 days with measured rainfall totalling 8.5 inches compared with only 3.25 inches in 2011.

Warmest day was 11.4°C, exactly the same as last year. Coldest was 1.6°C compared with 5.6°C in 2010.

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Peter Budge from the SFA, Fort William FC boss Danny Conlon, Councillor Bill Clark and Simon Jeffrey of Highland Council with two young players in the Midnight League.

Late night football helps cut down crime

LATE night football is proving a big hit in helping to reduce anti-social behaviour in Fort William.

The Bank of Scotland Midnight League, which gives 12-16 year-olds the chance to play football one evening a week, regularly attracts more than 50 children to the Nevis Centre on Friday nights.

Fort William FC manager Danny Conlon regularly attends to coach youngsters as part of the club's youth development programme. Constable Ian Fraser hailed the

initiative for fostering community spirit and building positive relations between local police officers and young people.

He said: 'The Midnight League has come to us before and we have noticed a sizeable reduction in the crime rate on those Friday evenings when it has been running.'

'The most important thing is that it offers the kids an activity because the main cause of crime and criminal damage is boredom. The kids look forward to it every week and it is professionally run so the

longer the league runs the more and more people get involved and that can only be a good thing.'

He added: 'The Northern Constabulary covers a large amount of the Highlands area and the Fort William league has been a real success so now I am very keen to look at setting up more of these leagues elsewhere in the area.'

The scheme has been run in partnership with the Scottish Football Association since its inception in 2003.

Man guilty of slashing teenager's throat

A FORMER Kinlochleven man has been found guilty of slashing a teenager's throat with a knife in the village after a five-day trial at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Andrew Thomson hung his head as the 15-person jury delivered the majority verdict after deliberating for more than an hour-and-a-half.

Earlier the jury heard an argument had erupted at a party on Glendale Road in the early hours of February 5 2011 after Thomson insulted his victim John Fleming's sister, who was not present.

Thomson, aged 28, apologised repeatedly before leaving the house, only to return around 30 minutes later to challenge Mr Fleming, who was 17 at the time of the incident, to a fight.

The pair, along with another 15-year-old boy, went outside where Thomson admitted punching Mr Fleming on the face before being knocked to the ground and leaving the property.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY

RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie asked Thomson if he was holding a weapon when he hit Mr Fleming. He said: 'I did not have a knife or any sort of weapon, I just punched him.'

The jury then heard Mr Fleming did not realise he had been stabbed until after Thomson left. They were shown several pictures of the stairwell where the fight took place which was covered in blood.

Mr Fleming was later taken to Belford Hospital where his wound required four stitches, leaving him with a visible four-centimetre scar. A police search the following day found a knife blade at the scene of the fight and the handle several feet away, although no blood was found on the blade or on any of Thomson's clothing. Ms Wylie argued that

although no-one saw Thomson with the knife, the blow he struck must have caused the injury.

She said: 'We have two eye witnesses to a swipe. [Police Constable Jo Chisholm] found the blade exactly where he had been standing. He did do it; he swiped out and he had something sharp in his hand.'

Defence solicitor Elizabeth Aitken said Thomson could not be directly linked to the knife found at the property. She said: 'Mr Fleming didn't see any weapon, he didn't see a knife, or keys, or anything that could have caused this injury.'

Thomson, of 426 Dyke Road, Knightswood, Glasgow, had denied assaulting Mr Fleming by striking him on the neck with a knife to his injury, permanent disfigurement and endangerment of his life at 13 Glendale Road. Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing until February 28 for reports and released Thomson on bail.

Clan Donald members make annual pilgrimage to Glencoe

CLAN Donald members will make their annual pilgrimage to Glencoe on Monday to mark the 320th anniversary of the infamous massacre of February 13 1692.

Commemorations will start with a Service of Eucharist in St. Mary's Church at 11am, led by the Rector, The Rev Adrian Fallows.

The traditional short march at noon from the Bridge of Coe to the Celtic cross memorial at Upper Carnoch will be followed by a service and the laying of wreaths.

The march will again be led by piper John MacCallum, whilst the Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands' banner

will have its first outing. The ceremony will be conducted by the Rector, assisted by Brigadier John Macfarlane and Canon Mel Langille.

The Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands is continuing the custom established by the Clan Donald Society of Edinburgh of inviting different Clan Donald organisations worldwide to take turns to sponsor a Clan Donald wreath.

This year the wreath, sponsored by Clan Donald New Zealand, will be laid by Lois MacDonell of Glengarry in her capacity as Patron of Clan Donald Otago, South Island. Wreaths will also be laid on behalf of the Glencoe

Heritage Trust and the National Trust for Scotland in Glencoe.

The event is being jointly organised by The Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands, The Glencoe Heritage Trust and St Mary's Episcopal Church, Glencoe.

All extend a warm welcome to members of the public to attend. Those wishing to lay their own wreaths after the laying of the main wreaths are free to do so.

The massacre saw King William's troops murder 38 of their unsuspecting MacDonell hosts. Their chief, MacIain, had been judged an outlaw for being late with an oath of allegiance to the new king, who replaced James VII.



Ballachulish Visitor Centre manager Stewart Borland with staff member Sally Mortimer and volunteer Heather Borland at the fundraising day.

Ballachulish Visitor Centre fun day boosts RNLI

BIG-HEARTED Lochaber residents have contributed almost £700 to RNLI coffers at the annual SOS fundraising day at Ballachulish Visitor Centre.

Puzzles, an RNLI sweepstake, crosswords, raffles, teas and a silent auction for a signed, limited edition print boosted the total to £678.50.

Centre manager Stewart Borland said: 'A huge thanks go

to all our suppliers who donated raffle prizes, including Michael Macgregor for another fabulous picture and Michelle MacPhee for providing the great free entertainment in the afternoon, and not forgetting all our customers who actively supported the day so tremendously once again.'

The centre has raised £3,200 for the charity in five SOS fundraisers since 2008.

New appointments announced for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

A NEW writer in residence and visual artist in residence have been appointed at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye.

Peter Mackay, originally from Lewis, completed a PhD on the poetry of Seamus Heaney and William Wordsworth at Trinity College, Dublin, and has lectured there on Scottish Literature.

His poems have been widely published in the UK and he has worked as a broadcast journalist for BBC Alba.

Mr Mackay said: 'In the coming year, I hope that I can add something to the cultural life of the college and the Isle of Skye, and encourage anyone who is

looking for some help with their writing.'

Artist Aileen Stackhouse has exhibited regularly since 2000, completing a Masters in Fine Art at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design the same year and a PhD in 2006. She also worked as a Teaching Fellow at the School of Fine Art, Dundee.

Ms Stackhouse said: 'Throughout my residency I will be learning Gaelic and will make new works in response to my experience of being at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.'

The posts are funded by Creative Scotland.



Aileen Stackhouse.



Peter Mackay.

Sheriff orders thief to attend drug rehabilitation course

A FORT William man who exposed himself in a Caol shop after being caught shoplifting has been ordered to attend a drug rehabilitation course.

Gary MacKinnon was caught trying to steal two bottles of whisky by hiding them in his trousers at the Co-op on Kilmallie Road on June 23.

Later the same day he was found in the store's warehouse area by staff members who challenged him about stealing.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKinnon pulled down his trousers 'to show he had

nothing on him'. Miss Wylie agreed with the defence there was no sexual element to the act.

MacKinnon, of 3 Maryburgh Court, pled guilty to attempting to steal the alcohol, shouting, swearing, raising his fists and acting aggressively towards staff and threatening and abusive behaviour by exposing himself.

After hearing the 39-year-old had suffered drink and drug addictions, Sheriff Douglas Small also imposed a one year supervision order on MacKinnon.

Support network launches website

A LOCHABER group set up to help local people debilitated by chronic fatigue now has its own website.

Lochaber PVFS/ CFS/ ME Support Network says www.me-lochaber.org.uk contains useful information for

those with the illness, their carers, families and friends, as well as data for healthcare professionals.

People too ill to go online can get in touch with the group by phoning or texting 07786 590450.

Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary annual pass reader offer

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Every Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary visit is a fascinating journey beneath the waves. Now you can see it all when you claim your 12 month Residents Sea Life Annual Pass.

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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, any time in February, 2012. You can also post your application, photo and a cheque for the appropriate amount, made payable to Merlin Entertainment, to Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll PA37 1SE.



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- Tick here to receive information from Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary

Complete this application form and, along with your photograph, take it to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban or to apply by post, see above for details. Applications must be received by February 28, 2012. Terms & conditions apply.



The Oban Times A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Photocopied application forms will not be accepted. Only one annual pass per application form can be claimed.

Broadband pledge

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has pledged to include 'a wide range' of ways to deliver superfast broadband throughout the Highlands and Islands in a contract being drawn up with BT, according to Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson.

Speaking in parliament, Mr Thompson said fibre-optic cabling would be unlikely to reach every home and business, and had pressed HIE to ensure next generation broadband delivery through satellite, wifi or 4G mobile phone technology was included in the BT deal.

He said: 'This will be an extremely valuable contract but with that financial reward must come an inbuilt responsibility to ensure that all are able to benefit and that sparsely populated areas are not left behind as technology advances.'

Family fèis a success

FÈIS LOCHABAIR staged its first pilot fèis teaghlach - family fèis - at Ballachulish Primary School on Saturday.

The event gave parents the chance to learn or improve their Gaelic while the children enjoyed Gaelic songs, drama and art classes.

Musicians from Fèis Lochabair and Lochaber music school, led by Banavie Primary School teacher and local musician Dierdre MacDonald, also entertained.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal drama officer Dougie Beck, said of the event: 'Overall, it was a success.' Mr Beck told The Oban Times the next family fèis would be held in Upper Achintore Primary School on Saturday February 25.

Free business workshop

A FREE two-day Business Gateway workshop on starting up a small business will be held in the Cuillin Hills Hotel, Portree, next Monday and Tuesday.

The event will cover business planning, choosing a legal structure, understanding profit and loss accounts, cash flow statements, VAT and tax, record keeping and marketing. For further information or to book a place, contact 01463 713 889.

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Fort William nursery ready to re-open its doors

FORT William's Nevis Centre will open its renovated nursery next month. Open from 8.30am-5.30pm every week of the year, including bank holidays, the nursery is set to be a popular facility. Located behind the soft play area, it has its own secure access via the doors near Morrisons and it is regulated by the Care Inspectorate.

Nursery manager, Mark MacLennan, has a teaching background with a focus on early years management. He leads an enthusiastic team of staff who have a wealth of experience and creative ability.

A spokesperson for The Nevis Centre said: 'We pride ourselves on our commitment to offering affordable and accessible facilities for all within our community and this ethos will transcend through into our nursery. Our experienced staff will ensure your children are happy and stimulated while within our care.'

Children at The Nevis Centre Nursery will have the opportunity to take part in many varied, age appropriate activities, with the team of childcare staff focussing on developing different sets of skills and knowledge.

For more information and to arrange a free tour of the new nursery contact the Nevis Centre on email info@neviscentre.co.uk or by phone on 01397 700707.

Innovative new device can cut your energy bills

HOMEOWNERS in Argyll can be set to save thousands of pounds on heating bills thanks to an innovative new device.

Intellenergy's Home Energy Management System (HEMS) monitors how you heat your home, taking into account weather conditions and your own timing to intelligently control how your heating works.

It is claimed that, using gas and oil heating systems, the wireless HEMS device, can shave between 23-43 per cent off your heating bill.

Intellenergy are the approved supplier for Argyll and Bute.

Owner, Tony Mangat, said: 'It stops burst pipes in the winter, overheating in summer and you can even control it from your smartphone.'

Deadline extended for RoSPA Awards

ORGANISATIONS keen to participate in the RoSPA Awards 2012 have had the deadline for entries extended. Entrants looking to receive the occupational health and safety award certificates in Glasgow on September 20 have until March 23.

To register online, visit www.rospa.com/awards. You will then have until Friday, June 15 to submit full entries on RoSPA Awards USB sticks. For more information on the RoSPA Awards call 0121 248 2090 or email awards@rospa.com.

Busy spring programme of business workshops

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway is again providing a range of workshops in its spring programme to help local entrepreneurs.

Busy workshops
All the workshops are free and held in various locations across the area. Places are filling up fast and anyone looking

to reserve a place is being urged to book now.

'Feedback from all these workshops is very good,' explains councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for enterprise, energy, culture and tourism. 'As well helping our local entrepreneurs acquire key business skills, the workshops also present a great opportunity for people to come together, share ideas and support each other.'

Places are still available on the two day business start-up, Make The Most of Online Trading workshops in Oban on March 8 and in Inveraray March 5, and basic book-keeping in Inveraray three days later.

Some of the Business Gateway spring workshops, covering business start-up, website building and using social media, are already fully booked up in Oban but the team is keen to hear from anyone looking to attend as additional dates may be arranged.

Business Gateway can also offer free, practical advice on a wide range of topics from experienced local business advisers as well as providing a wealth of useful information and interactive tools via its website. To find out more visit www.bgateway.com or contact the local office on 01546 605 459.

Sports therapist brings spinal treatment technology home



Sports therapist Daniel Cassells is using new technology to treat back problems.

'It's a back-to-basics approach with the help of technology'

A FORMER Oban man, who is helping to pioneer a revolutionary spinal treatment, is bringing his skills back home.

Sports therapist Daniel Cassells, has used TAMARS technology to successfully treat patients in Glasgow and now thinks Oban will benefit from the treatment.

The 27 year old, who works with 21st Century Back Care, is opening a one-day clinic every Wednesday at The Studio salon in Breadalbane Street.

Through TAMARS Daniel uses a pressurised machine, described by some as a 'bionic hand'.

'It's new, but it's not a complicated treatment,' he said. 'It's a back-to-basics approach with the help of technology.'

When massaging using his hands, Daniel can only work each vertebrae one at a time but the electronic handset, an extension of the therapist's hand, can work through this process more quickly and cancels out the therapist's main problem from a day of massage - sore hands!

Daniel, who graduated with honours from the University of Central Lancashire in 2008, told *The Oban Times*: 'My hands can get pretty sore after a while but with TAMARS I can work on someone's back for up to an hour no problem. That way you get more done in one session, cutting the number of sessions by up to a third.'

'The role I have is to balance the pressure produced by the machine, so that it is suitable for each patient.'

The TAMARS machine has three settings: The 'spasm' setting, which is more relaxing than it suggests; 'reflex', which creates a spinal stretch reflex; and finally 'mobilise', which mobilises the joint, improving spine alignment, posture, stability and the patient's range of motion.

Daniel, a former pupil of Oban High School, added: 'I think TAMARS will work well in Oban, alongside my other sports therapy techniques, because it is completely different to anything else here.'

Business reporter:
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sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021

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cfirth@wyvexmedia.co.uk
01631 568013

Stamp Duty Land Tax returns in March

FIRST time buyers have been reminded that the government's holiday on Stamp Duty Land Tax comes to an end next month.

From March 24, the holiday will no longer apply, meaning first time buyers will face a tax of one per cent on house purchases between £125,000 and £250,000 and three per cent on purchases over £250,000. Wendy Evans Scott, president of the NAEA, said: 'With only two months remaining, first time buyers must act quickly to avoid paying Stamp Duty Land Tax on their first home purchase.'

'If you're currently in a chain and waiting to complete your purchase then make sure others in the chain know about the end of the tax holiday too. Good communication with your solicitor can help move the process forward.'

Opportunities arise in property market

AN OBAN-based estate agent believes uncertainty in the property market makes now the perfect time to buy.

Steven Hornby, senior estate agent at Bell Ingram, says the lack of confidence makes it a buyer's market.

Buyers are more likely to look for the quality of life a property can offer, he says, as opposed to the investment they represent.

He said: 'We quickly learn to expect that there is an investment opportunity to be gained from property purchase in

a rising market. But we are rather slow to appreciate the reverse is likely in a poor market and/or in particularly adverse economic circumstances as we have now.

'Real buyers and sellers should not be put off. Indeed they should be encouraged as the more life there is in the property market the more life there is in the economy.'

'But those still insisting on the sort of financial profit they may have achieved several years ago should perhaps think again and get real.'

MP calls for checks on buying policies and power of leading supermarkets

ARGYLL and Bute's MP has called for the UK government to quickly establish an investigatory body to examine supermarkets' conduct.

Alan Reid says the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill, which would introduce an adjudicator to investigate abuses of the Groceries Code by big supermarkets, is urgently needed.

The minister for the department of environment, food and rural affairs, Jim Paice MP, agreed.

Speaking at the House of Commons in January, Mr Reid said: 'The big supermarkets have too much power compared to small suppliers like farmers.'

'The huge gap between the price of milk at the supermarket and that at the farmgate is just one consequence this.'

Barcaldine firm aids Polynesian fish farming

A BARCALDINE-based business is helping establish a sustainable aquaculture sector on the Polynesian island of Tahiti after successfully trialling new system there.

Last year, Fusion Marine was approached by Tahiti Fish Aquaculture (TFA) to manufacture and supply a small 12m diameter polyethylene fish pen, based on the company's highly successful Oceanflex design.

TFA is a new company and the species being farmed, the Orbicular Batfish is also new to aquaculture. The pilot trial proved successful and TFA has now ordered four more pens to complete the fish farm system.

The farm is situated on a peninsula seven kilometres from the village of Tautira in the Fenua Aihere - or



Orbicular Batfish

'wild land' in Tahitian - region of the island. The farm is in an area where there is no road access, which created its own very difficult problems to overcome.

Stephen Divers, managing director of Fusion Marine, said: 'We are delighted to have helped this pioneer-

ing fish farm project in Tahiti get off the ground. Over the years, we have specialised in the setting up of successful farming operations in many remote sites in parts of the world that are new to aquaculture, including Ghana, Guatemala and Martinique.'

'This latest installation in Tahiti is our furthest away project at over 10,000 miles, so it is important that we also provide comprehensive onsite help, training and advice on assembling, installing and maintaining the systems.'

The Fisheries Service in Tahiti has been working to develop the farming of the Orbicular Batfish since 2006, which provided TFA with a good grounding on how to effectively rear the fish.

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 Saturday 11th February > Launch Weekend Macgochans, Tobermory Calum Iain MacCorquodale and Runrigs Malcolm Jones
 Saturday 11th February > Club Night at 11pm Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJ Mark Goudie

what's on lochaber

Friday 10th February > DJ Irish Al presents Celtic Mix Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Clock Doors open 10pm
 Friday 10th February > LOVE NIGHT Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the DJ free entry till DJ starts! £5 after 10pm till 2am
 Saturday 11th February > Cabareachd Abaireach Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House 7pm till 9pm Gaelic conversation and song group, all welcome.
 Tuesday 14th February > Scottish Opera Glenuig Hall Opera Highlights - 8pm www.glenuig.org.uk

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ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

Duke

Nice boy, around 15 months old. OK with children and good in the house. Needs exercise and a bit of training with recall.
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 Reg. charity SCO13211

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OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY
 Sunday 12th February at 3.00pm in St. John's Cathedral
Piano Recital - Murray McLachlan
 Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninov, Schubert, Prokofiev
 Non-members welcome Tickets at the door £10 (£8) school children free
 Sponsored by Enterprise Music Scotland.

Music Society concert features top pianist

ON SUNDAY February 12, Murray McLachlan will be giving a piano recital in St John's Cathedral at 3pm.



Murray McLachlan.

He will be playing Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and Chopin's B Minor Sonata as well as works by Schubert, Rachmaninov, Debussy and Prokofiev.
 Murray McLachlan is a pianist with a virtuoso technique and a sure sense of line.
 His timing and phrasing are impeccable, and his tone 'full but unforced in the powerful passages, gentle and restrained in the more lyrical - is a perpetual delight', BBC Music Magazine.

Murray McLachlan, chairman of EPTA UK, European Piano Teachers' Association, is Head of Keyboard at Chetham's School of Music and a Senior Tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England.
 McLachlan has made more than 40 commercial recordings which have consistently received outstanding reviews and international recognition, including 'key recording' and 'rosette' status in the Penguin Guide to CDs.

His recognition has been far reaching and he has performed on all five continents. At the same time he continues to give numerous concerto

and recital appearances all over the United Kingdom. He also serves regularly on juries of international piano competitions.

McLachlan's repertoire includes more than 40 concertos and 25 recital programmes.
 He has appeared as soloist with most of the leading UK orchestras. During 2011 he performed in Spain, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Denmark, and served on international competition juries in Singapore and Rome. International tours in 2012 include performances in Thailand and Poland as well as return appearance in Spain and Denmark.

The concert is free to members and school children. Non members welcome, tickets, £10 (£8), can be obtained at the door.

Doors open on new look McGochan's

THE NEW owner of a Tobermory pub says even the locals won't recognise the place when it re-opens this weekend, following a five-week refurbishment.

Neil Morrison, former manager of McGochan's Bar, has organised two nights of celebration to mark the event.

The new look McGochan's was created by Ranald MacColl, who also designed the Ben Nevis Bar and Oran Mor in Glasgow.
 Neil said: 'People will notice a

massive difference, as we have used a lot of raw material, like slate from Ballachulish.

'Only a few local tradesmen have seen inside and because it is quite rough and rustic, there was a bit of criticism during the refurbishment. Their opinions soon changed when they saw the finished article!'

Crooked Reel and friends will play at the Friday night re-opening, with Malcolm Jones and Calum Iain MacCorquodale playing on Saturday.



Mother Claire and baby Seoras have much to smile about thanks to the generosity of the Inner Wheel Club of Oban. 16_06rgonad01

Coffee morning boosts hospital

LITTLE Seoras Neil looked the picture of health at a fundraising event in Oban on Saturday, but few could have guessed that the infant was fighting for his life only weeks ago.

The baby boy was only days old when he was admitted to Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow.

The situation was stressful enough for his mother, Claire Wilding, but being so far from home in Oban meant she faced the additional problem of finding somewhere to stay so she could remain close by.

Fortunately, she was able to stay at Ronald McDonald House which provides accommodation for families of Yorkhill patients who cannot find a place to stay locally.

The house costs around £300,000 a year to run and is totally reliant on donations, but thanks to a coffee morning and craft fair at the Regent Hotel arranged by the Inner Wheel Club of Oban to raise funds for the charity, it is now £901.97 better off.

Claire, who took Seoras along to support the event, said: 'Seoras had emergency heart surgery when he was a week old and we got a room. It was friendly and you could come and go, you had your own key. It took a big strain off us, there was nowhere else to stay. Having somewhere to go to was a big relief.'

The event was organised by club chairwoman Shona Neil, who chose to donate to Ronald McDonald House due to the service it had provided to a number of her friends.

She said: 'I visited it myself and have seen the wonderful work they do. All the money from the coffee morning and the craft fair is going to Ronald McDonald House. I would like to thank the girls for all their hard work.'

Delight as Lauren meets her idol

HOLLYWOOD star Rupert Grint may have got more than he bargained for when he met one of his biggest fans in the bar at the Taychreggan Hotel by Loch Awe last Thursday.



Lauren with her idol in the bar at the Taychreggan.

Sixteen-year-old Oban High School lass Lauren Tennant surprised the Harry Potter star by asking him to marry her. And, proving the old adage 'nothing ventured nothing gained', the answer came back as 'yes!'

When asked how the wedding plans were coming on, Lauren admitted she wasn't holding her breath. 'I'm pretty sure he was just joking,' she said.

The encounter between Lauren and her idol came about thanks to her best friend, Jodi Goldie, whose granny, Fiona Sutherland, manages the Taychreggan Hotel where Rupert was staying while he filmed an advert for VisitScotland nearby.

'Jodi's granny had to keep it a secret', Lauren said, 'but she

happened when he walked into the bar where the girls were waiting.

'He gave us all a cuddle,' she said. 'He'd just had a long journey and most people would be grumpy but he was really nice to us.'

Rupert has been branching out since the Harry Potter series wound up with the final part 'The Deathly Hallows' last year. After so long as Ron Weasley he's taken on the roles of an assassin's apprentice in 'Wild Target' and a Second World War pilot in the soon-to-be-released 'Into the White'.

A VisitScotland spokesman gave a cryptic response when asked to confirm that Rupert was the star of their new campaign.

The spokesman said: 'We can confirm that Argyll's magical landscapes will take centre stage but as for the 'other' star of the show...you'll have to watch it and see!'

Monthly ceilidh hits the high notes



Left: The Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain's monthly ceilidh was enjoyed by all at the Masonic Hall on Saturday with musical entertainment provided by, from left: Linda Macleod, Angus J MacColl, Davy and Audrey Paterson and Alasdair Whyte. 16_06ceilidh01

TICKETS £11
 £5 for U26s

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 Saturday 25 February, 7.30pm
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Book tickets and find out more at scottishopera.org.uk

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain
 Local Interest Night
 Illustrated talk by Robin Banks
 On The Appin Murder (in English)
 Free Church Hall
 Friday, 10th February at 7.30 p.m.
 Tea and biscuits
 Admission £3

St Columba's Cathedral
Gala Concert
 Featuring Michelle McManus Paul McCallum
 Compare John Carmichael
 Friday 17th February 8pm
 Corran Halls
 Tickets £10 available from Alba Art Shop, Corran Halls, Oban Music
 Concessions Available

MEUR LOCHABAIR Annual Skye Ceilidh Dance
 West End Hotel, Fort William
 Saturday, February 18, at 7.30pm
 Guest Singers: Catriona Fair, Calum Ross, Maggie MacDonald, Arthur and Ruraidh Cormack
 Piper: Brighde Campbell
 Fear an Taighe: Alan Campbell
 Music: Robert Naim Ceilidh Band
 Admission £8

LOCHABER STARGAZERS
 A FEW FRIENDS IN NETHER LOCHABER ARE KEEN TO START A LOCAL ASTRONOMICAL GROUP. WOULD ANY READERS (NOT NECESSARILY RESIDENT IN NETHER LOCHABER) WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO GET A GROUP GOING CONTACT EITHER:
 Helen Cameron (helen.cameron250@btinternet.com)
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 Don Michie (don@onich.co.uk)

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Enter your baby today!

Enter online or by post
 We are now open for entries! Bonnie Babies 2012 is open to babies and toddlers born on or after April 12, 2009. To enter by post please send us a photograph along with a signed entry coupon (see left) to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Please make sure you write the name of the child, date of birth and a contact telephone number on the back of the photo. Should you wish for your photo to be returned, please also enclose a stamped addressed envelope. We will do our best to return your photo but please make a copy just in case. To enter online visit www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.

After you have entered your child into the competition, look out every week in The Oban Times to see when your baby appears. You can find all the competition rules and terms and conditions online at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies or call 01631 568000. More details on page 6.

The closing date for entries will be announced in a future issue.

ENTRY FORM

Child's name.....
 Child's date of birth.....
 Tel:.....
 Address:.....
 Name of parent/guardian.....
 Signature of parent/guardian.....
 I agree to all terms and conditions applied to this competition.....
 Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Terms & conditions: The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2012 competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after April 12, 2009. Only one entry per child. By entering the competition and by filling in the parental consent form that is provided with your entry, you - the parent or guardian - consent to the reproduction of your child's photograph in The Oban Times Bonnie Babies features in the paper and online and in any other related Oban Times Bonnie Babies promotions. If you do not wish for your child's photo to appear in the newspaper or online then you should not enter the competition. The Oban Times cannot take responsibility for the safe delivery and safe return of the entrant's photograph. Photos posted in without an enclosed stamped addressed envelope will not be returned. Poor quality photographs, which are out of focus, difficult to see the child's face, ripped, torn or folded, will not be accepted as an entry and will be returned to the sender providing a stamped addressed envelope is supplied by the entrant. By sending us your photograph, you agree that Wyvex Media Ltd and The Oban Times have the right to publish the images and details of the entrant without payment for the purpose of promoting The Oban Times Bonnie Babies campaign (s). The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. Photocopied entry forms will not be accepted. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.

Highlander breeders anticipate strong demand at Oban sale

Speyside farmer given task of judging his first Oban event

THE HIGHLAND Cattle Society will host the 121st Spring Show and Sale of pedigree Highland stock at Oban Livestock Centre on Sunday and Monday when a large and knowledgeable audience is anticipated.

With more than 140 entries, Sunday's show is divided into nine sections: senior bulls, two-year-old bulls, yearling bulls, aged bulls, senior heifers, three-year-old heifers, two-year-old heifers, yearling heifers, and cows.

The event will be judged by Speyside farmer Jim McConachie of Culfoich House.

Mr McConachie, who along with his wife Moira, run the Culfoich Fold, was a recent winner of the Highland Cattle Society's annual award for best large Highland fold.

A former commercial cattle farmer, he turned to the Highland breed 10 years ago owing to their reputation for grazing long-term permanent pasture.

The Culfoich organically-produced stock feature regularly in show rings throughout the country including the Royal Highland Show, the Black Isle Show and Tuffin Show.

The farm, situated just outside Grantown on Spey, stands on 4600 acres, with the majority offering moorland grazing, an ideal environment for his 34 cows and heifers and over 100 followers.



The Highland cattle breed's reputation for grazing low quality, long-term permanent pasture has made them attractive as both a valuable tool in conservation and a low-cost, out-wintering option

This is Mr McConachie's first judging appointment in Oban but has been no stranger to success in the show and sale ring have collected several top accolades over the years.

The McConachie's also maintain a small herd of pedigree Charolais cattle.

Breed secretary Hazel Baxter is eagerly anticipating a firm demand for the cattle that come

under the gavel of Caledonian Marts auctioneer Alistair Logan on Monday.

'There are just under 140 animals forward at Oban this weekend and there has already

been interest from breed enthusiasts and commercial farmers in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Finland - to name but a few,' she said.

'Several have already expressed intentions of purchasing at the sale.'

Amongst an interesting entry of quality heifers are four in-calf heifers from the Lithgow family of the well-known Ormsary, Estate, Lochgilphead.

These come from three of the Lithgow cattle folds - Inver, Carsaig and Ormsary.

Expecting a good sale price for the heifers, estate manager and former President of the Highland Cattle Society, Archie McArthur said the heifers were 'at the top of their game'.

'They are in-calf and are really mature,' Archie said. 'The heifers are in-calf to the bull that was placed champion at the show two years ago, Callum 2nd of Goldenberry.'

Explaining he was pleased with the bull's breeding potential, Archie added: 'He has done well and has been up on the hill for the last two summers. He has matured into a big active bull and his first calves look really good.'

Although not intending to buy anything at this sale, Archie said he would, however, be keeping an eye on stock that has an association with the Ormsary Fold.

'Calves off bulls that we have sold will be on sale in Oban and that will be of interest to us.'

'We would have both the parents and grandparents of some of the stock, so we want to see how they are coming on.'

Amongst a strong entry of well-bred young bulls are two half-brothers of the 2010 champion purchased by Ormsary for 5,800gns from West Kilbride breeder Alan Kennedy.

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Lochaber shepherds raise £680 for local causes at annual stockjudging



Competitors and spectators look on during the stock judging at Lochaber Rural Complex on Friday night

A CHARITY stock judging competition held at Lochaber Rural Complex, Torlundy on Friday night raised £680 for two local organisations.

Lochaber shepherds' annual competition saw 84 competitors taking part, with Dan McLaughlin of Castles Estate winning the open competition. Mr McLaughlin also won the team competition with George MacPherson of Dalmally.

Colin Cameron, Ardnamurchan Estate won the award for highest placed local, and Kenny MacCallum, Lundavra, won the top lamb competition. Cathy MacColl, Insh Farm, who handed out the prizes on the night, also won the ladies event.

The money raised will be split between Marie Curie Lochaber and Headway Lochaber.

Organiser Grace Kennedy said: 'Many thanks to all the ladies who provided a delicious tea following the competition and to everyone who donated prizes for the wonderful raffle.'

Results:

Open competition

1, Dan McLaughlin 368 points;

2, Angus Webster, 353;

3 = Jimmy Mills, George MacPherson, 344.

Ladies competition

1 Cathy MacColl, 299 points.

Children's competition

1, Freddie Fulford, 312 points

2, Ben Fulford, 305;

3, Carla Berardelli, 295.

Team competition -

1, Dan McLaughlin, George MacPherson, 712 points;

2, Sandy MacPherson, Jimmy Mills, 657;

3 Neil Aitchison, Sandy Walker, 654.

Highest Placed Local - Colin Cameron, 341 points.

Top lamb competition - 1, Kenny MacCallum, Lundavra.

Store cattle trade shows increase at Stirling weekly sale

UNITED Auctions sold 1,920 store cattle and young bulls, 180 cast cows and 1257 store and breeding sheep at Stirling last week when trade for both bullocks and heifers rose on the previous week's sale.

Textel hogs from Putechan sold to £77 with Suffolks from Little Aiden to £71.

Suffolk grit ewes from Glenearn sold to £184 with the same home selling Suffolk gimmers to £170.

Bullocks averaged 213.47p (+5.72p) and sold to 271.9p per kg for a 320kg Charolais cross from Polquhain and £1430 for a 700kg Charolais cross from Carskerdo.

Heifers averaged 208.25p (+4.16p) and sold to 253.6p per kg for a 280kg Simmental cross from South Two Mark and £1230 for a 578kg Limousin cross from Milton.

Young bulls averaged 183.44p and sold to 260.7p per kg for a 211kg Charolais cross from Carston and £1135 for a 596kg Limousin cross from Craignear.

Cast cows averaged 130.82p and sold to 197.7p for a British Blue cross from Knockshiffnock and £1415 for a Limousin cross from Kincairnie.

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Top lamb competition - 1, Kenny MacCallum, Lundavra.

Aberfeldy farmer wins award for services to the industry

ABERFELDY farmer, Ian Duncan Millar, was last week awarded the Ed Rainy Brown Memorial Award for services to the Scottish farming industry.

Ian farms from his 320-acre unit at Tirinie Farm, and is currently director of the National Fallen Stock Company, a director of Moredun Research Institute, chairman of Highland Glen Lamb marketing group and a past chair of the Scottish Agricultural Arbiters and Valuers Association.

Recently, he chaired a strategy group looking at developing the role that SAC's farm at Kirkton, Crianlarich, could play in improving hill farming in Scotland.

The recent recognition comes after he was awarded an MBE for services to agriculture in the Queen's January 2010 New Year Honours.

Dingwall trade still rising

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1,879 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Wednesday when all classes met an increase on the excellent rates of the last sale.

Lambs averaged £65.18 and sold to £97 for Beltex crosses from Caberfeidh, Glenurquhart.

Ewes averaged £71.85 and sold to £130 for a Textel from Heathmount, Tain.

In-lamb ewes and gimmers sold to £56 for Cheviots from 12 Durine, Durness. Rams and feeding sheep averaged £72.91 and sold to £300 for a Cheviot ram from Rhifail, Strathnaver.



Speyside Highland cattle breeder Jim McConachie will judge Sunday's Oban show for the first time

New methods aim to control spread of rhododendrons

New, environmentally friendly technique developed in the Highlands

THE MARCH of Rhododendron ponticum across Scotland has been well documented. Over the years the exotic shrub, imported by plant hunters for country house collections, has escaped and spread. According to local Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) Conservation Consultant Helen Bibby, in many areas of Argyll it has become a major issue for farmers and land managers.

Smothering vegetation
'Rhododendron infestations can be very severe in some areas smothering all native vegetation over large areas, preventing access, destroying local biodiversity and limiting grazing.'

French and Donald Kennedy of Morvern Community Woodlands.

It involves systematically dismantling the bush using nothing more than hammer, saw, body weight and various techniques. Most plants are uprooted, but any root crowns left in the ground are macerated with a hammer before being mulched with leaves and brush. It means no fires are needed and no herbicides required during the follow up period as re growth is very limited. This ensures the site recovers more quickly. It is a method that has been used with promising results on a number of sites and is now a recognised as appropriate for grant aid.

The normal method of rhododendron control involves cutting the bush, burning the brush, and spraying the re growth. However there is an alternative 'Lever and Mulch' method, of control, developed in the Highlands by Gordon

Market reports

STIRLING

United Auctions

Bullocks:

Up to 250kgs Auchlyne £640, 266.7p;

251-300kgs High Cairn £760, Edinbeg 268.8p;

301-350kgs Polquhain £870, 271.9p;

351-400kgs Point £1065, 268.9p;

401-450kgs Elmscleugh £1060, Drumnessie 250.6p;

451-500kgs Low Lanrigg £1170, Point 247.8p;

501-550kgs Muirslaid £1190, Elmscleugh 231.1p;

551-600kgs Spring Garden £1100, 198.2;

601-650kgs Firth £1275, Holehouse 203.6p;

651-700kgs Carskerdo £1430, 204.3p.

Heifers:

Up to 250kgs Gateside £640, Darleith 236.6p;

251-300kgs South Two Mark £710, 253.6p;

301-350kgs Bargany £800, Polquhain 244.4p;

351-400kgs Ballochgar £960, 241.2p;

401-450kgs Largiemore £1000, 228.3p;

451-500kgs Hatrick £1040, Elmscleugh 222.5p;

501-550kgs Milton £1190, 220.8p;

551-600kgs Milton £1230, 216.5p;

601-650kgs Dalfoi £960, 155.8p.

Young bulls:

Up to 250kgs Carston £550, 260.7p;

251-300kgs Leadmachany £610, Sidehead 223.9p;

301-350kgs Craigend £800, 240.2p;

351-400kgs Lochlea £800, 212.8p;

401-450kgs Sidehead £840, 206.4p;

451-500kgs Balsagart £955, 202.3p;

501-550kgs Titwood £1040, 191.2p;

551-600kgs Craignear £1135, Craighbert 196p.

OTM Cows; Kincairnie (Lim)

£1415, Knockshiffnock 189.7p;

Westfield (Sal) £1345, 151.7p;

Quixwood (BS) £1325, 152.3p;

Westfield (Sim) £1285, 165.9p;

Knockshiffnock (BB) £1285, 197.7p;

Quixwood (AA) £1225, 151.6p;

Hardens (SD) £1065, 184.3p; Barogil Mains (Cha) £1055, Kerelaw Mains 185.2p; Westfield (Sho) £965, 143.6p;

Letham (HF) £965, Hoodyard 146p; OTM Bulls; Beechbank (Lim) £1730, 159.3p; Overton (AA) £1165, 142.4p; Muirslaid (Cha) £1135, 172.5p; Ben Challum (Sim) £1065, 110.9p; Severie (BS) £1005, 106.5p;

Sheep

Hoggs

Putechan (TexX) £77; Little Aiden (SufX) £71; Tulchan Croft (CheX) £64.50; Outerwards (BF) £64.50; Ladylands (BF) £61.50.

Gimmers

Glenearn (SufX gimmers) £170;

Airthrey Kerse (TexX grit gimmers) £96;

Ewes

Glenearn (SuffX grit ewes) £184; (TexX grit ewes) £160; (Mule grit ewes) £142; Carston (Chev/Mul grit ewes) £138; Glenearn (CheX grit ewes) £110

DINGWALL

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:

Textel: Woodside, Muir of Tarradale, £94;

Cheviot: Heathmount, £86;

TextelX: 5 Tomich, Beauly, £85;

SuffolkX: Culligan, Beauly, and Lower Seafeld, Portmahomack, £83;

Suffolk: 192 The Doll, Brora, £83;

Cross: Whitefolds, Glenlivet, £82;

Blackface: Mid Fearn Farms, Ardgay, £79;

Mule: Dell Farm, Whitebridge, £72;

Bluefaced Leicester: Lower Gaich, Dulnain Bridge, £71;

Charmoise: Lower Gaich, £60.

Ewes:

Textel: Ravensview, Achterneed, £127;

Suffolk: Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £126;

Charollais: Whitebog, £116;

TextelX: Mid Badgrinan, Culbokie, £112;

SuffolkX: Ashley, North Kessock, £110;

Cheviot: Ashley, £106;

Charmoise: Kinchyle Farm, Scampart, £96;

Mule - Lower Seafeld, £90;

Cross: Lower Gaich, £86;

Blackface: Kinchyle Farm, £77.

Weddars:

Mule - Davidson Croft, Heights of Fodderly, £87;

Cheviot: Agneshill, Balblair, £86;

Blackface: Corriehennin Farms, Portree, £70.

Rams:

Cheviot: Heathmount, £110;

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Email jean@jeanainsley.co.uk



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e-mail - lil@mkmacleod.co.uk



Technician

Machrihanish Hatchery

We currently have a vacancy for a Technician at our research Hatchery at Machrihanish, near Campbelltown. After a successful probationary period, the post would be offered on a permanent full-time basis working a 40 hour week.

This role is focused upon the development of wrasse as cleaner fish for the control of sea lice on salmon and on developing a sustainable culture of wrasse that avoids having to take fish from the wild and to conduct research to optimise their use for best practice in terms of wrasse and salmon welfare. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who have some experience in fish farming operations but it is not essential as full training and support would be provided. A driving license and own transport is essential.

Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be expected to undertake over-time and weekend work as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Hatchery and, for the same reason, would be part of the site Alarm Rota.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 10th February to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT

Kilmelford Yacht Haven Office/Accounts Clerk

Applicants should be reasonably efficient in Sage Accounts, Payroll, Word and Excel.

Hours to suit.

Please apply with full details to info@kilmelfordyachthaven.co.uk

01852 200248

Scottish autism

Part Time Support Worker (SA/801) £14,526 - £15,240 (pro rata for part time) - Oban

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed Support Worker to join our Saturday Club in Oban. The club provides social opportunities for children ages 5-18 years both within the resource centre and in the local community. You will support children who use the service to access a variety of activities and social opportunities and be a valued member of the team.

For more information on this post, please contact www.scottishautism.org

Closing Date: 2 weeks from date advertised

Registered charity number is SC009068



We are looking for people to join our team from March/April!

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All rates of pay are negotiable according to experience.

Please send your C.V to

Lorna McKechnie, Manager,
Bridgend Hotel, Isle of Islay, Argyll, PA44 7LB

Or Email your details to info@bridgend-hotel.com

www.bridgend-hotel.com

Ben Nevis Distillery Office Administrator

To complement our team, we are seeking an enthusiastic individual to help run our busy office.

To be considered for this post, the successful applicant will require excellent communication skills both written and verbal, be computer literate including Microsoft packages and have broad experience and understanding of office administration. You will be a team player but also able to work on your own initiative. An understanding of customs and excise legislation and web based applications would be of benefit but training will be given.

Please apply with full C.V. and covering letter to: Stuart Robertson, Distillery Manager, Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TJ.

Closing date 17th February.

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Manager/Housekeeper

Salary £15,000.00

Please send your details to: enquiry@paymastershouse.co.uk

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Please send CV to Yvonne, Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll PA34 4XA or mail@cuilfail.co.uk

Ben Nevis Distillery & Visitor Centre Visitor Centre Manager

To complement our team, we are seeking a socially confident individual to take full responsibility for managing our visitor centre and catering facility.

To be successful in this post, the individual will require excellent communication and presentation skills, understanding of stock control, computer literacy including Microsoft packages and general administration experience. They will also require a thorough understanding of food hygiene legislation. Above all they will have to demonstrate a passion for customer service, hospitality and brand support work gained in a similar role.

A flexible approach is also required, as evening and weekend work may occasionally be encountered.

Please apply with full C.V. and covering letter to: Stuart Robertson, Distillery Manager, Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TJ.

Closing date 17th February.

Head Gardener/Couple

A full-time Head Gardener is required for Glenborrodale Castle. The successful candidate will be responsible for the regeneration, improvement and maintenance of a Grade A listed coastal garden with a further walled garden. In addition, the role will require liaison with the castle's resident chef to produce flowers, fruit and vegetables for the castle. The ideal candidate will be highly motivated and able to work under their own initiative, with significant experience in horticulture and arboriculture. In addition, a practical ability to maintain buildings and machinery would be an advantage.

An excellent salary is payable, along with live-in accommodation. Work may be available for a partner.

Please contact Lise Williamson MacDougall for a detailed job description and application form: Bell Ingram Ltd, 2 Gibraltar Street, Oban PA34 4AY. Tel: 01631-566122 or email lise.macdougall@bellingham.co.uk



Oban Addiction Support and Information Service

Has a vacancy for a

YOUTH ADDICTION WORKER

35 HOURS PER WEEK

Salary to be discussed

Specialised youth addiction worker required to work with youths affected by their own or another's use of substances.

Excellent communication/interpersonal skills essential. Must have experience of youth work and SVQ 3 in Social Care essential.

Experience of addiction issues desirable but not essential.

A full driving license is essential as the successful candidate will travel across the area in which they are based.

This is a fixed term post until November 2013

Contact Louise Steel for an application pack at 11 Stafford Street, Oban, 01631 571348 or email to mail@oasis-oban.org.uk

Closing date for applications is Monday 5th March 2012



CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Seasonal Port Assistant (fixed term contract)

Oban Ferry Terminal
40 hours per week
Rate of Pay £17,222 per annum (pro-rata)

Ref 411-5B

Applications are invited for the position of Seasonal Port Assistant based at the Oban Ferry Terminal. Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include mooring operations, customer enquiries, sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis. If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 411-5B no later than 18 February 2012 to:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268 or email: vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk

CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

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ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT MATERNITY COVER

Applications are invited from candidates to assist in our Accounts Department, based in Oban, to cover maternity leave. This is a temporary Monday - Friday post of 35 hours per week available for an immediate start.

Previous accounts experience would be an advantage but training will be given. The successful candidate must be accurate and work in an organised manner.

Please apply with letter of application and C.V. including contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

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Or contact Crinan Canal Office, Ardrishaig
Tel 01546 603210
E-mail: Helen.cunningham@britishwaterways.co.uk



Civil works sales person

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The John MacLachlan Group is seeking to recruit an ambitious, highly motivated B2B Civil Works sales person to develop and expand business with existing and new customers. You will have good experience in civil works and providing customer solutions. A knowledge of the Argyll area would be beneficial.

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Hydrometrist 

Fort William Water & power engineering

Hydroplan is a leading renewable energy company specialising in hydropower and we are looking for a hydrometrist to join our professional and friendly team at our Fort William office.

This vacancy will suit individuals who enjoy the outdoors, are proficient with PC's and have a good working knowledge of using a GPS. Full driving licence required.

You may be recently qualified (HNC/HND/Degree) with some relevant experience.

Please send your CV and a brief covering letter to Audrey Wiles on info@hydroplan.co.uk. For more info visit www.hydroplan.co.uk

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☎ 01546 604038

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Closing date: 24 February 2012.
To apply visit our website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs





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Media Sales Executive

The Oban Times Group are seeking to recruit a Media sales Executive to join our experienced sales teams in Campbeltown and Oban. Applicants should be lively, enthusiastic, good communicators and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will work across a variety of publications and products. Ongoing in house training will be given as required.

A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding areas in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent basic salary along with commission, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by e-mail with a full C.V including contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

Closing date: Wednesday, 22nd February, 2012






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Subaru XV range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 32.1 (8.8) to 41.5 (6.8). Extra urban from 47.9 (5.9) to 56.5 (5.0). Combined from 40.9 (6.9) to 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions from 160 to 146 (g/km).

The New XV Crossover

The Subaru XV marks the latest entry into the crossover market. Based on the new Impreza hatchback model, the XV is a vehicle which incorporates a number of unique features, not least among them is Subaru's symmetrical all-wheel-drive, which provides power to all four wheels so as to ensure maximum acceleration and traction. The system also incorporates the flat-four configured engine which provides greater stability with a lower centre of gravity.

Subaru has a reputation for building reliable motors and the XV is no exception. The vehicle is able to handle most environmental conditions, it is technologically up-to-date and evoke and displays a tough resilience that evokes memories of its massive successes on the world motorsport scene.

Kenyon Neads, marketing director at Subaru UK, said: 'As a brand we have always favoured the subtle approach, allowing the cars' strengths to speak for themselves.

'Yet we are faced with a commercial need to increase our volume sales. 'The XV meets that family car ethos to perfection and it has been remiss of us to ignore it for so long.

'Deserting our priorities is simply not an issue. In XV, we have an inherently safe family car range that provides surefooted handling, first-class dynamics and feedback to the driver and occupants, with strong multi-surface and multi-climate competence, while retaining a potent competitive edge in all respects, to enhance its value proposition.'

The Subaru XV has a starting price of £21,295 for the 1.6 litre 'Boxer' model, with the 2.0 litre turbo-diesel starting at £24,295.

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new car index

ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440	RENAULT W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphhead Tel: 01499 302150
TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000	SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080/880440

WANTED

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc or any 4 x 4 pickup, any condition or MOT failure, will travel.

Telephone: 07864035750

2006 MINI COOPER 1.6 PARK LANE.



3 door, manual, 33k miles, service history, leather interior, air conditioning, alloy wheels. 12m MOT.

Tel: 01631 564848 day or 07833 948 544

£7500 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORTIVE VAN



White 58 Reg, one owner, Diesel
Service History, Air Con, CD, electric windows and mirrors
Taxed and MOT, great condition
50+MPG.

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£5000 o.n.o. NO VAT.

RENAULT SCENIC 2001



Y reg, MOT for 11 months, taxed till May, 82,700 miles

Tel: 01546 606974

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WANTED

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Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

HONDA CV-R, 2.0SE

5dr, 4wd automatic. 47,750miles. FSH. Ex mobility, petrol. MOT Sept, taxed end Feb.

Telephone: 07770827373

£5950

2008 BESSACARR E530



2 Berth, Excellent condition, 11,000 miles

Tel: 07789175048

£29,500

Oban Times Oban Times
MOTORING MOTORING
Oban Times Oban Times

WANTED FOR EXPORT

Landcruisers, Hilux, also 2 w/d Vauxhall Bravos, any 4 x4 considered old or new, running or not, immediate payment on collection.

Telephone: 07703 490572

WANTED

Landrover Defenders from 1990 - 2011
All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD
Mot'd or not
All models required

Contact James on 07966293996 or 07866590583

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA AUTOMATIC



2002, 1600 sport, 56,000 miles, tax, MOT March 2012.

Telephone: 01546 810079

£2700 o.n.o.

MICHAEL JORDAN (ABBEY) EXPRESSION 470



2 berth, fully fitted and equipped touring caravan, Isabella, full awning (brand new), fully fitted bathroom, shower and cassette toilet with chemicals. Everything you need to start your caravanning holiday.

Contact Neil and Elizabeth 01397 712919

£4499 o.n.o.

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MOT June 2012, TAX May 2012, 78,500 miles, Silver, PAS, ABS, Air Con, RCL, electric windows, CD Player, Alloys, Sports Seats.

Email: d_mac@btinternet.com Phone: 07807 181942

£1595

FORD FIESTA GHIA 1.6



52 plate, black, nice tidy car for age, electric windows, CD player, air con etc. 68,000 miles, Taxed end Feb 2012, MOT end Sept 2012.

Telephone: 07988 763254 / 01546 600149

£2300 o.v.n.o.

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All types of commercial vehicles, all types of plant and machinery.

Telephone Fort William 07789428535.

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

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Registered June 2012 10 plate. Excellent condition. Mileage 13,000. Taxed till end of April.

Tel: 07557987719 for further details.

BMW 320i H68 KSG 1990



Mot'd and Taxed
Original BMW Condition
116,000 miles

Tel: 07767 642833

£1550 o.n.o.

02 NISSAN X TRAIL 2.2 DIESEL



Full Leather, Tow bar, perfect 4x4.

Telephone: 07788 923890

£3450

TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT

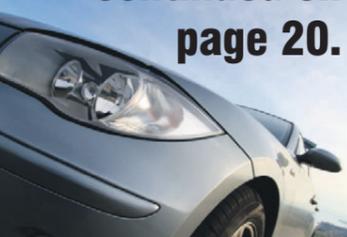


March 2007, 3 door, 42,500 miles, dealer serviced, many extras.

Tel: 01546 602189 or 07780 970392

£4400

Drivetimes are continued on page 20.



FOR EVERYTHING BMW.

BMW 116i Sport 5-door

£289 **£289**
deposit per month

- 17" light alloy wheels
- Bluetooth hands-free facility
- Start/Stop button with keyless engine start
- Drive Performance Control
- iDrive controller



BMW 116i Sport 5-door - representative example

£289 Customer deposit	£289 Monthly payment x47	£1124.58 Dealer deposit contribution	48 Months	£21,305 On the road cash price*	£1413.58 Total deposit	£19,891.42 Total amount of credit
£10 Option to purchase fee^	£9090 Optional final payment	£22,962 Total amount payable by customer	£24,086.58 Total amount payable	4.9% Rate of interest (fixed)	4.9% APR Representative	



BMW 318i Performance Edition

£299 **£299**
deposit per month

- 18" M star-spoke light alloy wheels
- M aerodynamic bodystyling • Sport seats
- M Sport leather multifunction steering wheel
- BMW Professional radio with single CD player



BMW 318i Sport Plus Coupé

£399 **£399**
deposit per month

- Dakota Leather Interior
- 19" M Sport Alloy Wheels • Xenon Headlights
- Business Navigation System
- Bluetooth hands-free facility



BMW 320i M Sport Convertible

£459 **£459**
deposit per month

- Metallic paint • 19" Alloy Wheels
- Leather upholstery • Front centre armrest
- Front seat heating
- Bluetooth hands-free facility

Choose from over 130 BMW Approved Used Cars

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06 56 320 Diesel SE Touring



- Titanium silver • 16" Alloys • 38,000 miles
- Front seat heating • Rear PDC
- Cruise • Auto air-conditioning

£10,995

10 10 118 Diesel M Sport 5dr



- Black sapphire • 24,000 miles • 17" Alloys
- Bluetooth • PDC rear • Fogs
- Auto air-con • MF controls

£14,995

08 58 520 Diesel M Sport Saloon



- Le Mans blue • Beige leather • 18" Alloys
- Navigation • CD changer • PDC
- Cruise • Auto air-con

£17,995

06 06	116i SE 5dr, Quartz blue, grey cloth, 50,161 miles, 16" alloys, climate, rear PDC, armrest, CD.....	£7,995 G
08 08	116i SE 5dr, Montego blue, black cloth, 21,013 miles, 16" alloys, comfort package, climate control, CD, rear PDC.....	£9,995 G
11 11	116i Sport 3dr, Titanium silver, black cloth, 2,927 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats, air con, CD, choice from.....	£13,995 G
09 59	116i Sport 5dr, Titanium silver, black cloth, 16,351 miles, 17" alloys, air con, CD.....	£11,995 G
11 11	116i Sport 5dr, Bluewater, black cloth, 2,663 miles, 17" alloys, air con, CD, choice of colours from.....	£14,995 G
09 09	118 Diesel SE Auto, Black sapphire, black cloth, 25,600 miles, 17" alloys, Dynamic pack, Comfort pack.....	£13,995 G
11 61	118i Sport Convertible, Titanium silver, black cloth, 2,019 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats, air con, CD.....	£20,995 G
10 10	116 Diesel M Sport 5dr, Bluewater, black cloth/sensatec, 33,210 miles, 17" alloys, comfort pack.....	£13,995 H
11 11	116 Diesel Sport 3dr, Jet black, black cloth, 3,056 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats & steering wheel.....	£15,495 H
10 10	118 Diesel M Sport 5dr, Black sapphire, black cloth/sensatec, 24,000 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth.....	£14,995 H
11 61	118 Diesel Performance Edition 3dr, Alpine white, black cloth/sensatec, 3,481 miles, 18" alloys.....	£18,995 H
10 60	120 Diesel SE Coupe, Crimson red, black cloth, 6,259 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC front & rear.....	£16,995 H
08 58	123 Diesel SE 5dr, Black sapphire, black cloth, 32,341 miles, 17" alloys, comfort pack, bluetooth.....	£11,995 H
3 Series		
11 11	318 Diesel M Sport, Le mans blue, cloth/black alcantara, 5,851 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth.....	£19,995 H
11 11	318 Diesel M Sport Touring, Titanium silver, black cloth/alcantara, 3,921 miles, 17" alloys, bluetooth.....	£21,995 H
07 07	318i ES, Barbera red, black cloth, 51,576 miles, 16" alloys, PDC rear, front foglamps, BMW professional radio/CD.....	£ 8,995 H
07 57	318i M Sport Touring, Le mans blue, black cloth/alcantara, 18" alloys, rain sensor, auto headlight activation.....	£12,995 H
11 11	318i SE Saloon, Vermilion red, beige cloth, 3,770 miles, 17" alloys, seat heating front, PDC rear, auto air con.....	£18,995 H
07 57	320 Diesel SE Saloon, Black sapphire, black cloth, 36,017 miles, 16" alloys, front foglamps.....	£12,995 H
06 56	320 Diesel SE Touring, Titanium silver, grey cloth, 38,000 miles, 16" alloys, seat heating front, PDC rear.....	£10,995 H
07 57	320i SE, Montego blue, black cloth, 46,387 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, cruise, MF controls, auto air con.....	£10,995 H
5 Series		
08 58	520 Diesel M Sport Saloon, Le mans blue, beige leather, 57,431 miles, 18" alloys, navigation, CD changer.....	£17,995 H
07 57	523i SE Saloon Auto, Titanium silver, black leather, 53,495 miles, 17" alloys, seat heating front, PDC.....	£13,995 H
7 Series		
07 57	730 Diesel Sport, Titanium silver, black leather, 51,705 miles, navigation, bluetooth, voice control system.....	£15,995 H
M Series		
09 59	M3 Coupé, Jerez black, red leather, 31,840 miles, 19" alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, heated seats, sun protection glass.....	£29,995 G
X1		
10 10	X1 sDrive 1.8 Diesel SE, Alpine white, black cloth, 15,679 miles, 18" alloys, roof rails in black, climate, CD.....	£21,995 G
10 60	X1 sDrive 2.0 Diesel SE, Black sapphire, black leather, 20,822 miles, 18" alloys, Comfort package, heated seats.....	£21,995 G
09 59	X1 xDrive 2.0 Diesel SE, Black sapphire, black cloth, 28,511 miles, 17" alloys, USB, comfort package.....	£21,995 G
10 10	X1 xDrive 2.0 Diesel SE Auto, Black sapphire, black leather, 19,500 miles, 18" alloys, sport seats.....	£24,995 G
X3		
10 10	X3 2.0 Diesel M Sport, Titanium silver, black cloth, 26,000 miles, 17" alloys, air con, sport seats, M bodystyling, CD.....	£25,995 G
X5		
11 11	X5 3.0 Diesel M Sport Auto, Deep Sea blue, black leather, 10,700 miles, 20" alloys, xenons, media pack.....	£41,995 G
11 11	X5 3.0 Diesel M Sport Auto, Alpine white, black leather, 9,700 miles, 20" alloys, xenons, media pack.....	£42,995 G
11 11	X5 3.0 Diesel M Sport Auto, Titanium silver, black leather, 9,700 miles, 20" alloys, third row seating, media pack.....	£43,995 G
08 58	X5 3.5 Diesel M Sport Auto, Carbon black, black leather, 50,750 miles, 20" alloys, Media pack, TV.....	£33,995 G
11 11	X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport, Carbon black, oyster navada leather, 8,926 miles, 20" alloys, media package.....	£42,995 H
11 11	X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport, Black sapphire, oyster navada leather, 8,671 miles, 20" alloys, media package.....	£42,995 H
10 60	X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 18,873 miles, media package, reverse assist.....	£44,995 H
X6		
09 09	X6 3.0 Diesel, Vermillion red, beige leather, 19,317 miles, 18" alloys, Dynamic pack, front heated seats, climate, CD.....	£32,995 G
Z4		
08 57	Z4 2.0i Sport Roadster, Titanium silver, half leather, 32,077 miles, 18" alloys, sport seats, climate, CD.....	£10,995 G

07 57 730 Diesel Sport Saloon



- Titanium silver • Black leather • 51,705 miles
- Navigation • Bluetooth • Xenons
- Sports pack • Voice control

£15,995

11 11 318i SE Saloon



- Vermilion red • Beige cloth • 17" Alloys
- Front seat heating • Rear PDC
- Front fogs • MF controls

£18,995

11 11 X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport



- Carbon black • Nevada leather • 20" Alloys
- Media pack • PDC • Cruise
- Front seat heating • Air-Con

£42,995

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Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door, 3 Series Saloon, 3 Series Coupé, and 3 Series Convertible models ordered between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012, subject to availability. Representative finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the models pictured, a 116i Sport 5-door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile; a 318i Performance Edition, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 5.7p per mile; a 318i Sport Plus Coupé, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6.6p per mile; and a 320i M Sport Convertible, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

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 AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

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	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/04623/FUL	Land 30M North West of Tigh Na Dabhrair Inverie Knoydart	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
12/00136/FUL	Land To South of 4 Marine Place Mallaig	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
12/00259/FUL	Land 60M South East of Fyvie Cottage Camaghaol Fort William	Erection of house and detached car port	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
12/00263/PIP	Land South West of Inchre Cholets Righ Crescent Onich	Erection of four houses upgrade of track and formation of access into Keilview (renewal of 08/00239/OUTLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
12/00291/MSC	Land 40M South West of 20 North Corran Ardgor	Erection of 6 semi-detached houses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
12/00308/FUL	3 Loch Nevis Terrace Mallaig PH41 4QH	Extension to house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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Two bedroom semi detached house with sea views.

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WANTED

AUCTION

The following are among 35 Lots to be offered for Sale by Auction in Glasgow on Thursday 23rd February 2012.

ISLE OF LEWIS Former water tank plus separate small area of ground 104 sq.m in total.
LOCHCARRON Redundant tank on 33.4 sq.m.

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To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING

These 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.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01967/PP	Sub-division of dwellinghouse to form 2 apartments, erection of external stairwell and installation of replacement rooflight	Quailinn Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HY	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/02118/PP	Erection of 225kw wind turbine (46.9 metres high to blade tip) and formation of temporary access track	Land South of Ardehonnell House East Lochaweside Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BW	Sub Post Office Dalmally
11/02120/PP	Erection of 225kw wind turbine (46.9 metres high to blade tip) and formation of temporary access track	Land North East of Ardehonnell Primary School East Lochaweside Dalmally PA33 1BS	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/00041/PP	Erection of a dwellinghouse and detached garage	Land North West of Pine Cottage Kiltrean Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
12/00082/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank (amended design to that approved under 10/00261/PP)	Land South East of Mo Daichaidh Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
12/00166/PP	Removal of condition 1 of planning permission 11/02072/PP, provision of 6 additional parking spaces, amended elevations and roof design	Development Site: McKelvie Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
12/00175/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Allt Na Croich Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XD	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
12/00188/PP	Removal of covered bin store and erection of new plant room and external service ducts	Combie Court Glencruitten Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
12/00198/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse and re-positioning of LPG tank	Norhithon Ganavan Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5TU	Oban Area Office
12/00212/PP	Erection of a dwellinghouse, formation of a vehicular access and the installation of a septic tank	Land To North of Seabank Farmhouse Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SB	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/00213/PP	Formation of temporary contractors site compound.	Land To North of Crauchan Power Station Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA33 1AN	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/00218/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse	Quilvona Ganavan Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5TU	Oban 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
12/00184/LIB	Installation of replacement windows and door	16 Toberonochy Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UE	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dairnada House, Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

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.

OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held in The Studio Theatre, Corran Halls, Oban, on Wednesday 15 February 2012 at 10am

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Any enquiries should be directed to: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager (Tel: 01369 707134).

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Councillors Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban, South and the Isles) and Louise Glen-Lee (E.W.5 Oban, North and Lorn) will be holding a joint surgery on Friday 24th February in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.30pm - 5.00pm.

No appointment is necessary. To make an appointment with the Councillors outwith these times, they can be contacted as follows: roderick.mccuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk or Tel: 01631 567142. louse.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk or phone/text 07717 526 999 or 01546 604029

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (E.W. Ward 5 Oban, North and Lorn)

Councillor Glen-Lee will be holding surgeries during February as follows:

Monday 13th February	Kilniver Primary School	3.45pm - 4.30pm
Monday 20th February	Dalmally Primary School	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Friday 24th February	Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban	2.30pm - 5.00pm
Monday 27th February	Aggin Village Hall	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Monday 27th February	Easdale Primary School	6.30pm - 7.30pm

THE FORMER MANSE, DUNUARAN ROAD, OBAN PA34 4NE
CLOSING DATE THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY AT 12 NOON.



Further details from and all offers to the Church of Scotland, Law Department, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN.
Tel: 0131 240 2263. Fax: 0131 240 2246.
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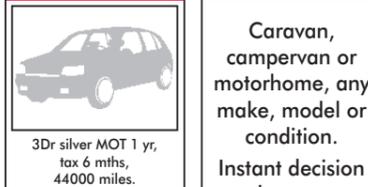
VW POLO 1.2 E



2002/52, 68,000miles, MOT April 2012, 6 months tax, good condition.
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SEAT LEON CUPRA 1.8T



02 Reg, 57,000 miles, eclipse blue, 6 months tax and MOT, alloys, FSH, two owners, excellent condition.

Telephone: 01855 821382

£2650

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
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3 Door, 56 plate, 4WD, Only 23,000 miles, elderly lady owner.
Good condition, great runner.
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52 FORD TRANSIT FREEZER VAN



1 years MOT, £2500 + VAT

Telephone: 07788 923890

£4500 o.n.o.

Forestry Commission Scotland
Invitation to Quote: Ref 501-12-49
Removal of ten fish farm cages from Aros Park Lochan, By Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Break up and transport to Council's refuse tip at Tobermory. Expected start date 16 March 2012.
Please contact Tony Garman on 01546 602518 for further details tony.garman@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Quotations to be submitted by 17 February 2012

The Scottish Parliament
Mike MacKenzie MSP
Highlands & Islands
ADVICE SURGERY
at Parliamentary Office
31 Combie Street, OBAN
On Friday 10th February from 1.00pm to 3.00pm
No appointment necessary

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

North Argyll Stroke Association A.G.M
February 28, 2012 at 1.30pm
Dunmar Court, Oban

Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr
And Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr

Lismore Historical Society
A Company limited by guarantee No. SC234832
AIREAMH CARTHANNAIS Charity No. SC023503

CELM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 24th March at 12noon in the Museum Room
Followed immediately by
TAIC CELM AGM
J Baker, Secretary 01631 760360

Friends of St John's, Ballachulish
It is with much regret that The Friends of St John's, Ballachulish, fundraisers for the restoration of the Church and grounds, announce its dissolution as a charitable organisation. This has been brought about due to unresolvable difficulties outwith Friends' control. Friends would like to thank all those, both here and abroad, who supported us so generously since 2006

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ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

ORNAMENTS "Secret Fairies", limited edition, white unicorn and fairy, sold separate or as a pair, £20 the pair Telephone 01631 570408.

TRICYCLE vintage child's Triang, 1960s, very good condition, collectible item or to be used as intended, £20 Telephone 01631 564578.

VINTAGE CHILDREN'S COMICS Annuals (Beezer, Diana, Tom/Jerry etc), ideal for ebay, £5 per group six comics/two annuals, please phone for list Telephone 01631 770310.

WATER COLOUR Macleod's Tables, Dunvegan, Skye, very good £49.99 Telephone 07926 967444.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY BOUNCER CHAIR Fisher Price, vgc, includes hanging toys and vibrating seat, £20 Telephone 01586 810457.

BABY COT white wooden cot with mattress, £25 Telephone 01838 200672.

HEDESTROM BABY SWING suitable for 6 months and over £20 Telephone 01546 600097.

PRAM/PUSHCHAIR Mamas and Papas 2/1 with raincover, very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710267.

BUILDING / DIY

WEST HIGHLAND SLATES 10,000 slates, grade one, £550 per thousand Telephone 07796 760830.

CAR ACCESSORIES

WRANGLER JEEP WHEEL and new tyre, 225/70/15 £45 Telephone 01880 820110.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

VOLKSWAGON GOLF AUTOMATIC P Reg Volkswagon Golf, blue, body condition good for age, petrol, needs new starter motor, but no other problems. Offers Telephone 01586 551223.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

HP PAVILION PC UNIT 2.6 ghz Intel, 80gb hard drive, 512 mb Ram, fresh copy of windows xp and broadband ready, good working order £49 Telephone 01546 605251.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

CHEST FREEZER Chest Freezer £40 Telephone 01586 553251.

CHEST FREEZER Small chest freezer, good condition £40 Telephone 01586 553251.

INDESIT ELECTRIC COOKER free-standing, ceramic hob, 50cm, 3 years old £49 Telephone 07833 508550.

DOMESTIC PETS

LABRADOR PUPS Yellow, KC reg, raised in family home, both parents have great hip scores, wormed and vaccinated, 4 weeks free insurance, ready now, £450 each Telephone 01496 840637.

LHASA-APSO PUPPIES 3 boys, 3 girls, ready now, can email pic., £395 Telephone 01586 820546.

SPRINGER SPANIELS permanent homes required for two lovely eight year old springer boys, owner has passed away. Neutered, friendly and quiet to handle. Please call Kirsty, Telephone 01877 339190.

LIVESTOCK

COLLIE PUPS black, white and tan, farm reared Telephone 01567 820432.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

FIREWOOD

RECYCLED SAWDUST BRIQUETTES 10 15kg bags. Ideal for use in stoves or ranges, cleaner than coal. More efficient and reliable than logs, all recycled waste £40 Telephone 07988 763254.

FURNITURE

3 PIECE SUITE good condition, green material with floral detail, buyer uplifts, Campbeltown area, £35 Telephone 01586 553965 or 07955 230861.

DOUBLE MEMORY FOAM DIVAN BED with heat sensitive, body contouring mattress in cream damask. Never used and still wrapped. Can deliver. Cost £699 must sell, £180 Telephone 07570 584976.

FURNITURE

two cube storage units on castors, suitable for bedside use or as side table in livingroom, in good condition, light birch, £20 Telephone 01631 563096.

LARGE KITCHEN CUPBOARD park oak, painted and stencilled, good condition, in Campbeltown, £30 Telephone 07763 075200.

OAK TV TABLE good condition, in Campbeltown, £40 Telephone 07763 075200.

SIDEBOARD pine, three drawers, three cupboards, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07919 995609.

SWIVEL BAR STOOL black vinyl with chrome tube frame, very stylish, very good condition, hardly used, £20 Telephone 01586 551526.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

BAR BELL SET 24kg bar bell set, still boxed and bar in plastic sleeve. Unused £20 Telephone 01586 553251.

DIET CHEF as seen on tv, one month of meals, was £179, now £100 Telephone 01586 552626.

MESSAGE BED portable electric massage bed with heat pad, hardly used, buyer collect, £45 Telephone 01499 302818.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

ELECTRIC COAL EFFECT FIRE 3 k/w electric fire with coal-effect grate, fan assisted, plus thermostat. Large dark wood surround/mantle piece, £35 Telephone 01852 300587.

ELECTRIC PANEL HEATERS Dimplex panel heaters with timer, small size, 750 watt, very good condition, Two available, £15 Telephone 01631 710663.

ELECTRIC PANEL HEATERS Dimplex panel heaters with timer, medium size, good condition 1250 watt. Two available £18 Telephone 01631 710663.

WOOD BURNING STOVE WOODWARM multifuel stove, 6kW, in use, boiler needs replacing. All parts still available (Backwoodsman, Barcaldine), £340 Telephone 01631 720425.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

ACRYLIC BATH WHITE brand new, Plumbure B&Q bath. L1700, W700, H545 mm. (Oban) £49.99 Telephone 07810876042.

BATH EXTRAS matching front bath panel, end panel, both from B&Q, bath taps and bath plug both from Homebase all brand new (Oban), £49.99 Telephone 07810876042.

BATHROOM WALL UNITS two units, one corner, excellent condition, can deliver C/town, £30 Telephone 01586 551520.

JARS set of three - tea, coffee, sugar, ceramic with breadbin to match £15 Telephone 01631 570408.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

BUOYANCY AIDS two red buoyancy jackets very good condition, 1 adult 28-34 ins 1 teenage 28-34 ins, £30 Telephone 01631 710663.

CYCLE/CROSS TRAINER assembled good condition, £40 Telephone 07919 995609.

MISCELLANEOUS

CANVAS TARPULIN 16' long, 11' wide, vgc, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602259.

SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL VASE personalised swirl heart vase with Swarovski crystal, personalised with mum happy 60th birthday, brand new, double gift, Oban, £40 Telephone 07810876042.

VARIOUS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Black leather two seater sofa, £180. Hotpoint twelve place dishwasher, £90. Creda concept cooker with ceramic hob and fan oven, £90. All in good condition, in Campbeltown, Telephone 07763 075200.

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WILLOW CUTTINGS FOR PLANTING 24 x different coloured varieties cut to 14" long ready for planting at 10p each, Lagnaha, Duror Telephone 01631 740282.

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4 wheeled walking stroller/support with seat, brakes and storage for shopping, excellent condition £49.99 Telephone 01631 564206.

MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

MOTORCYCLE LIFT Sealey Yankee hydraulic lift. Lifts up to 365kg, max height 760mm, all steel with integral foot pump, new April 2011, used once, heavy, purchaser to collect. Cost £316 new £110 Telephone 01583 441181, or 07867 928989

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TOYS AND GAMES

DOLL'S PRAM pink, Winnie the Pooh £15.00 Telephone 01546 600097.

WANTED

2ND HAND CEMENT MIXER in good working condition, can collect from Oban area Telephone 01838 200223.

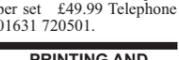
CAR TRAILER about 6'x4' suitable for firewood and general DIY, reasonable condition. D McNeill, Taynuilt Telephone 07909 793837.

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF YACHTS wanted for research purposes any pre 1920 copies of 'Lloyd's Register of Yachts'. Can possibly collect, condition not important if complete. Contact Iain Thomber Email: iain.thomber@btinternet.com Telephone 01967 421651.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals, Telephone 01499 506638 or 07787 991636

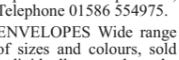
PERSONALS

HAPPY 21ST Birthday Shona Neil



9/2/12 Lots of Love from Mum xxx

Happy 18th Birthday Sophie MacLennan



11 February 2012. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Morgan, Nana, Grandad & Uncles

The Oban Times is read by over 40,000 people every week making it the largest selling newspaper in the Highlands & Islands

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2012 Calendars

Advertisement for 2012 Calendars featuring Isle of Arran, The Oban Times, Scottish Field, and Scottish Field Mini. Includes 'ON SALE NOW!' and contact information for www.scottishcalendars.co.uk.

Photographic Orders advertisement. Includes a coupon to order photographs published in the newspaper. A5 photograph: £4.41, A4 photograph: £6.76. Contact: www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

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Graham Scott, Dip FA INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISOR. Covering Argyll including Islay and Mull. 'I offer unbiased financial advice to give you the most appropriate and affordable solutions for your financial needs'. For a NO OBLIGATION FIRST MEETING call 07738 121549. gas.gascott@btinternet.com

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tree surgeons. All aspects of tree work... Felling, Pruning, Dismantling, Windblown, Tree Removal. Fully Certified and Insured. Ruairaidh Neish: 07821 582742. Ricky Duffy: 07923 223668. Email: tree.monkeys@yahoo.co.uk

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BIRTHS

STUART FOTHERINGHAM - On January 7, 2012, to Sophia (née MacCarthy-Morrigh) and Charles, a daughter, Cecilia Pascha.

DEATHS

BAKSHSH - Khuda (Johnny) formerly of Caol Fort William, passed away on January 23, 2012 at 13.35, at the age of 89. He was comforted by his loving family and died peacefully. His family ask, if anyone has memorable photos of him would they be kind enough to email them to jossy_bakshsh@yahoo.co.uk at their own convenience.

CAMERON - Linda (Doh) Suddenly but peacefully at Paisley ITU on Sunday February 5, 2012, dearly loved partner of Alex MacNicol (Tottie) dearest daughter of Cathie and the late Duncan (Doh) Cameron, loving daughter in law, sister, sister in law. Auntie and niece and special friend to many. Funeral service at 12pm Saturday February 11 at Acharacle Parish Church

CAMPBELL - At Kingsmill Care Home, Inverness, on February 2, 2012, in her 101st year, Rebecca Reid Campbell (Cissie), in the presence of her daughter and son-in-law, Sheila and George MacRae, 36 Clodden Road, Inverness. Dearly loved wife of the late Donald Campbell (Glasgow and Iona), beloved mother of Sheila and the late Isabel, mother-in-law of George and the late Dick, very fond grandmother of Kirsty, Fiona, Donald and Gordon, also dearly loved by her nine great-grandchildren. Funeral service on Monday, February 13 at 1.30pm in Inverness Crematorium. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Petty Parish Church and Down's Syndrome at the service or please forward to William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduel Road, Inverness.

CAMPBELL - On Monday, February 6, 2012, David Angus, beloved brother of Sheila and Mary and a much loved uncle and great-uncle. Sadly missed. Funeral service to be held in Appin Parish Church on February 10, at 1pm.

MACCUISH - Peacefully at Uist and Barra Hospital on January 24, 2012, Morag MacCuish, 17 Borve, Berneray, passed away aged 101 years. Beloved wife of the late James MacCuish and much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Sadly missed.

MACDONALD - Elizabeth Ann, (Betty Rodgers), of 11 Melantee, Claggan, Fort William, wife of the late Rev. Neil MacDonald, beloved mother of Wilma, Catherine, Nora, Neil and Elizabeth, dear daughter of Mrs Ina Hope, loving grandmother, great grandmother, mother-in-law and sister. Deeply regretted and sadly missed by all the family circle. Funeral to be held in Fort William Baptist Church, at 1pm on February 13, 2012. Family Flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Diabetes UK.

MACQUARIE - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Sunday, February 5, 2012, in her 100th year, Elizabeth (MacLean), beloved wife of the late Alistair Macquarie, dear mother of Elma and Adie and a loved granny and great granny. Funeral service will be held at Lynn Court, Oban, on Thursday, February 9 at 1.00 p.m., thereafter to Kilniver Cemetery.

ROBERTSON - Norma Robertson, beloved wife of Roy and mum of Amy and Iona, died peacefully at home on Thursday, February 2, 2012. A private family cremation service will take place in Greenock on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Roy, Amy and Iona invite all who knew and liked Norma to join them for a celebration of her life commencing at 12.30 pm in the Oban Bay Hotel on Saturday, February 18, 2012. No flowers please. Donations if desired for Macmillan Nurses.

SCOTT - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on February 7, 2012 aged 70 years, Cyril Scott, darling husband of Christine, much loved dad to Grigor and father-in-law to Ruth, a loving grandpa to Bayden and Finlay and brother-in-law to Tibbie.

STEVENSON - Peacefully at the home of her daughter and son-in-law on January 8, 2012, Catherine Anne (Katie), nee McInnes, aged 91 years, beloved wife of the late Andrew Stevenson. Katie was the daughter of the late Hugh and Mary McInnes (McIntyre) of Furnace. Cremated in Edinburgh.

Special thanks to Kevin and his team at Yodel for their kindness and thoughtfulness. Also thanks to dear friends and neighbours especially 'You from Me.' The many cards, telephone calls and visits were a great comfort and very much appreciated. Sincere thanks to Rev D Cameron for a very personal and comforting service. Also thank you to all who travelled from afar to Oban and Clydebank. A very personal thanks to Ian MacInnes at D and A Munn for his guidance and support. A retail collection raised £603 for MIND.

KENNEDY - The family of the late Margaret Kennedy would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kind expressions of sympathy cards, Mass offerings received and to all who attended the funeral mass and graveside. A special thanks to Father MacKinnon for a comforting funeral mass and prayers and to Father Chalmers of St Ninian's, Inverness. Mike McFall and staff for their caring and dignified handling of the funeral. Staff of the Railway Club for catering. The family would also like to thank carers Cecilia, Heather, Dace and Vaida, wardens Kate and Diane who cared for Margaret at 26 Lochiel Road, Inverness. Also doctors and staff at Kingsmill's Medical practice and also the District Nurses, Ach-an-Eas Care Home, Island Bank Road, Inverness for their caring of Margaret in her last few months. The retail collection at Church, £300, was donated to Ach-an-Eas Residential Care Home.

MACCALL - The family of the late Duncan Downie MacCall would like to thank all relatives and friends from near and far for their kindness and support following the sad loss of Duncan. Grateful thanks to all his carers and staff at Torosay Court, Rev. Roberts Brookes for a comforting and uplifting service, to Hamish Hoey and Son for efficient and compassionate funeral arrangements to Moreen Gracie for beautiful floral tributes and finally to all who came to pay their last respects at the Church and graveside. A collection of £310.83 was donated to Oban War & Peace Museum.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear brother, brother in law, uncle and grand uncle, who passed away February 10, 2011. Loved and remembered always.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Duncan, a dear brother, brother in law, uncle and grand uncle, who passed away February 10, 2011. Loved and remembered always.

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LAIRD - In loving memory of our precious mother Oozie (Susan), who passed away on February 14, 2003. A pain that never goes away.

- Love Brenda, Poacher, Leigh and Danica x Miss you always mum. - Love Damian x

LAIRD - Treasured memories of Susan (Oozie), who died February 14, 2003. Beloved wife of the late Davy and a wonderful mum, nana and great nana. Always in our hearts and thoughts.

We love you still and miss you lots. - The Laird family. **MACALLISTER** - Loving memories of my dear husband William (Billy) who died February 8, 2010. Loved and remembered always.

- By your loving wife Mary-Jane and family. **MACALLISTER** - William, died February 8, 2010. Loving memories of our dear dad and grandfather. Always in our thoughts. They walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard but always near.

Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Margaret, Archie, Fiona and Duncan. **MACLEAN** - In loving memory of my gran, Annag MacLean, who sadly passed away on February 10, 2011. My heart still aches in sadness.

My silent tears still flow For what it meant to lose you gran No-one will ever know. Loved and missed very much. - Christina x. **MACLEAN** - Ian Matheson (Cleasny). Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear sister, auntie and grand auntie Katie, died February 8, 2010. We watched you getting tired, a cure was not to be, God put his arms around you and whispered come with me. Our lady star of the sea pray for her. - Annag and family, Oban and Glasgow.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of a dear husband, dad and granddad John MacDonald who passed away on February 14, 2008. We think of him in silence, No eyes can see us weep, But still within our aching hearts his memory we keep.

- always in our thoughts your loving wife Ina and all the family xx **MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Thomas Freeland, passed away February 12, 1986 and Jessie MacKenzie, passed away February 7, 1994. Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by Donald, Neil, Sobel and family.

MACINNES - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny Nan, who passed away February 8, 2011. Always in our hearts and thoughts.

We love you and miss you lots. - Love Moira, Alan, Alyson and Colin xxxx. Treasured memories of a wonderful aunt.

- Caroline, Philip, Shirley, Malcolm, David and Coryn. **MACLEAN** - Cherished memories of Mary Campbell MacLean (Nee MacDonald). A devoted wife, mother, granny and mother-in-law who died on February 8, 2005 aged 65 years.

This day is remembered and quietly kept. No need for words we will never forget. - Alistair and family Glenalma, Soroba Road. **MACLEAN** - Remembered always a dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie Mary Campbell MacLean, who died February 8, 2005. Those we love don't go away.

They walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Margaret, Archie, Fiona and Duncan. **MACLEAN** - In loving memory of my gran, Annag MacLean, who sadly passed away on February 10, 2011. My heart still aches in sadness.

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MACLEAN - In loving memory of Kenneth MacLean, a much loved and dearly missed husband, father and grandfather, who died February 9, 2011. We cannot bring the old days back.

Your smile we cannot see We can only treasure the memories of days that used to be. Fondly remembered. - Penny, Kevin, Penny, Jonny, Ross and Emma. **MACLEAN** - Fond memories of Kenny, who passed away February 9, 2011, dear brother of Lexy and Agnes and the late Donnie, Morag and Mary. Quietly remembered.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of our lovely mother Daisy (née Sheard), who passed away on February 11, 2011. - Kathleen, Kenneth, Alison and Roderick. **McKINNEY** - In loving memory of our dear brother Owen who died February 12, 2009. Very sadly missed.

- Jessie and Pat. **MCENZIES** - In loving memory of Hamish, a loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa, who died February 10, 2007. Forever in our thoughts. - Betty, David, Elizabeth, Willie and Isla. **NEWTON** - In loving memory of my dear husband who died January 31, 1976. Remembered always.

- Amy. **STEWART** - Cherished memories of Mena who died February 12, 2002 also Jimmy who died January 6, 2010 and James died December 25, 1983, also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

Deep are the memories Precious they stay No length of time Can take them away. - From all the family. **SUTHERLAND** - Precious memories of our dearly loved son, Innes, taken from us on February 14, 1999, aged 21 years.

There is a place in our hearts that is yours alone A part of our lives no one can own Deep in our memories you are with us yet To love, cherish and never forget. Loved and remembered everyday. - Mum and Dad xx.

Innes, a much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle. We miss your smile, your joking ways. We miss the things you used to say. When old times we do recall It's then we miss you most of all. Forever in our thoughts and hearts.

- Your big sisters, Kerri, Iona and Catherine xxx. **WELSH** - Treasured memories of our dad, Da Ronnie who died February 4, 2007. May the winds of love blow softly. And whisper so you'll hear We will always love and miss you. And wish that you were here. - The Welsh family.

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MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE **Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch** Donations always gratefully accepted. Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

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Climb stirs memories of team leader's death

ONE OF the darkest days in the history of Killin Mountain Rescue Team was commemorated last Wednesday.

Sergeant Harry Lawrie was the leader of the Killin team when he fell to his death in a helicopter crash near the summit of Ben More exactly twenty five years earlier.

Members of the team who were there on the fateful day joined family and friends of Sergeant Lawrie to mark the occasion with a walk up to the cross erected in his memory at the summit of Ben Ledi, near Callander.

Among the walkers was former mountain rescue man Ian Ramsay, who along with Harry Lawrie was thrown out of the RAF helicopter that spiralled out of control when its rotor hit the mountainside. The pilot had been attempting to land the pair on the hill to join other mountain rescue members going to the aid of a woman climber.

Both Harry's sons, Gary and Gordon, were on the walk, and Gary said it had been an emotional but inspiring way to remember their father.

'It was an excellent day. We had very good weather and it was a great way to remember my dad, especially since so many of the people who worked with him at the time came on the walk. As usually happens with mountain rescue we ended the day in the pub.'

Recalling the day of the accident, Gary said: 'I was 19 at the time and had just joined the police, but on the day it happened I was in the borders courting the woman who's now my wife. My brother and I were both in mountain rescue at the time and we carried on for a few years after that.'

'My Mum was at the foot of the hill and saw it all happen. There's no doubt it had a big impact on her.'

Ian Ramsay, now 59, told *The Oban Times* he still remembers the accident vividly: 'I smashed up my femur, ribs and pelvis. I was thrown out and went cartwheeling down the mountain. Eventually I crashed into the fuselage of the helicopter.'

'The others went into the wreckage and cut the winchman out.'

Also on the walk were Billy Stitt and Stewart Ingles, who for their actions on the day of the tragedy both received the Queen's award for brave conduct and the Central Scotland Police medal for bravery. Billy is the current leader of the Killin team.



The walkers, including Ian Ramsay (top right, next to the cross) taking a well-earned break at the summit of a snow clad Ben Ledi.

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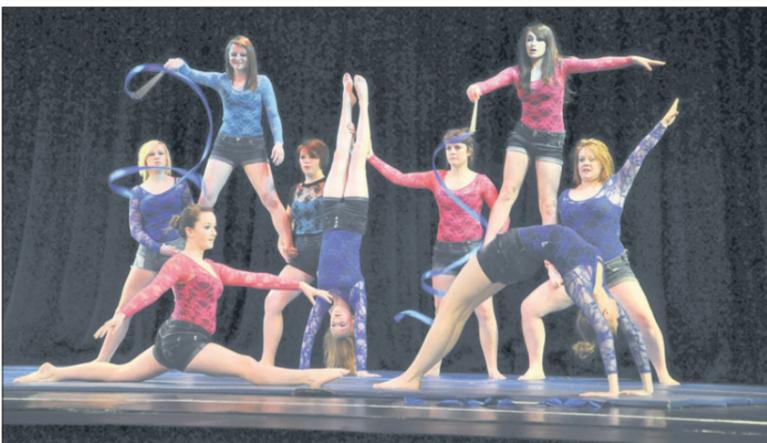
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The Oban High School Gymnastic Squad display their colourful talents.

Large crowd praises Oban's 'Musical Idols'

HUNDREDS of people packed into the Corran Halls for Oban High School's 6th dance show, 'Musical Idols', on January 25 and 26. Among the performers were local primary school children, gymnasts, sports coaches and more than 160 Oban High School pupils.

Ballet West also added to the display with two performances of their own. Contributing to the choreography were Oban High School dance leaders, Leigh MacKenzie, Jenny Case, Fiona Cameron, Nicola MacIntyre and Lauren Angus. The show ran over two

nights and more than 200 pupils from local primary schools attended. OHS Physical Education teacher Denise Gemmell said 'The Dance Show has been a real success this year with a record number of high school pupils taking part, which was fantastic and we

are so proud of them all. 'A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in the show. 'The local primary schools have been really supportive and we really appreciate the large numbers that attended the matinee and evening performances.'

Laurinburg 20th anniversary

FORMER pupils of Oban High School involved in the Oban - Laurinburg exchange visits are being invited to attend a ceilidh in Oban on June 23 to mark its 20th anniversary. An invitation is also extended to parents or teachers who have been involved. Photographs or memorabilia of the American exchange will be taken at the school. The ceilidh to mark the anniversary of the exchange will take place in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Thought for the Week

Give thanks with a grateful heart - How often do we do this though? We look around us at the wonderful setting God has put us in and we forget to say thank him for his creation and giving us the wonderful place we stay in. We rush into the supermarkets flinging produce into our trolleys and baskets and we forget to say thanks to God for the food on our table. We forget to remember the producers, farmers and crofters who have toiled long hours to produce it for

us sometimes with very little reward. We forget as we rush around to stop to give thanks to God for families and friends. Most of all we forget that it is God that is in overall control of all that happens and we forget to come and worship in the beauty of his holiness. We could utter this simple prayer of thanks - "O God, who visits the earth and waters it, You greatly enrich the world you have made. You provide the people with grain, You crown the

year with your bounty. The hills gird themselves with joy; the meadows clothe themselves with flocks. Your Spirit is present in every Rural community, enlivening, empowering and encouraging. With your Spirit your Church seeks to co-operate, listening, liberating and serving. With hearts full of gratitude and joy, we offer You our thanks and praise in Jesus name. Amen.

Bill Harvey, Convenor Scottish Churches Rural Group.

'Sleep out' raises hopes

WORKERS from Hope Kitchen held a 'sleep out' on January 28 to highlight and raise awareness of homelessness. Hope operates from the Salvation Army Hall in Stevenson Street, Oban and provides a drop-in centre for those who are homeless or suffer from addictions. Advice and a hot meal can be provided along with a change of clothing.

Muckairn Guild

MUCKAIRN Church Guild and friends recently met in the church and were welcomed by convenor Stella Huntingford. Secretary Marlene Staners read from Philippians chapter two on the humility of Christ. The hymn: 'Will you come and follow me if I but call your name' followed the guild's three-year theme from Micah: 'The Lord requires of us to love justice, to show mercy and to walk humbly with God.'

The Rev. Robert Brookes led a comprehensive Bible study on the theme: 'Called to walk humbly with God.' This was followed by the hymn 'One more step along the world I go, keep me travelling along with you.'



A late Christmas gift

Fort William Primary pupils recently handed over a cheque for £100 to Highland Hospice from money raised at the school's annual Christmas show. The children performed 'Born in a Barn' - the nativity story told from the animals' point of view - to an audience of family and friends before Christmas. Highland Hospice representative Norma Fraser, pictured, thanked the children for the money. Louise Knox (P3) and Kieran MacDougall (P2), who played Mary and Joseph in the play, and John Cummings (P6) and Connor McLauchlan (P7, far left) played the cockerel and the cat - the narrators of the show - are pictured handing the cheque.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMERON - In loving memory of Duncan, a dear brother, brother in law, uncle and grand uncle, who passed away February 10, 2011. Loved and remembered always.

MACDONALD - Elizabeth Ann, (Betty Rodgers), of 11 Melantee, Claggan, Fort William, wife of the late Rev. Neil MacDonald, beloved mother of Wilma, Catherine, Nora, Neil and Elizabeth, dear daughter of Mrs Ina Hope, loving grandmother, great grandmother, mother-in-law and sister. Deeply regretted and sadly missed by all the family circle. Funeral to be held in Fort William Baptist Church, at 1pm on February 13, 2012. Family Flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Diabetes UK.

MACQUARIE - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Sunday, February 5, 2012, in her 100th year, Elizabeth (MacLean), beloved wife of the late Alistair Macquarie, dear mother of Elma and Adie and a loved granny and great granny. Funeral service will be held at Lynn Court, Oban, on Thursday, February 9 at 1.00 p.m., thereafter to Kilniver Cemetery.

ROBERTSON - Norma Robertson, beloved wife of Roy and mum of Amy and Iona, died peacefully at home on Thursday, February 2, 2012. A private family cremation service will take place in Greenock on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Roy, Amy and Iona invite all who knew and liked Norma to join them for a celebration of her life commencing at 12.30 pm in the Oban Bay Hotel on Saturday, February 18, 2012. No flowers please. Donations if desired for Macmillan Nurses.

SCOTT - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on February 7, 2012 aged 70 years, Cyril Scott, darling husband of Christine, much loved dad to Grigor and father-in-law to Ruth, a loving grandpa to Bayden and Finlay and brother-in-law to Tibbie.

STEVENSON - Peacefully at the home of her daughter and son-in-law on January 8, 2012, Catherine Anne (Katie), nee McInnes, aged 91 years, beloved wife of the late Andrew Stevenson. Katie was the daughter of the late Hugh and Mary McInnes (McIntyre) of Furnace. Cremated in Edinburgh.

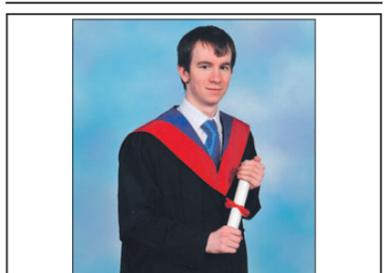
ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN Campbell Street Church Sunday 12 February 2012 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available

Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION Sunday 12 February 2012 Sexagesima St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion.....08.00 Sung Eucharist.....10.15 Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Communion.....11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....10.00

GRADUATIONS



David Alan Alexander Smith graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with M.Sc in Advanced Materials Engineering. David also won the Scottish Association for Metals prize for Best Research Thesis. He is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High School. David is the son of Helen and the late Alan Smith, Oban. He is now working at Rolls Royce Inchinnan Renfrewshire as a Laboratory Technologist.

ADVERTISEMENT

Words by the Wayside

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me...for without Me ye can do nothing." (John 15:4,5)

The devoted Believer knows the things of the Lord by intimacy with Him. Seeing Christ in glory made Paul the apostle blind as a man to everything on earth. This is the devotedness to Christ's things that become us, enduring loss and hardships ourselves in order that we may save and bless others. "He must increase but I must decrease."

www.wordsbythewayside.co.uk Registered Scottish charity SC041290

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ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

BROWNLOW - Marie would like to thank her beautiful family for all their love and support following the sudden tragic loss of Martin, loving husband father, stepfather and papa

SQUASH

Korrie are electric in squash league

KORRIE Electric extended their lead in the latest round of the Lochaber and Lorn Squash League after an 11-4 win over Simmers&Co with Gary Davidson getting a walkover when Neil Fraser failed to turn up. Alan Ross beat Iain Richardson 3-1, Neil Worsdall lost 3-2 in a great game with Kenny Drummond and finally Bryan Wilson won their last game 3-0 against Niall Campbell. In the other game, Oban Filling Station won 9-7 against Korrie Plumbing in a tight encounter. Warren Cameron won 3-1 against Paul Murphy then Murdo Murray narrowly beat the ever-improving Peter Strange 3-2. Fraser Inglis won his game for O.F.S 3-0 against Rah Douglas before the deciding game between Alan Moore and Iain Black, where Alan's fitness and control showed through to win 3-1 after 40 minutes of play.

Team	P	W	D	L	A	F
Korrie Electric	4	4	0	0	18	44
Oban Fill St	4	3	0	1	31	33
Korrie Plumb	3	0	0	3	29	19
Simmers & Co	3	0	0	3	12	14

10-PIN BOWLING

Alleycats extend league lead

ALLEYCATS have extended their lead at the top of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league scratch division at the Nevis Centre. After 11 weeks of play, Alleycats have 53 points after beating second-placed Council 5-0. Council have 45 points while Ardtoe/Nevis Radio stay in third with 37 points despite going down 5-0 to Underdogs. Alleycats are also the new leaders in the handicap division after beating previous leaders Council 5-0. Council drop to third place on 34 points with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio moving into second on 36 points. The highest team games of the week came from Alleycats with 568 scratch, 785 handicap. Alleycats also had the highest 2 game scratch total with 1,097. Individually the best scratch game this week came from Alleycats' Pam Weller with 172. Jacqui Hill, Phoenix, had the best handicap game of 230. Pam Weller also rolled the week's best two game scratch series with 333. John Weller had the week's best two game handicap series with 420.



Ballachulish's all-conquering teams celebrate with their trophies.

Ballachulish win indoor tournament

JUNIOR shinty players from across the west Highlands packed out the Nevis Centre for an annual indoor primary school competition on Saturday morning. Ballachulish ran out winners in all three age categories after three hours of tough play in the round-robin tournament, which was organised by Glengarry Shinty Club. Ardnamurchan, Glengarry and Lochcarron all entered teams, with the players split into three age groups - P3

PRIMARY SHINTY chose the players of the tournament for each age group. Sean McClellan of Ardnamurchan won P3 category trophy, Cameron Bremner won the P5 award and his fellow Glengarry player Mungo Blakey was named best player for the P7s. Organiser Catherine Cameron said: 'Glengarry Shinty Club are indebted to the Grassie family of Culachy Estate, Fort Augustus for sponsoring this event and to Elaine for organising all aspects of the day.'



Players of the tournament - Glengarry's Mungo Blakey (left) and Cameron Bremner, with Ardnamurchan's Sean McClellan (front).

Clubs reject shinty majority of proposed shinty rule changes

Rolling substitutes adopted after year-long pilot proves successful

CAMANACHD Association members unanimously voted in favour of permanently introducing rolling substitutions into the sport at an extraordinary general meeting in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Friday night. Rolling substitutes were brought in last season on a year-long trial, and the association's 33 voting members decided to keep the rule change. Clubs are allowed to name five substitutions for each match, three of which can be used on a continuous basis. A proposal to reduce the number of substitutes available to managers from five to three was one of four other potential rule changes voted down at the meeting. A plan to allow the attacking team within five yards from the ball at free-hits was voted down 27 votes to six, with some club officials saying it could increase direct shots which could lead to

SHINTY receive on a weekly basis doesn't do much to attract new referees to the game. The proposal failed to find a seconder. Glasgow Celtic Society put forward a plan to increase the penalty area by five yards, which only attracted two votes in favour. Chief operating officer Torquil Macleod presented the Camanachd Association's strategic plan for the next two years, which includes plans to increase the number of volunteers involved with the sport by five per cent and the number of players by 10 per cent. Mr Macleod said: 'We need more volunteers, we need more officials, and we need an upgrade of facilities in the sport.' Mr Fraser told the meeting: 'Some of the abuse referees

Phoenix boxers lose out

BOXING

LOCHABER Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club suffered a disappointing weekend with three fighters losing bouts after covering more than 800 miles to attend two shows at opposite ends of the country.

Scottish novice champion Igor Sliwinski and light welterweight Aidan Donnelly took part in Kincorth ABC's show in Aberdeen in Friday night, while middleweight Ryan Watson and James Aitchison fought in Whithorn Bravehearts Boxing Club's show in Galloway on Sunday.

Donnelly topped the bill against experienced home fighter Lee Burnett in Kincorth, and in the first two rounds was careful not to over commit and leave himself open to counters.

With the scores even going into the final round, Donnelly tried to turn the screw but while he landed more punches he was forced to take a few on his way into range. A coin toss could have decided the winner, but unfortunately for the Fort William club their boxer lost out by a single point.

Earlier, Sliwinski suffered his first defeat when he took on Robert Reid of Lochee ABC. The 15-year-old Lochaber fighter tried to keep the shorter Reid at arms length where he could unload his powerful straight punches, moving side-to-side, constantly changing angles. The Lochaber camp were confident that Sliwinski had done enough but he also lost by a single point.

Club official Steve Docherty said: 'This was one of Igor's most accomplished performances against the best opponent he has faced. We have high hopes for him and sometimes you learn more from defeat than victory.'

'We have fast tracked Aidan to open class standard due to his age and he has risen to the challenge every time and this was definitely his best performance. Once he gets his first victory at this level I firmly believe the floodgates will open.'

Ryan Watson topped the bill in Whithorn as he faced Western District silver medalist Ryan Fairhurst in a rematch. Watson defeated Fairhurst on points in Fort William in October.

The four-round contest saw Watson produce the performance of his career, calmly blocking with his elbows and arms before firing back with his own hooks. At distance Watson was controlling with his powerful jabs and with Fairhurst unable to land anything worthwhile in close, the pro-Bravehearts crowd was hushed and the Lochaber contingent assumed the decision was a formality.

To their astonishment one judge voted for Watson, one for Fairhurst and one all square. The final judge had to side with someone and went with the Bravehearts boxer.

James Aitchison's opponent pulled out injured so the 14-year-old took on Connor Wallace in an exhibition bout, which was given a huge ovation by the crowd.

FOOTBALL

Fort head North for tie with Turriff

LIFE without the Ellis cousins starts this weekend for Fort William FC as they travel to Aberdeenshire take on Turriff United this Saturday.

Sean and Michael Ellis have left the club after signing a deal with Australian side Combrams, but manager Danny Conlon will be able to call on keeper Jonathan Smith for the first time since November after he recovered from a broken hand. Mid-table Turriff won a tight game at Claggan Park 1-0 when the two sides last met in October.

All of last weekend's Highland League fixtures, including Fort's scheduled home tie with Fraserburgh, were postponed due to frost and waterlogged pitches.

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Lochaber Leisure go 10 points ahead

LOCHABER LEISURE increased their lead at the top of the Ali Young Premier League to 10 points despite drawing 3-3 with Livercaol in the Nevis Centre on Sunday night. Nearest challengers TNF United fell to a heavy 6-1 defeat against fifth-placed Achintore FC, leaving Ballachulish to move into second with a 9-3 victory over AA Young.

Meanwhile, bottom club Bayern Bru picked up their first points of the season with a 3-0 win over The Granite House, and HWEnergy No-Stars recorded a 7-2 win against Steaua Sookabrest. The night's other game saw Stroke City beat Goun Squad 3-0.

SHINTY

Kinlochshiel ready for premier season

KINLOCHSHIEL'S preparations for their first season in the Premier Division have been hampered by heavy rain leaving pitches unplayable.

Last season's undefeated north division one champs saw friendlies away to Lochaber and Inverness cancelled in the last two weeks due to inclement weather, but manager Johnston Gill is hoping to be able to give his players a run out this Saturday against Lochcarron. Gill also told *The Oban Times* he had not lost any players from last season's successful campaign. He said: 'We will have much the same pool of players we had last year, but the younger boys are a year older, and hopefully that will give us a strong enough group.'

Armed Forces on search for players

SCOTS Camanachd, the Armed Forces shinty club, is looking for shinty players from within the Armed Forces to help increase the player pool within the club.

The Scots have entered the Bullough and Sutherland Cups in the 2012 shinty season.

Anyone interested in playing can contact Captain Robert Stoddart, club secretary, at robert.stoddart185@mod.uk.

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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.

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.

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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M Semple Achahoish, Lochgilphead

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PRIMARY FOOTBALL

Atlantis to host tournament for young footballers

A FOOTBALL tournament for children in primaries one to three will be held in Atlantis Leisure.

The Playsport Cup, which is taking place on February 14 is being held as part of the leisure centre's 20th anniversary celebrations.

Many different prizes will be won on the day, with the more unusual including best celebration and goal of the day.

Teams will be organised at random on the day but with limited spaces on offer, early registration at Atlantis is encouraged.

Competition starts at 2pm in the main hall.

GOLF

Islay Golf Club

February Medal
1 Lachlan Gairns, 79-13 =66;
2 Graeme Hamilton, 81-13 = 68;
3 Neil Johnston, 80 - 11 = 69.

SHINTY

Lochside try again with friendly at Ganavan

LOCHSIDE Rovers will aim to play their postponed pre-season friendly tie against Fort William at Ganavan this Saturday with a 1.30pm throw-up after last weekend's fixture, plus the Oban Camanachd v Glengarry tie, fell foul of the hard frost.

With time running out until the start of the shinty season, all clubs are keen to get some match practice.

Oban Camanachd are due to travel to Cannich next week to play Strathglass.

SHINTY

Oban Celtic to meet Inverness in Wylie memorial

OBAN Celtic will play Inverness in a pre-season friendly match for the Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy at Mossfield Stadium, Oban this Saturday.

The match will throw-up at 1pm.

POOL

Oban and District Pool League

Team	Pts
Lancaster A	18
Markie's A	16
The Cellar	16
The Claredon	14
Lancaster B	12
Lochavullin	6
Markie's B	6
Backpackers	0

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Atlantis 5-a-side

Results:
League:
Oban Electrics 5 Hotels 12
Atlantis 2 Carpet Fitters 6
Cup:
Group B
Oban High 10 RM Builders 9



John McPhee is to ride a new 250cc four-stroke M3-01 this season. Picture - Agust Nubiola/Racing Steps Foundation.

Connel racer moves up to new bike with aims of British Grand Prix place

A CONNEL teenager is continuing his rise through the road racing ranks after re-signing to KRP for the 2012 season and stepping up to Moto3.

John McPhee, who is backed by the Racing Steps Foundation (RSF), is swapping its recently retired Aprilia and Honda two-strokes for the new 250cc four-stroke M3-01, which will be campaigned across Europe.

The extensive test and race programme takes in the three main continental championships for the Moto3 class - the CEV

MOTORCYCLING

Buckler, CIV and IDM series in Spain, Italy, and Germany - along with the single-round UEM European Championship at Albacete in October.

John also hopes to earn wildcard entries to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in June and two other European rounds on the World Championship calendar.

His new KRP M3-01 machine, built by the Buckingham-

shire-based team to its own Moto3-compliant specification, features innovative chassis and swingarms designed by long-time KRP associate BORA Specialised Fabrications.

KRP team boss-turned-constructor Mark Keen and RSF motorcycle racing co-ordinator Peter Ball are also working closely with ex-Honda and Ferrari engineer Osamu Goto's Lausanne-based Geo Technology on engine supply and race kits.

The prototype chassis are at an

advanced stage awaiting delivery of the NSF 250R powerplants and add-ons.

Mr Keen said: 'It will be interesting to see how the other teams and bikes perform on the basis that we're all starting from scratch.'

'As a constructor our hope is that we've built a better bike than the others. But only time will tell.'

The RSF riders will compete in all seven of the CEV rounds in Spain together with selected non-clashing rounds in the

Italian CIV and German IDM Championships.

John, aged 17, had a successful debut season in the CEV 125cc Championship when he finished 10th. He will also draw on the experience gained from three 125cc World Championship rides in 2010/11.

The team's first race will be round one of the CIV Championship at Mugello, near Florence, on March 25. The opening round of the CEV Buckler Championship takes place at Jerez on April 1.

Kyles to defend Celtic Cup crown at Inveraray

Lochside draw Kingussie in first round of Sutherland Cup

TWO ARGYLL rivals know they will clash in at least two of this season's cups after the first round draws of five competitions were made this week.

Defending champions Kyles Athletic will travel to Inveraray for the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup quarter final in April and also face the men from the Royal Burgh in the first round of the Bullough Cup on May 12, which will also see Lochside Rovers play The Scots, Bute host Aberdeen, and Tayforth against Col Glen.

The first round of the Celtic Cup on March 31 will see Glenorchy host Bute, Oban Celtic will take on Strachur and Glasgow Mid Argyll will travel to Aberdeen.

April 7 sees 26 teams compete the first round of the Sutherland Cup, with Lochside Rovers

SHINTY

versus Kingussie a stand-out tie. Glenurquhart, Taynuilt and Ballachulish have byes to round two.

In the Balliemore Cup, beginning on April 14, Skye host Lochcarron and Lochaber take on Caberfeidh in two of the picks of the round.

Oban Celtic travel to take on Inverness, while Beaulieu host Glenorchy, Taynuilt play Strachur, Oban Camanachd take on Strathglass and Aberdeen play GMA. Kilmory receive a bye to the quarter finals, where they take on Taynuilt or Strachur.

The Strathdearn Cup first round on April 21 sees Skye take on Newtonmore and Glengarry play Caberfeidh.



The archers who took part in Oban and Lorn Archers' Open Portsmouth competition 15.10.11

Archers gather for Oban's Open Portsmouth Competition

OBAN and Lorn Archers held their annual Open Portsmouth Competition at Atlantis Leisure with some superb performances despite a depleted entry.

There was, as usual, close competition for prizes, with competitors from across Scotland showing their quality throughout.

One of the best performances came from Midlothian archer, Adelle Fleming, who would have set a new Scottish record if the competition was held under Record Status rules.

A fact pointed out to organiser Bill Murray was that the Gents recurve trophy has been won by

ARCHERY

a different archer in each of the previous 12 years the competition has been held - thought to be unique for archery competitions held in Scotland.

Competitors in other disciplines showed their quality by successfully defending trophies won last year, such as Dawn Thomson of Linwood holding the Junior Girls Recurve trophy - a feat she has managed for the past three years.

Mr Murray said: 'A special thank you must go to those who

donated prizes for the raffle and to Atlantis Leisure for their help in ensuring the competition went ahead. This is greatly appreciated by the club.'

'Thanks also go to Eleanor Wilson, who judged, and Bronwen Davies for giving out the prizes at the end.'

- Main competition winners:**
Gents Recurve
James Wilbraham, Linwood, 559;
Gents Barebow
Robert Campbell, Glasgow, 489;
Ladies Recurve
Karen Gold, Neptune, 403;
Ladies Barebow
Adelle Fleming, Lasswade, 463;
Gents Compound
Frank Maguire, Ayr, 572;
Ladies Compound
Ann Ward, Ayr, 565;
Boys Recurve
Gareth Fleming, Lasswade, 578;
Girls Recurve
Dawn Thompson, Linwood, 511;
Boys Compound
Calum Wright, Thistle, 517;
Novice
Gary Turnbull, Linwood, 483;
Best Oban and Lorn Archer
Diarmid Reid, 561;
Recurve Team
Linwood, (James Wilbraham, Lawrence Thompson and Kenneth Hume) 1648 (1800);
Compound Team
Thistle, (Malcolm Wright, Maxine Wright and Calum Wright) 1572 (1800).

Weather

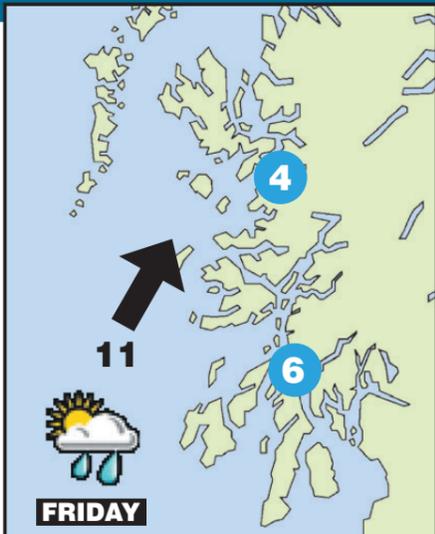
Thursday Cloudy with the odd sunny period.
Winds light, easterly
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C

Friday Cloudy with increasing risk of showers
Winds fresh, southerly
Temperatures 2°C to 8°C.

Weekend Cloudy with the chance of showers
Outlook Winds light and chill, north-easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 9, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.24 0.5 06.33 4.1 13.03 0.7 18.53 4.0	
Fri	01.02 0.4 07.06 4.1 13.37 0.7 19.24 3.9	
Sat	01.42 0.4 07.40 4.1 14.12 0.8 20.00 3.8	
Sun	02.23 0.5 08.18 3.9 14.52 0.9 20.40 3.7	
Mon	03.09 0.7 09.00 3.7 15.38 1.1 21.25 3.4	
Tues	04.01 1.0 09.48 3.3 16.35 1.4 22.22 3.2	
Wed	05.04 1.3 10.53 3.0 17.48 1.6 23.48 3.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-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		

Rovers ruin Oban Saints' Scottish Cup dreams

SAINTS lost only their second game of the season so far when they travelled to take on Cambusbarron Rovers in the last 32 of the Scottish Amateur Cup and although the young Oban side were on the wrong end of a 5-2 scoreline this doesn't give a true reflection on their performance against an experienced Stirling outfit.

The game was switched to Forthbank Stadium 3G after the recent frosty weather made the grass at Cambusbarron unplayable.

Manager Iain Jackson picked the same starting line-up that proved successful against Echt in the previous round the week before.

The game started at a cracking pace with both teams going at each other right from the off.

Saints had a great chance to take the lead in the 14th minute after a move involving Ross Maitland, Myles McAuley and Craig MacEwan who set up Donald Campbell. Donnie jinked past his marker and sent what looked like a netbound shot towards the goal, but Rovers keeper Gary Martin made a brilliant save to deny the striker.

In the 24th minute Saints netminder Graham Douglas dropped a cross and in trying to retrieve it fouled Andy Conroy. Chris McBrier made no mistake from the spot to put Rovers ahead.

It was a real stunner for Oban who had been looking good, but three minutes later they lost another bad goal when Conroy cut the ball back for McBrier to score again from close range.

Saints attempts to fight back were repelled by a strong Cambusbarron defence, and catastrophe struck when they conceded a third and then a fourth in first half stoppage time, with Chris Blair scoring and then McBrier bagging his hat-trick.

It was a shell-shocked Saints outfit that trudged off the pitch at half time but far from folding they came out with all guns blazing in the second half. Saints pulled a goal back in the

FOOTBALL

**Scottish Amateur Cup
Cambusbarron Rovers 5
Oban Saints 2**



Oban Saints manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed as his side lost only their second game of the season.

58th minute and what a cracker it was with Willie Gemmell thumping a shot in off the crossbar from fully 30 yards.

Two minutes later the visitors spurned a great chance to pull another goal back when they were awarded a penalty after a handball in the box, but Donald Campbell's spot kick was well saved by the excellent Gary Martin.

And any hopes of a fight back were well and truly killed off two minutes later when McBrier took his tally to four with a goal on the break.

Credit to the visitors though. They kept plugging away and had Cambusbarron on the back foot for the remainder of the match. Keith Milar netted a well-taken goal with 10 minutes remaining to reduce the deficit, but it was too little too late and the Scottish Cup run was over for Saints.

Manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed at the result. He said: 'Individual errors proved costly against an experienced Cambusbarron side. The two goals right on half time gave us a mountain to climb, but we were the better team in the second half and certainly gave them a run for their money.'

Taynuilt v Trialists to decide league

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Trialists	5	5	0	0	15
Taynuilt	5	5	0	1	15
Emergency	6	3	1	2	10
Seil	6	3	0	3	9
Teachers	5	2	1	2	7
WC Massive	5	2	0	3	6
Spartak	6	2	0	4	6
Hydro	5	1	0	4	3
Sail Trim Coach5	0	0	5	0	0

Results
Emergency 3 Seil 1
Hydro 7 West Coast Massive 6
Sail Trim 2 Teachers 5
Taynuilt 5 West Coast Massive 2
Seil 8 Spartak 3
Emergency 1 Trialists 7

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Whatever the weather

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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.

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see page 11

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Fare cut pledge fails to impress transport group

SCOTTISH transport minister Keith Brown has told a Western Isles, Coll and Tiree delegation that RET on large commercial vehicles will disappear from April 1 - but promised action to reduce impacts of resultant fare increases.

The concession, made at crunch talks in Edinburgh on Tuesday afternoon, left campaigners Outer Hebrides Transport Group unimpressed. The 100-strong OHTG had wanted more time to draw up their case and RET maintained meantime.

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'The Minister confirmed an early response and that we would come forward with a revised approach which will seek to reduce the impact of fare increases for larger commercial vehicles, and that he would consider requests for the impact of ferry fares to be assessed.'

Gail Robertson of DJ Buchanan Haulage, David Wood of Woody's Express, Donald Joseph MacLean of Barra Atlantic and Tiree haulier Iain MacKinnon attended the talks.

Ms Robertson, the OHTG coordinator, said they would 'not be giving up'.

She added: 'There is too much at stake for our islands and the 100 businesses and other members of the public who have signed up for our campaign know what is at stake.'

Police warning follows break-ins

POLICE are warning businesses around Fort William to be on their guard after another spate of break-ins early on Tuesday morning.

Cash was stolen from four commercial premises in Corpach, Caol, Banavie and Fort William and thieves attempted entry to a business and a vessel in Corpach Basin.

Inspector Donald Campbell told *The Oban Times* it was 'too early' to link the incidents with similar break-ins three weeks ago, when Caol Primary School was raided.

He said: 'Businesses should make sure their premises are secured and alarmed and should reduce the amount of cash and valuables kept on site.'

Anyone with any information is urged to contact 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Former barge to become floating canal hotel

A FORMER cargo barge on the River Rhine is to become a floating hotel on the Caledonian Canal.

Martin Balcombe, owner of Lochaber holiday company Caledonian Discovery, already operates one converted holiday barge 'Fingal of Caledonia' on the famous Great Glen waterway.

But increasing demand and strong advance bookings for 2012 meant Mr Balcombe, from Gairloch, had to find a second vessel.

He found the 47-metre barge in a shipyard near Amsterdam - and immediately had to shorten it by three metres so it would comfortably fit inside the Caledonian Canal's locks. Mr Balcombe and his crew will wait for a window in the weather before sailing the barge across the North Sea from Ijmuiden to the English coast.

From there they will hug the coast all the way to Inverness, then steam down the canal to Corpach Boatyard to be completely refitted for the 2013 season.

Caledonian Discovery's marketing manager Nix Forster told *The Oban Times* the purchase and refit would cost £350,000.

She said: 'It's fantastic that the refit work can be done locally.'

The growing popularity of the Great Glen with walkers and canoeists was a major factor in the company's investment decision, Ms Forster added.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has offered the company a grant of up to 25 per cent of eligible costs of the



'The Two Bears', David Campbell senior and junior, celebrate Newtonmore's league victory at Fort William in 2010.

Ballachulish grieves for Davie 'Bear'

BALLACHULISH is this week mourning the loss of one of its most popular sons after his tragic death in hospital.

David Campbell died following an operation at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to repair discs in his neck damaged by years of hard graft as a stonemason.

The skilled tradesman, known locally as 'Davie Bear', was chatting to his family following his successful surgery last Wednesday, but early on Thursday morning his condition deteriorated.

Despite the best efforts of medical staff, further complications developed and Mr Campbell slipped away suddenly but peacefully on Sunday. He was just 51.

His death shocked the close-knit Lochaber village, where Mr Campbell stayed all his life in MacColl Terrace. He worked in his son's firm David Campbell Stonemason.

Local testaments to his craftsmanship include the slate

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS

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monument welcoming visitors into Ballachulish and the stone cairn and donations box at St John's, the local Episcopal church, which he built with his son, also Davie 'Bear'.

Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill, who is Mr Campbell's brother-in-law, told *The Oban Times*: 'It's something that might happen one in a thousand times. The family say they are quite happy with the explanations they have been given and they wish to say how well Davie was looked after by the nursing staff up there.'

'They are grateful for all the attention he got.'

'He knew it was a risky operation, but there was no other option than going through with it because he was in pain and on morphine. He was a strong

man, but there was degeneration there through his work as a stonemason.'

He added: 'Ballachulish is so sad - he was a terrific community man. The community of Ballachulish will miss him and I will miss him.'

'He was more a friend than a brother-in-law. If you asked him to do anything, he would be there immediately.'

'It's going to be hard without him. We have had people phoning up from all over the country - he was such a nice guy.'

'He has done so much work round the village, building slate and stone planters for flower displays. He was on the community council and was involved in the bonfire and all the galas.'

One of Mr Campbell's proudest moments was watching David Jnr help Newtonmore clinch the league title at An Aird on October 2 2010 - his 50th birthday.

He leaves his wife Mary and two sons, David and Glen.

Fierce blaze destroys Kilchoan croft house

LOCHABER firefighters battled over two days to save an Ardnamurchan croft house after a fierce blaze broke out in the property last Friday night.

A recent German-built wooden extension to Tigh Peigi, at Sanna Bay near Kilchoan, was gutted but fire crews prevented flames from reaching the original stone building.

A man and woman got out safely with their dog after noticing sparks falling from the roof space next to the chimney.

Crofters Hughie MacLachlan and his sister Rosie Curtis were among the retained firefighters from Kilchoan called out.

Mr MacLachlan told *The Oban Times*: 'We managed to save the stone building next door, maybe with a wee bit of water damage.'

Difficult

'It was a really difficult fire. There was thick wool insulation packed inside thick chipboard in the roof space, where the fire was - there was no way it was going out. It was the worst one we have had down there. The building will need to be demolished - it's just not worth saving. He'll be keen to rebuild I'm sure, but it might be a different construction.'

He added: 'It's a real shame for the guys, but it could have been a lot worse - they could have been in their beds.'

'At least they have somewhere to stay and they have the loft space as well.'

Kilchoan firefighters were on the scene at 8pm and battled the blaze until 4am on Saturday morning alongside teams from Acharacle and Strontian.

A relief Kilchoan team took over, joined by crews from Fort William and Lochaline. Mallaig, Kinlochleven and a second Fort



Destroyed by fire: the wooden building at Sanna - but the adjacent stone croft house was saved.

team also attended. The fire was out by late Saturday afternoon.

A West Ardnamurchan Community Council spokesperson said: 'Any event like this is a tragedy for those concerned. Our thoughts are very much with the family.'

Mother and child rescued from house fire

A WOMAN and her young child were rescued from their Fort William home after a fire broke out in the early hours of Monday morning.

Firefighters were called to Loch Linnhe Buildings, Middle Street at 2.30am and managed to get the mother and her three-year-old daughter out the burning building.

They were treated for smoke inhalation at Belford Hospital and are expected to make full recoveries.

Firefighters evacuated around 10 people from neighbouring flats. It is thought the fire, which took nearly three and a half hours to extinguish, was caused by an electrical fault.

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Where to find us...

OBAN: Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Corran Halls, 54 The Esplanade WED 10.45am - WED 5.30pm

FORT WILLIAM: Alexandra Hotel, The Parade TUE 10.45am, 12.15am, 5.45pm - SAT 9.30am

Weight & Go

FORT AUGUSTUS: Fort Augustus Village Hall, Burnioch Brae THU 5.30pm

KYLE OF LOCHALSH: The Lighthouse Centre, Station Road MON 7.30pm

BALLACHULISH: Ballachulish Village Hall, Shinty Pavilion WED 12.30pm, 7.30pm

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A890 road updates

HIGHLAND Council will update the public on when the A890 at Stromeferry will be partially re-opened at a second round of public meetings next week.

Both events at venues either side of the road closure, in Achmore Hall on February 13 and Lochcarron Hall the following evening, start at 7pm.

The route has been closed since December 22 following a series of rockfalls.

Extra trains from Inverness to Kyle, a passenger ferry and a vehicle ferry have been laid on to ease disruption as work to stabilise the unstable rock face above the road continues.

The earliest indication of the road opening - on a temporary basis - is February 17, with completion of remedial work planned for mid-April.

Increasing numbers turn to credit union

A WESTERN Isles-based credit union appears to be reaping the benefit of people shunning rip-off payday loan companies in favour of a trusted local lender.

HI-Scot, which operates from Stornoway, now has more than 2,000 Highlands and Islands members and continues to grow.

Community engagement officer Duncan MacIntyre, originally from Invergarry, told *The Oban Times* there had been an upsurge in interest so far in 2012.

He said on Tuesday: 'Just last week we signed up 20 new people, whereas in the past at this time of year you might expect six.'

To underpin its recruitment drive, HI-Scot has launched a new product, a credit union pre-paid debit card.

Electronically loaded with funds from a member's account, the card can be used at any ATM and to buy goods in stores, by telephone or over the internet.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'One of our members took the card with her on holiday to the USA and it worked fine.'

HI-Scot general manager David Mackay added: 'There are many reasons why individuals are looking at their local credit union for saving and borrowing.'

'The banking crisis has dented confidence and people want a financial organisation which they feel they can trust and one that exists solely for the benefit of its members. That is exactly what the credit union offers.'

Recently the UK government dropped the 'common bond' rule restricting credit union membership to people belonging to a defined geographical area or group.

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Climbers injured on lochan

TWO CLIMBERS were airlifted from Stob Coire Nan Lochan, Glencoe, on Saturday lunchtime after injuring themselves.

Glencoe and Arrochar Mountain Rescue teams and Royal Navy Rescue Helicopter 177 took the injured pair to Belford Hospital in Fort William. Their injuries were not life-threatening.

Hotel guests evacuated

AROUND 80 people were evacuated from the Ballachulish Hotel after a fire alarm went off around 9am on Sunday morning.

Ten minutes later, staff informed guests waiting outside the front entrance that the incident was a false alarm triggered by steam from a shower in one of the bedrooms.

The hotel was full at the time.

Rainy days in Plockton

THE WET theme at Plockton continued during the month of January with 23 days with measured rainfall totalling 8.5 inches compared with only 3.25 inches in 2011.

Warmest day was 11.4°C, exactly the same as last year. Coldest was 1.6°C compared with 5.6°C in 2010.

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Peter Budge from the SFA, Fort William FC boss Danny Conlon, Councillor Bill Clark and Simon Jeffrey of Highland Council with two young players in the Midnight League.

Late night football helps cut down crime

LATE night football is proving a big hit in helping to reduce anti-social behaviour in Fort William.

The Bank of Scotland Midnight League, which gives 12-16 year-olds the chance to play football one evening a week, regularly attracts more than 50 children to the Nevis Centre on Friday nights.

Fort William FC manager Danny Conlon regularly attends to coach youngsters as part of the club's youth development programme. Constable Ian Fraser hailed the

initiative for fostering community spirit and building positive relations between local police officers and young people.

He said: 'The Midnight League has come to us before and we have noticed a sizeable reduction in the crime rate on those Friday evenings when it has been running.'

'The most important thing is that it offers the kids an activity because the main cause of crime and criminal damage is boredom. The kids look forward to it every week and it is professionally run so the

longer the league runs the more and more people get involved and that can only be a good thing.'

He added: 'The Northern Constabulary covers a large amount of the Highlands area and the Fort William league has been a real success so now I am very keen to look at setting up more of these leagues elsewhere in the area.'

The scheme has been run in partnership with the Scottish Football Association since its inception in 2003.

Man guilty of slashing teenager's throat

A FORMER Kinlochleven man has been found guilty of slashing a teenager's throat with a knife in the village after a five-day trial at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Andrew Thomson hung his head as the 15-person jury delivered the majority verdict after deliberating for more than an hour-and-a-half.

Earlier the jury heard an argument had erupted at a party on Glendale Road in the early hours of February 5 2011 after Thomson insulted his victim John Fleming's sister, who was not present.

Thomson, aged 28, apologised repeatedly before leaving the house, only to return around 30 minutes later to challenge Mr Fleming, who was 17 at the time of the incident, to a fight.

The pair, along with another 15-year-old boy, went outside where Thomson admitted punching Mr Fleming on the face before being knocked to the ground and leaving the property.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY

RICHARD HADDOCK
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Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie asked Thomson if he was holding a weapon when he hit Mr Fleming. He said: 'I did not have a knife or any sort of weapon, I just punched him.'

The jury then heard Mr Fleming did not realise he had been stabbed until after Thomson left. They were shown several pictures of the stairwell where the fight took place which was covered in blood.

Mr Fleming was later taken to Belford Hospital where his wound required four stitches, leaving him with a visible four-centimetre scar. A police search the following day found a knife blade at the scene of the fight and the handle several feet away, although no blood was found on the blade or on any of Thomson's clothing. Ms Wylie argued that

although no-one saw Thomson with the knife, the blow he struck must have caused the injury.

She said: 'We have two eye witnesses to a swipe. [Police Constable Jo Chisholm] found the blade exactly where he had been standing. He did do it; he swiped out and he had something sharp in his hand.'

Defence solicitor Elizabeth Aitken said Thomson could not be directly linked to the knife found at the property. She said: 'Mr Fleming didn't see any weapon, he didn't see a knife, or keys, or anything that could have caused this injury.'

Thomson, of 426 Dyke Road, Knightswood, Glasgow, had denied assaulting Mr Fleming by striking him on the neck with a knife to his injury, permanent disfigurement and endangerment of his life at 13 Glendale Road.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing until February 28 for reports and released Thomson on bail.

Clan Donald members make annual pilgrimage to Glencoe

CLAN Donald members will make their annual pilgrimage to Glencoe on Monday to mark the 320th anniversary of the infamous massacre of February 13 1692.

Commemorations will start with a Service of Eucharist in St. Mary's Church at 11am, led by the Rector, The Rev Adrian Fallows.

The traditional short march at noon from the Bridge of Coe to the Celtic cross memorial at Upper Carnoch will be followed by a service and the laying of wreaths.

The march will again be led by piper John MacCallum, whilst the Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands' banner

will have its first outing. The ceremony will be conducted by the Rector, assisted by Brigadier John Macfarlane and Canon Mel Langille.

The Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands is continuing the custom established by the Clan Donald Society of Edinburgh of inviting different Clan Donald organisations worldwide to take turns to sponsor a Clan Donald wreath.

This year the wreath, sponsored by Clan Donald New Zealand, will be laid by Lois MacDonell of Glengarry in her capacity as Patron of Clan Donald Otago, South Island. Wreaths will also be laid on behalf of the Glencoe

Heritage Trust and the National Trust for Scotland in Glencoe.

The event is being jointly organised by The Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands, The Glencoe Heritage Trust and St Mary's Episcopal Church, Glencoe.

All extend a warm welcome to members of the public to attend. Those wishing to lay their own wreaths after the laying of the main wreaths are free to do so.

The massacre saw King William's troops murder 38 of their unsuspecting MacDonald hosts. Their chief, MacIain, had been judged an outlaw for being late with an oath of allegiance to the new king, who replaced James VII.



Ballachulish Visitor Centre manager Stewart Borland with staff member Sally Mortimer and volunteer Heather Borland at the fundraising day.

Ballachulish Visitor Centre fun day boosts RNLI

BIG-HEARTED Lochaber residents have contributed almost £700 to RNLI coffers at the annual SOS fundraising day at Ballachulish Visitor Centre.

Puzzles, an RNLI sweepstake, crosswords, raffles, teas and a silent auction for a signed, limited edition print boosted the total to £678.50.

Centre manager Stewart Borland said: 'A huge thanks go

to all our suppliers who donated raffle prizes, including Michael Macgregor for another fabulous picture and Michelle MacPhee for providing the great free entertainment in the afternoon, and not forgetting all our customers who actively supported the day so tremendously once again.'

The centre has raised £3,200 for the charity in five SOS fundraisers since 2008.

New appointments announced for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

A NEW writer in residence and visual artist in residence have been appointed at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye.

Peter Mackay, originally from Lewis, completed a PhD on the poetry of Seamus Heaney and William Wordsworth at Trinity College, Dublin, and has lectured there on Scottish Literature.

His poems have been widely published in the UK and he has worked as a broadcast journalist for BBC Alba.

Mr Mackay said: 'In the coming year, I hope that I can add something to the cultural life of the college and the Isle of Skye, and encourage anyone who is

looking for some help with their writing.'

Artist Aileen Stackhouse has exhibited regularly since 2000, completing a Masters in Fine Art at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design the same year and a PhD in 2006. She also worked as a Teaching Fellow at the School of Fine Art, Dundee.

Ms Stackhouse said: 'Throughout my residency I will be learning Gaelic and will make new works in response to my experience of being at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.'

The posts are funded by Creative Scotland.



Aileen Stackhouse.



Peter Mackay.

Sheriff orders thief to attend drug rehabilitation course

A FORT William man who exposed himself in a Caol shop after being caught shoplifting has been ordered to attend a drug rehabilitation course.

Gary MacKinnon was caught trying to steal two bottles of whisky by hiding them in his trousers at the Co-op on Kilmallie Road on June 23.

Later the same day he was found in the store's warehouse area by staff members who challenged him about stealing.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKinnon pulled down his trousers 'to show he had

nothing on him'. Miss Wylie agreed with the defence there was no sexual element to the act.

MacKinnon, of 3 Maryburgh Court, pled guilty to attempting to steal the alcohol, shouting, swearing, raising his fists and acting aggressively towards staff and threatening and abusive behaviour by exposing himself.

After hearing the 39-year-old had suffered drink and drug addictions, Sheriff Douglas Small also imposed a one year supervision order on MacKinnon.

Support network launches website

A LOCHABER group set up to help local people debilitated by chronic fatigue now has its own website.

Lochaber PVFS/ CFS/ ME Support Network says www.me-lochaber.org.uk contains useful information for

those with the illness, their carers, families and friends, as well as data for healthcare professionals.

People too ill to go online can get in touch with the group by phoning or texting 07786 590450.

Broadband pledge

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has pledged to include 'a wide range' of ways to deliver superfast broadband throughout the Highlands and Islands in a contract being drawn up with BT, according to Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson.

Speaking in parliament, Mr Thompson said fibre-optic cabling would be unlikely to reach every home and business, and had pressed HIE to ensure next generation broadband delivery through satellite, wifi or 4G mobile phone technology was included in the BT deal.

He said: 'This will be an extremely valuable contract but with that financial reward must come an inbuilt responsibility to ensure that all are able to benefit and that sparsely populated areas are not left behind as technology advances.'

Family fèis a success

FÈIS LOCHABAIR staged its first pilot fèis teaghlach - family fèis - at Ballachulish Primary School on Saturday.

The event gave parents the chance to learn or improve their Gaelic while the children enjoyed Gaelic songs, drama and art classes.

Musicians from Fèis Lochabair and Lochaber music school, led by Banavie Primary School teacher and local musician Dierdre MacDonald, also entertained.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal drama officer Dougie Beck, said of the event: 'Overall, it was a success.' Mr Beck told The Oban Times the next family fèis would be held in Upper Achintore Primary School on Saturday February 25.

Free business workshop

A FREE two-day Business Gateway workshop on starting up a small business will be held in the Cuillin Hills Hotel, Portree, next Monday and Tuesday.

The event will cover business planning, choosing a legal structure, understanding profit and loss accounts, cash flow statements, VAT and tax, record keeping and marketing. For further information or to book a place, contact 01463 713 889.

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**Ranked on the number of customer contacts to Consumer Direct, Consumer Focus and the Energy Ombudsman in relation to their market share during the last quarter. www.consumerfocus.org.uk

Three arrested in Oban drugs raids

TWO men have been arrested on drugs charges after raids on properties in Oban's Lorn Court on Friday.
A 27-year-old man was charged with being in possession of a controlled drug, and a 26-year-old man reported for being in possession of heroin.
Meanwhile, a man was arrested at a Corran Esplanade premises on Saturday, charged with being in possession of a dealer-quantity of cocaine.

Appin and Lismore ferry meetings

MEETINGS to discuss how the Scottish Ferries Draft Plan will affect Lismore and Appin will be held this Saturday.
The plan recommends the Isle of Lismore has just one ferry route - a vehicle and passenger ferry service operating from Point to Port Appin.
Lorna Spencer of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) has agreed to prepare a presentation and to answer questions.
Lismore Heritage Centre will host the first meeting at 11am and the Appin meeting will be held in Appin Village Hall from 2pm.

Lifeboat stations praised

LIFEBOAT crews in the west Highlands and islands have been praised for their work during 2011, a year that saw 1,006 launches across Scotland.
Barra, Islay and Mallaig stations were commended with letters from the RNLI's Operations Director Michael Vlasto.
And stations at Campbeltown, Stornoway and Islay were among those that recorded more than half of all shouts in darkness.

A83 campaign

THE CAMPAIGN to have the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful upgraded is stepping up as Transport Scotland finalises its brief for a study of possible remedial works.
Sign up for A83, led by Argyll First, is hoping the news will prompt more signatures on the e-petition before it is handed to ministers next month.

NEWSDESK
01397 703003



Kerrera yacht haven deal done

Sale of marina business welcomed

A DEAL to save Oban Marina, on Kerrera, was due to be concluded as *The Oban Times* went to press, saving seven jobs.

BDO Administrators confirmed all the paperwork had been concluded for the sale on Tuesday, with the handover expected to be concluded by Wednesday morning.
The deal brings to an end uncertainty surrounding the future of the business, which went up for sale in November following the collapse of parent company, Shawhead Developments Ltd.
While Shawhead Developments had suffered difficulty, Oban Marina continued to make a profit. As such, interest in taking over the business was high, with six bids lodged by the end of December.
A spokesman for BDO Administrators said: 'We do have a preferred bidder and we can confirm that a deal is imminent that will protect the future of jobs at the marina.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

... a deal is imminent that will protect the future of jobs at the marina.

spokesman for BDO Administrators

congestion for that slip for other traffic and other plans in future.'
Councillor MacIntyre welcomed the sale, saying not only was it a great boost for the island in terms of jobs saved, but for the future of the Lorn Arc.
He said: 'I was only too pleased to hear someone was going to buy it and so quickly.'
'Kerrera marina is, without a doubt, part of the future of Oban. The Lorn Arc starts at Oban's north pier and the marina is part of that.'
Business at the marina continues as normal and it announced last month that the ex-Royal yacht, *Bloodhound*, will return in July and August.
Northern Light's 22-metre charter yacht, *Suzan*, will also be based in Oban for the first time this summer.
Oban Marina Ltd was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

Salmon company reveals plans for 100 new jobs

A LEADING supplier of salmon in Scotland has revealed plans to create more than 100 jobs across the west coast over the next five years.
The Scottish Salmon Company, which operates more than 50 sites in the Hebrides and on the west coast, is to invest £40 million in the region, boosting the local economy and job market.
The company has confirmed two new fish farms for the Isle of Mull at Loch Scridian and Loch Tuath and is currently in the process of scoping, consulting on and lodging planning applications for new fish farm sites elsewhere.
Three information events were recently held on Mull to give local residents the chance to find out about the new sites. The Scottish Salmon Company already operates three sites on the island employing 11 people, which is due to increase to 17.
Both sites will benefit from an infrastructure investment in the region of £1.5m - £2m and the company has vowed to use local suppliers and contractors whenever possible.
The five-year development plan also includes plans for a further 10 fish farms around Argyll and the Western Isles, increasing farming capacity and developing harvesting, processing and freshwater operations.
The company has confirmed

Glen Orchy gold test drilling proves 'highly encouraging'

SCOTGOLD Resources, the company which is to establish a gold mine at Cononish by the River Orchy, near to Glen Orchy, has announced 'highly encouraging' results from test drills in Glen Orchy.
Early prospecting work at its River Vein area, along the River Orchy, showed 'at least two possible gold and silver bearing structures', with 'geochemical characteristics similar to the Cononish gold/silver vein.'
Three sites were drilled as part of the exploration work, although the company's announcement relates only to the first and most southerly of these.
It lies around five kilometres northwest of the proposed Cononish gold and silver mine.
The report into the test diamond drilling said: 'The results are highly encouraging and warrant further work when weather conditions improve.'
Scotgold's chief executive officer, Chris Sangster, said: 'Scotgold is encouraged by the results of these first two deep diamond holes drilled at the River Vein Prospect.'
'They indicate the continuity of the gold vein structures with depth whilst the geochemistry of the veins encountered hold a number of similarities with the Cononish Vein, with high

Oban leisure centre is icon of social enterprise success

ATLANTIS Leisure, Oban, is being used as a framework of how social enterprises should work as part of a programme to develop similar services in Africa.
The Social Enterprise Academy (SEA), the Oban based Imani Development and Imani Development Foundation (IDF) visited Atlantis Leisure last week to meet with director, Neil Matheson, and find out what is needed to ensure social enter-

prise ventures are a success.
The organisations arranged the trip as part of a project with Fairtrade Africa to plug the gap in infrastructure in the continent's developing countries, aimed specifically at rural, agricultural communities.
For Roy Clunie, chief executive of IDF, the trip was less a venture into unfamiliar territory, as one of the founding directors of the Atlantis social enterprise. He said: 'Scotland is the world leader in Social Enterprises and Argyll is ahead of most because of the real community spirit that exists here.'
'There are few better examples, if any, of a successful social enterprise than Atlantis Leisure. It has shown that the model can be successful and what needs to be done to ensure success.'
'Imani and the Social Enterprise Academy have been working together to develop this framework for use in Africa. We have identified South Africa as an ideal country to try this model and we think it would see real benefits from social enterprises.'
Murdoch Gattward is director of Imani Development, which is based in Oban and employs nine staff.
He said: 'Atlantis is easily the best example of a successful social enterprise and its one of Scotland's best kept secrets.'

Top Japanese chef tours west coast fish farm sites

Japanese television follow trail of high quality ingredients

A RENOWNED Japanese chef visited Oban last weekend to inspect the quality of salmon from a Scottish Sea Farms site.
Chef Yoshihiro Murata, who has seven Michelin stars, visited the Charlottes Bay fish farm with Niall Howard, CEO of the Hakkan restaurant group.
The visit was part of a tour to experience first-hand the high quality of fresh ingredients available in Scotland.
The pair are researching ways to introduce Japanese cooking to the UK and they were filming their tour for Japanese television.
Following the farm visit they enjoyed a meal of sashimi salmon at Oban's Eusck Restaurant, which uses salmon fillets



Chef Yoshihiro Murata visits Charlottes Bay fish farm.

from Scottish Sea Farms. Chef Murata, considered a Kaiseki master Chef in Japan, commented that the sashimi was

the freshest salmon he had ever eaten.
Rory Conn, spokesman for Scottish Sea Farms said: 'These distinguished visitors really know their food and we were thrilled that they were so impressed with Scottish Sea Farms' salmon. The quality of Scottish salmon is well-known across the world and we were proud to show them our farm.'
The Hakkan Group has three restaurants in London with a Michelin Star and also operates restaurants in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, the USA, and Mumbai, India.
Niall Howard, CEO of Hakkan Group, said: 'Our Japanese guests found the site visit fascinating. It is a professional, world class facility to be proud of.'

Surfing challenge

A world renowned surfer is planning a marathon charity challenge with a difference when he paddles from his native Ireland's north coast to the south east end of Islay later in the spring.
Al Mennie, who has tackled and ridden some of the world's largest waves, will steer his 20 foot board for 25miles along the fringes of the north Atlantic. He will set off from the Giant's Causeway and will reach journey's end at a site yet to be determined but is likely to be around the Mull of Oa area.
The challenge, likely to take up eight hours, will take place in late March or early April and is based on similar stamina-sapping paddle races between the islands of Hawaii and in which Al regularly participates.
The biggest threats to the surfer's success in this instance will be freezing conditions, tidal currents and the almost inescapable wind chill factor.
Al's efforts will raise money for the Northern Ireland Heart and Stroke Association and the challenge will be carried out with guidance and encour-

agement from Marcus Covell, Islay's own surfing enthusiast.

Fèis Òigridh

The local youth festival Fèis Òigridh Ìle is Dhiura will be held in Ionad Chalum Chille Ìle from Wednesday February 15 to 17.
Local and visiting tutors will be on hand to share their skills in traditional music and dance with the islands' schoolchildren.
Classes will be offered in accordion, clarsach, guitar, chanter, fiddle, percussion and whistle and there will also be tuition in Gaelic singing and step dance.

A mini fèis, catering for pre-school children and those under eight years of age, will run concurrently and events will culminate with a students' ceilidh in the Gaelic College on the Friday evening, beginning at 7pm.
This will feature everything learned during the festivities as well as archive film footage of the islands involved.
The organisers hope members of the public will respond to their appeal for

pertinent films - the older the better! If you can help, please contact Ciara Mactaggart at info@foid.org.uk.
Among those supporting the two-day festival are the Schroder Foundation, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Argyll and Bute Council.

Ballygrant ceilidh

The monthly ceilidhs mounted by Kilmenny Ceilidh Club in Ballygrant village hall during the last tourist season proved to be an outstanding success.
The four weekly get togethers attracted a large number of visitors and were also enjoyed by a core support of local ceilidh goers. To provide a foretaste of the coming season, the organisers decided to hold an old New Year ceilidh in the venue on January 13. This lived up to expectation and the 100-strong group of supporters enjoyed the entertainment on offer.
Local resident Andrew McCowan was the welcoming and singing fear an taighe and the programme was sustained by a talented group of regular favourites.

ISLAY LETTER

Singing the songs were Libby Morris, Alec Brown and Eoin Brown. Eoin's three daughters, Abbie, Morven and Maggie, showed their own vocal talents as did Mairi MacGillivray who also played the fiddle and joined sisters Stacy and Sophie Baker in the Highland dancing display. Keeping a motherly eye on everything was Ella Edgar, their dance teacher.
The evening's piper was Alasdair Currie and accordionist Niall Kirkpatrick and drummer Dave Hastie catered for the dancing enthusiasts. Such was their appeal that all quickly 'took the floor' and required no Dutch courage from the mulled and ginger wines on tap.
Dumpling and shortbread, courtesy of Catriona MacGillivray, provided the half time fare and the well supported raffle greatly upped the ante.
Bolstered by this mid winter success, the monthly Kilmenny ceilidhs resume in May.
Hugh Smith,
4 Flora Street, Broomore, Islay PA43v 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Iona folk back fixed link with Mull

RESIDENTS on the Isle of Iona voted on Friday to pursue a plan to gain a fixed link with their neighbouring island of Mull.
Faced with a declining population and a lack of opportunities for young people, the 85-odd islanders decided that it was time to do something.
Chairman of the community council's sub-committee Gordon MacCormick said a few of the islanders had been talking about a link as a way of turning the situation around.
As a result the idea was taken on board by the community council and a public meeting organised, at which two-thirds of those attending voted in principle to pursue a fixed link.
No decision has yet been made on whether the link would be a causeway or a bridge, said Mr MacCormick, but the idea was to have a vehicular link with similar restraints on non-islanders taking vehicles across as exist now.
'The whole idea is to give the islanders the opportunity to come and go from Mull to work,' said Mr MacCormick, who has lived on the island all his life and is one of the instigators of the idea.
'The next step is to speak to the National Trust for Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council officials,' he said, adding that they would also be discussing the proposal with other bodies linked to the island.
The idea of a fixed link is a long-term project and islanders are resigned to the fact that it will take a number of years to achieve.

Swanning about in a bad state

A SWAN was found wandering around outside Oban Distillery in a disorientated state last Saturday night.
The creature's plight was reported to Oban Police at about 9.15pm and they enlisted the aid of local 'swan man' Douglas Trigg, who managed to return it to the bay.
The swan was said to be apparently none the worse for its adventure.
The next day, Sunday, another swan had to be rescued from a garden in the Longdale area of Oban.
It seemed to have been caught up in a net, but it too was returned safely to the bay.

Kilmore kirk threat of closure

KILMORE Kirk, the historic village church that is amalgamated with Oban Parish Church, is under threat of closure.
In a secret letter revealed to *The Oban Times*, members of a Forward Planning Group of Kilmore and Oban Kirk Session say the Kilmore church is currently attended by less than 20 people, on a monthly basis, and that the church 'should be closed in the near future.'
The date of closure, it says, will be established by the Kirk Session.
But the congregation members, and villagers, who are against the closure of what they say is the 'mother church' of the parish, are still hoping to fight the proposed closure.
The group trying to save the church point out that only recently £2,000 was spent on Kilmore Church - and they say it is very doubtful the church building could be sold.
The closure has already been discussed at two meetings, with members of the congregation voting against, and a meeting of parishioners is to be held next Tuesday - February 18 - in Oban Church Centre, at which the plans are bound to arise again.
'We are fighting for our lives... for the whole parish,' was how one member of the congregation put it, saying everyone was 'totally against' the closure plan.
He said they were hoping to get more support for their fight to keep open Kilmore Kirk: 'It's the mother church - the church that was here before any churches were in Oban, dating back to the 1700s.'

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- Birdbrain! (4)
- Island in the Indian ocean (3,5)
- Friendly (7)
- Corner (5)
- Male girl Friday! (5-4,3)
- Public transport (3)
- Equestrian controls (5)
- Snow transport (3)
- Alteration (12)
- Alter time? (5)
- Pen (7)
- Face coverings (8)
- Sort (4)

Down

- Bitter criticism (8)
- Passing (5)
- Cereal (3)
- Commute far away (4-8)
- Plant secretions (7)
- Cough to attract attention (4)
- Passing remark (6,6)
- One who covers (5)
- From an Austrian city (8)
- Stews in Liverpool (7)
- Key material (5)
- Hunted (4)
- Large deer (3)

Last week's solution

R	E	F	I	N	E	D	T	H	R	O	B	
I	C	E	O	I	E	A						
S	O	B	R	I	Q	U	E	T	C	U	T	
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A	L	L	O	W	S	T	E	E	P	L	E	

Warning for 'heads not hearts' to rule on former school building decision

RESIDENTS of Oban are being urged not to let their hearts rule their heads when it comes to deciding the future of the former Rockfield Primary School building.

community groups time to table a bid. **Centre of Oban** However, any potential bids subsequently fell through leaving the building vulnerable to decay. Speaking at the recent Oban

Community Council meeting, Oban North and Lorn Councillor Duncan MacIntyre pointed out many had fond memories of the school and said extra care would have to be taken when considering its future, not least as the tree outside the school

grounds marked the centre of Oban. **Not energy-efficient** However, secretary Duncan Martin warned of further delay, adding: 'We saw the situation with the Argyll Hotel, which could have been saved if we had

done something 20 years ago. 'We would love someone to come in and take over the old Rockfield school, but it's not an energy-efficient building. 'I think we have a head and heart problem here. 'Our heads need to start

thinking if there is a serious solution for this.' Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish, who initially raised the discussion said: 'I feel we have been here before. 'Not too long ago there were

80 people at a meeting in the fire station about its future and the Oban and Youth Community Centre was keen to take it on but nothing happened.'

Drama festival deadline looms

TIME IS running out for drama clubs to enter this year's North Lorn Drama Festival. The 58th North Lorn Drama Festival of one-act plays will be held from March 21 - 23 in Appin Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm each evening. Entry forms are available from the secretary 01631 730309 or email nlornfestival@btinternet.com. The closing date for entries is next Tuesday, February 14.

Storm damaged iconic Islay hall to be repaired

A COMMUNITY hall on the Isle of Islay, which had its roof blown off in the New Year storms, is scheduled to be repaired in the next six weeks. Port Ellen's iconic Ramsay Hall has been closed since the beginning of January when high winds ripped its red roof from the rafters. Following an inspection by owners Argyll and Bute Council the cost of repair has been estimated at around £65,000. Work to replace the roof will begin within the next week.

Inveraray to host learning 'awareness' day

LEARNING options for young adults in Argyll and Bute will be the focus of an 'awareness raising event' run by Argyll and Bute Council in Inveraray tomorrow (Friday). Agencies from across the area will meet to discuss the future delivery and support of the 16+ learning choices strategy. The council's spokesperson for education and lifelong learning, councillor Ellen Morton, said the aim was 'to give delegates the tools to build, within their organisation, a strong foundation from where they can advise young people about the learning opportunities here in Argyll and Bute.' The event will take place at the Inveraray Conference Centre and begins at 9.45am.

Talk on 1752 Appin murder

THE 1752 Appin murder of Argyll Factor Colin Campbell is the theme of a talk at the Free Church Hall in Oban tomorrow (Friday). The talk (in English) by Robin Banks is put on by the Comunn Gàidhealach and starts at 7.30pm.

Care and cuts at core of budget proposals

PROPOSALS to cut staff and outsource the care of vulnerable people living in Argyll and Bute will be debated by councillors next Thursday.

The proposals are part of Argyll and Bute Council's draft budget which aims to save £8.2 million over the next three years.

Outsourcing care The budget, which will be put before the full council, proposes outsourcing mental health care and additional care of the elderly services to external providers, with a view to saving more money.

The plan, if approved, would see the caseload of adult care workers increased, mental health care provided by council support workers slashed and a loss of 30 full-time equivalent posts.

A further 50 jobs could be cut from the council's street scene department. The budget proposes to integrate streetscene and roads department posts on Mull, Bute, Islay and the Kintyre peninsula, saving £938,000 in the next three years.

There will also be a three per cent increase on charges for council services across social, leisure and waste management services for the next three years.

Fares for council run ferries to islands including Easdale, Jura and Lismore will also rise by an average of three per cent if the budget is approved.

by meals on wheels and lunch clubs. School meals have been set at £2.05 for the 2012/13 school year.

The cost of weekly respite services for the elderly still has to be agreed by COSLA but the council budget proposes hourly rates for home help, housing support and elderly day care all remain at the current price.

Investing In more positive news the council's capital budget proposes to invest £14.5 million in education, improving the quality of the school estate and raising the condition of school buildings.

Roads and amenities will benefit from £29.5 million over three years, whilst the private sector housing grant could receive a £4 million cash injection. A further £21 million has been set aside for CHORD projects.

Commenting on the draft budget, council lead Dick Walsh said: 'Given the ongoing challenging financial situation which all local authorities are facing, Argyll and Bute decided last year to adopt a strategic, three-year approach to setting our budget.'

'The next financial year represents the second year of this approach, and I am confident that the way forward we are proposing will put us in the best possible position to meet the challenges we will undoubtedly face.'

The proposed budget was referred to the full council for discussion and decision following the meeting of the council's executive last Thursday.



Pupils from Barcaldine Primary School during filming to launch the Royal Zoological Society's new Deep Blue Scotland website. 15_106sealife2

Barcaldine pupils star on new marine science website

PUPILS from Barcaldine Primary School are set to become the envy of the nation after featuring in a video to launch a new marine science website.

Seal pup release They took a trip to the neighbouring Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary last week to help launch the new Deep Blue Scotland website, run by the Royal

Zoological Society for Scotland (RZS) and the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU).

Designed for schools, it will not only allow visitors to delve into facts and photos of different marine species, but rescued seals can be tracked via their electronic tags.

The website team will return to the site this month to cover

the release of five-month-old seal pup, Holly, back into the wild.

Raising awareness Brendan Duggan, education officer for RZS for Scotland, said: 'RZS have been working on numerous terrestrial species websites, but we had nothing for marine species. 'This website will help raise

awareness of marine science and the various marine species that live in and around Scotland.'

Barcaldine was picked for the launch, not just for the presence of the Scottish Marine Institute in Dunbeg, but because of the work the Sea Life Sanctuary does to rescue seals.

Sanctuary manager, Craig Connor, said: 'Holly was

brought in here in October aged about three weeks. She was very prickly and that's how she got her name.

'We hope to release her back into the wild in the coming weeks and we'll be delighted to welcome the website team back here for the release.'

To see the website, visit deepbluescotland.org.uk.

Emma wins chance to work outdoors via Vodafone competition

A LOCAL charity has an extra pair of hands after a young Oban woman won a competition to pay her to work for them.

Emma Kersel, 19, has been volunteering full-time with social enterprise outdoor activity charity Stramash since August. She entered the Vodafone World of Difference competition as a means to be paid for her work.

She said: 'I'm still living at home and I work on a Saturday to pay for the extras. I hope to become an apprentice with Stramash through the New Apprentice Scheme after my Vodafone placement is up.'

Emma starts her two month placement in March and plans on setting up a youth board, allowing young people to express

themselves and contribute to the community as well as help with the running of Stramash.

She said: 'I think we do a lot for the community and a lot for young people in general. During my placement I just want to get more experience working with people.'

Stramash provides exciting experiences for youngsters

through a range of outdoor activities including, canoeing, kayaking, climbing and sea trips in summer.

Gordon Smith from the charity said: 'Stramash are delighted Emma has been successful in her application to the Vodafone World of Difference programme. 'Emma has been involved

with Stramash for many years, participating on many of our courses and progressing her own development in many outdoor activities. During her time with us we will help her to improve these skills, furthering her own development as well as enabling her to gain an insight into the type of work Stramash does.'

LORN LINES

IN A late change to Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society's programme Elaine McChesney, curator at Dunollie House delivered an entertaining account of the rebirth and continuing restoration going on at Dunollie House.

Despite equipment difficulties on the night, her in-depth knowledge of the items and love of the McDougall of Dunollie characters from history brought a welcome breath of fresh air to the proceedings.

In a vote of thanks by Duncan Campbell, he stressed how Elaine had helped rekindle enthusiasm for Dunollie and helped promote the cause.

The Society's next meeting will be at the Undercroft, Glencairn Church centre on Friday, February 17 at 7.30pm when Christopher Fleet of the National Library of Scotland will talk on "Lorn on the Map, a cartographic journey over four centuries."

Senior Map Curator Christopher's part in the new book "Scotland, Mapping the Nation" has been well received and is available locally.



OBAN Charities Day and Street Fair, which is held each year and organised by Oban and Lorn Lions club, will this year be held on Saturday June 9.

This is a great day out for everyone with local groups, playschools, and other organisations hosting stalls to raise much-needed funds and raise awareness of their activities. Last year's charities event brought a high turnout of interested groups and stallholders, with an even bigger parade than was expected.

This year interest in participating has started early with a number of stalls already booked. If any group or organisation would like further information about taking part, or to make a stall booking, please contact the secretary, John Lloyd on 01631562762 or by e-mail at Oban3108@aol.com.



MEMBERS of Oban Photographic Club turned out at the Regent Hotel, Oban for their usual Monday evening meeting on January 30 to bring, and judge, entries for the Argyll Trophy.

The subject for the trophy, which was donated by Peter and Katy Weir of Ledaig Caravan Site several years ago, was, as chosen by them, 'Argyll Weather'.

As can be imagined, the storms and severe weather we have experienced in the last year featured heavily!

First prize was given to an image of the sun's rays bursting out from behind clouds over Kerrera taken by Jim Kirkpatrick from McCaig's Tower.

Second prize went to an image taken by Maurice Wilkins of one of the storms hitting a headland near Arduaine Gardens.

Third prize was awarded to Bob McCulloch for a picture taken during the hard frosts of 2011 and showed smoke-like mist rising off Oban Bay. Bob reckoned that the temperature was -16 degrees!

The next meeting of the club is on Monday, February 13 when the results of 'Landscape/seascape' will be given by judge Neil MacGregor from Bearsden.



A DISCOUNT retail outlet on Argyll Square in Oban closed its doors for trading last Saturday with a final 'everything must go' sale.

Pound Crazy Jane's had been trading at the site since April 2010. Shop tenant Jane Scott explained that the shop 'just wasn't making enough money' which led to the decision to close down.

Massage expert called as witness in Oban gym indecent assault case

AN EXPERT witness in the trial of Oban gym co-owner Robin Morton has told the court a lack of communication was the source of most complaints about masseurs.

Osteopath Margaret Brookes Carter, chairwoman of Scottish Massage Therapists Organisation and secretary of the General Council for Massage Therapy, was giving evidence at Oban Sheriff Court, as the defence opened its case last Thursday.

Mr Morton, aged 49, of Tigh na Craig, Clachan Seil, is charged with indecently assaulting two women during massages by touching them on the breasts and is also accused of offering one of them £50 to allow him to massage her. The Crown has dropped three other charges.

The messages were scheduled to allow Mr Morton to give the women tips ahead of job interviews at Energise Fitness.

A special defence of consent has been lodged from the outset of the trial.

Giving evidence to defence solicitor Gary McAteer, Ms Brookes Carter said

communication was the main source of complaints and when training therapists, she encouraged them to explain what they were doing and ask, 'can I do this?'

'When people come for a massage they can become relaxed, almost in a dream-like state and therapists have to be very careful what they are asking,' she added.

Ms Brookes Carter admitted there were techniques to massage the breast but she would not have included that area of the body in a full-body massage.

She said: 'Doing the pectoral muscles, you can't help but touch breast tissue.'

A submission by Mr McAteer of no case to answer was not supported by Sheriff Ruth Anderson. Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court: 'The consent that gets her [one of the victims] onto the massage table does not give the accused the carte blanche consent to go as far as he did.'

The trial was adjourned before Mr Morton gave evidence and will continue on March 9.



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An adult pass for £10 A child pass for £8 Child's date of birth:

I have attached my passport sized photograph to this application form

Tick here to receive information from Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary

Complete this application form and, along with your photograph, take it to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban or to apply by post, see above for details. Applications must be received by February 28, 2012. Terms & conditions apply.

Photocopied application forms will not be accepted. Only one annual pass per application form can be claimed.




PRIMARY FOOTBALL

Atlantis to host tournament for young footballers

A FOOTBALL tournament for children in primaries one to three will be held in Atlantis Leisure.

The Playsport Cup, which is taking place on February 14 is being held as part of the leisure centre's 20th anniversary celebrations.

Many different prizes will be won on the day, with the more unusual including best celebration and goal of the day.

Teams will be organised at random on the day but with limited spaces on offer, early registration at Atlantis is encouraged.

Competition starts at 2pm in the main hall.

GOLF

Islay Golf Club

February Medal
1 Lachlan Gairns, 79-13 =66;
2 Graeme Hamilton, 81-13 =68;
3 Neil Johnston, 80 - 11 = 69.

SHINTY

Lochside try again with friendly at Ganavan

LOCHSIDE Rovers will aim to play their postponed pre-season friendly tie against Fort William at Ganavan this Saturday with a 1.30pm throw-up after last weekend's fixture, plus the Oban Camanachd v Glengarry tie, the fall of the hard frost.

With time running out until the start of the shinty season, all clubs are keen to get some match practice.

Oban Camanachd are due to travel to Cannich next week to play Strathglass.

SHINTY

Oban Celtic to meet Inverness in Wylie memorial

OBAN Celtic will play Inverness in a pre-season friendly match for the Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy at Mossfield Stadium, Oban this Saturday.

The match will throw-up at 1pm.

POOL

Oban and District Pool League

Team	Pts
Lancaster A	18
Markie's A	16
The Cellar	16
The Claredon	14
Lancaster B	12
Lochavullin	6
Markie's B	6
Backpackers	0

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Atlantis 5-a-side

Results:
League:
Oban Electrics 5 Hotels 12
Atlantis 2 Carpet Fitters 6
Cup:
Group B
Oban High 10 RM Builders 9



John McPhee is to ride a new 250cc four-stroke M3-01 this season. Picture - Agusti Nubiola/Racing Steps Foundation.

Connel racer moves up to new bike with aims of British Grand Prix place

A CONNELL teenager is continuing his rise through the road racing ranks after re-signing to KRP for the 2012 season and stepping up to Moto3.

John McPhee, who is backed by the Racing Steps Foundation (RSF), is swapping its recently retired Aprilia and Honda two-strokes for the new 250cc four-stroke M3-01, which will be campaigned across Europe.

The extensive test and race programme takes in the three main continental championships for the Moto3 class - the CEV

MOTORCYCLING

Buckler, CIV and IDM series in Spain, Italy, and Germany - along with the single-round UEM European Championship at Albacete in October.

John also hopes to earn wildcard entries to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in June and two other European rounds on the World Championship calendar.

His new KRP M3-01 machine, built by the Buckingham-

shire-based team to its own Moto3-compliant specification, features innovative chassis and swingarms designed by long-time KRP associate BORA Specialised Fabrications.

KRP team boss-turned-constructor Mark Keen and RSF motorcycle racing co-ordinator Peter Ball are also working closely with ex-Honda and Ferrari engineer Osamu Goto's Lausanne-based Geo Technology on engine supply and race kits.

The prototype chassis are at an

advanced stage awaiting delivery of the NSF 250R powerplants and add-ons.

Mr Keen said: 'It will be interesting to see how the other teams and bikes perform on the basis that we're all starting from scratch.'

'As a constructor our hope is that we've built a better bike than the others. But only time will tell.'

The RSF riders will compete in all seven of the CEV rounds in Spain together with selected non-clashing rounds in the

Italian CIV and German IDM Championships.

John, aged 17, had a successful debut season in the CEV 125cc Championship when he finished 10th. He will also draw on the experience gained from three 125cc World Championship rides in 2010/11.

The team's first race will be round one of the CIV Championship at Mugello, near Florence, on March 25. The opening round of the CEV Buckler Championship takes place at Jerez on April 1.

Kyles to defend Celtic Cup crown at Inveraray

Lochside draw Kingussie in first round of Sutherland Cup

TWO ARGYLL rivals know they will clash in at least two of this season's cups after the first round draws of five competitions were made this week.

Defending champions Kyles Athletic will travel to Inveraray for the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup quarter final in April and also face the men from the Royal Burgh in the first round of the Bullough Cup on May 12, which will also see Lochside Rovers play The Scots, Bute host Aberdeen, and Tayforth against Col Glen.

The first round of the Celtic Cup on March 31 will see Glenorchy host Bute, Oban Celtic will take on Strachur and Glasgow Mid Argyll will travel to Aberdeen.

April 7 sees 26 teams compete the first round of the Sutherland Cup, with Lochside Rovers

SHINTY

versus Kingussie a stand-out tie. Glenorchy, Taynult and Ballachulish have byes to round two.

In the Balliemore Cup, beginning on April 14, Skye host Lochcarron and Lochaber take on Caberfeidh in two of the picks of the round.

Oban Celtic travel to take on Inverness, while Beaulieu host Glenorchy, Taynult play Strachur, Oban Camanachd take on Strathglass and Aberdeen play GMA. Kilmory receive a bye to the quarter finals, where they take on Taynult or Strachur.

The Strathdearn Cup first round on April 21 sees Skye take on Newtonmore and Glengarry play Caberfeidh.



The archers who took part in Oban and Lorn Archers' Open Portsmouth competition 15.10.5archers1

Archers gather for Oban's Open Portsmouth Competition

OBAN and Lorn Archers held their annual Open Portsmouth Competition at Atlantis Leisure with some superb performances despite a depleted entry.

There was, as usual, close competition for prizes, with competitors from across Scotland showing their quality throughout.

One of the best performances came from Midlothian archer, Adelle Fleming, who would have set a new Scottish record if the competition was held under Record Status rules.

A fact pointed out to organiser Bill Murray was that the Gents recurve trophy has been won by

ARCHERY

a different archer in each of the previous 12 years the competition has been held - thought to be unique for archery competitions held in Scotland.

Competitors in other disciplines showed their quality by successfully defending trophies won last year, such as Dawn Thomson of Linwood holding the Junior Girls Recurve trophy - a feat she has managed for the past three years.

Mr Murray said: 'A special thank you must go to those who

donated prizes for the raffle and to Atlantis Leisure for their help in ensuring the competition went ahead. This is greatly appreciated by the club.'

'Thanks also go to Eleanor Wilson, who judged, and Bronwen Davies for giving out the prizes at the end.'

Main competition winners:
Gents Recurve
James Wilbraham, Linwood, 559;
Ladies Recurve
Robert Campbell, Glasgow, 489;
Ladies Barebow
Karen Gold, Neptune, 403;
Ladies Fleming, Lasswade, 463;
Gents Compound
Frank Maguire, Ayr, 572;
Ladies Compound
Ann Ward, Ayr, 565;
Boys Recurve
Gareth Fleming, Lasswade, 578;
Girls Recurve
Dawn Thompson, Linwood, 511;
Boys Compound
Calum Wright, Thistle, 517;
Novice
Gary Turnbull, Linwood, 483;
Best Oban and Lorn Archer
Diarmid Reid, 561;
Recurve Team
Linwood, (James Wilbraham, Lawrence Thompson and Kenneth Hume) 1648 (1800);
Compound Team
Thistle, (Malcolm Wright, Maxine Wright and Calum Wright) 1572 (1800).

FOOTBALL

**Scottish Amateur Cup
Cambusbarron Rovers 5
Oban Saints 2**



Oban Saints manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed as his side lost only their second game of the season.

Rovers ruin Oban Saints' Scottish Cup dreams

SAINTS lost only their second game of the season so far when they travelled to take on Cambusbarron Rovers in the last 32 of the Scottish Amateur Cup and although the young Oban side were on the wrong end of a 5-2 scoreline this doesn't give a true reflection on their performance against an experienced Stirling outfit.

The game was switched to Forthbank Stadium 3G after the recent frosty weather made the grass at Cambusbarron unplayable.

Manager Iain Jackson picked the same starting line-up that proved successful against Echt in the previous round the week before.

The game started at a cracking pace with both teams going at each other right from the off.

Saints had a great chance to take the lead in the 14th minute after a move involving Ross Maitland, Myles McAuley and Craig MacEwan who set up Donald Campbell. Donnie jinked past his marker and sent what looked like a netbound shot towards the goal, but Rovers keeper Gary Martin made a brilliant save to deny the striker.

In the 24th minute Saints netminder Graham Douglas dropped a cross and in trying to retrieve it fouled Andy Conroy. Chris McBrier made no mistake from the spot to put Rovers ahead.

It was a real stunner for Oban who had been looking good, but three minutes later they lost another bad goal when poor defending allowed Andy Conroy to cut the ball back for McBrier to score again from close range.

Saints attempts to fight back were repelled by a strong Cambusbarron defence, and catastrophe struck when they conceded a third and then a fourth in first half stoppage time, with Chris Blair scoring and then McBrier bagging his hat-trick.

It was a shell-shocked Saints outfit that trudged off the pitch at half time but far from folding they came out with all guns blazing in the second half. Saints pulled a goal back in the

58th minute and what a cracker it was with Willie Gemmell thumping a shot in off the crossbar from fully 30 yards.

Two minutes later the visitors spurned a great chance to pull another goal back when they were awarded a penalty after a handball in the box, but Donald Campbell's spot kick was well saved by the excellent Gary Martin.

And any hopes of a fight back were well and truly killed off two minutes later when McBrier took his tally to four with a goal on the break.

Credit to the visitors though. They kept plugging away and had Cambusbarron on the back foot for the remainder of the match. Keith Milar netted a well-taken goal with 10 minutes remaining to reduce the deficit, but it was too little too late and the Scottish Cup run was over for Saints.

Manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed at the result. He said: 'Individual errors proved costly against an experienced Cambusbarron side. The two goals right on half time gave us a mountain to climb, but we were the better team in the second half and certainly gave them a run for their money.'

Taynult v Trialists to decide league

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Trialists	5	5	0	0	15
Taynult	5	5	0	1	15
Emergency	6	3	1	2	10
Seil	6	3	0	3	9
Teachers	5	2	1	2	7
WC Massive	5	2	0	3	6
Spartak	6	2	0	4	6
Hydro	5	1	0	4	3
Sail Trim Coach5	0	0	5	0	0

Results
Emergency 3 Seil 1
Hydro 7 West Coast Massive 6
Sail Trim 2 Teachers 5
Taynult 5 West Coast Massive 2
Seil 8 Spartak 3
Emergency 1 Trialists 7

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Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, 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.

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SQUASH

Korrie are electric in squash league

KORRIE Electric extended their lead in the latest round of the Lochaber and Lorn Squash League after an 11-4 win over Simmers&Co with Gary Davidson getting a walkover when Neil Fraser failed to turn up.

Alan Ross beat Iain Richardson 3-1, Neil Worsdall lost 3-2 in a great game with Kenny Drummond and finally Bryan Wilson won their last game 3-0 against Niall Campbell.

In the other game, Oban Filling Station won 9-7 against Korrie Plumbing in a tight encounter. Warren Cameron won 3-1 against Paul Murphy then Murdo Murray narrowly beat the ever-improving Peter Strange 3-2.

Fraser Inglis won his game for O.F.S 3-0 against Rah Douglas before the deciding game between Alan Moore and Iain Black, where Alan's fitness and control showed through to win 3-1 after 40 minutes of play.

Team	P	W	D	L	A	F
Korrie Electric	4	4	0	0	18	44
Oban Fill St	4	3	0	1	31	33
Korrie Plumb	3	0	0	3	29	19
Simmers & Co	3	0	0	3	32	14

10-PIN BOWLING

Alleycats extend league lead

ALLEYCATS have extended their lead at the top of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league scratch division at the Nevis Centre.

After 11 weeks of play, Alleycats have 53 points after beating second-placed Council 5-0. Council have 45 points while Ardtoe/Nevis Radio stay in third with 37 points despite going down 5-0 to Underdogs.

Alleycats are also the new leaders in the handicap division after beating previous leaders Council 5-0. Council drop to third place on 34 points with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio moving into second on 36 points.

The highest team games of the week came from Alleycats with 568 scratch, 785 handicap. Alleycats also had the highest 2 game scratch total with 1,097.

Individually the best scratch game this week came from Alleycats' Pam Weller with 172. Jacqui Hill, Phoenix, had the best handicap game of 230. Pam Weller also rolled the week's best two game scratch series with 333. John Weller had the week's best two game handicap series with 420.



Ballachulish's all-conquering teams celebrate with their trophies.

Ballachulish win indoor tournament

JUNIOR shinty players from across the west Highlands packed out the Nevis Centre for an annual indoor primary school competition on Saturday morning.

Ballachulish ran out winners in all three age categories after three hours of tough play in the round-robin tournament, which was organised by Glengarry Shinty Club. Ardnamurchan, Glengarry and Lochcarron all entered teams, with the players split into three age groups - P3

PRIMARY SHINTY

and under, P5 and under and P7 and under.

The P3 and under competition required a play-off after Ballachulish and Glengarry tied with 10 points each. Lochcarron finished as runners up in the P5 group with Glengarry second-placed in the P7s.

Referee John Sloggie took charge of all the matches and

chose the players of the tournament for each age group. Sean McClellan of Ardnamurchan won P3 category trophy, Cameron Bremner won the P5 award and his fellow Glengarry player Mungo Blakey was named best player for the P7s.

Organiser Catherine Cameron said: 'Glengarry Shinty Club are indebted to the Grassie family of Culachy Estate, Fort Augustus for sponsoring this event and to Elaine for organising all aspects of the day.'



Players of the tournament - Glengarry's Mungo Blakey (left) and Cameron Bremner, with Ardnamurchan's Sean McClellan (front).

Clubs reject shinty majority of proposed shinty rule changes

Rolling substitutes adopted after year-long pilot proves successful

CAMANACHD Association members unanimously voted in favour of permanently introducing rolling substitutions into the sport at an extraordinary general meeting in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Friday night.

Rolling substitutes were brought in last season on a year-long trial, and the association's 33 voting members decided to keep the rule change. Clubs are allowed to name five substitutions for each match, three of which can be used on a continuous basis.

A proposal to reduce the number of substitutes available to managers from five to three was one of four other potential rule changes voted down at the meeting.

A plan to allow the attacking team within five yards from the ball at free-hits was voted down 27 votes to six, with some club officials saying it could increase direct shots which could lead to

SHINTY

'We need more volunteers, we need more officials, and we need an upgrade of facilities in the sport.'
chief operating officer Torquill Macleod

more injuries for defenders trying to block.

Glenuqhahart chairman Russell Fraser suggested a new ruling which would allow referees to move a free hit five yards forward if the defending team does not adhere to the five yards rule at free hits or if the referee is verbally abused.

Mr Fraser told the meeting: 'Some of the abuse referees

receive on a weekly basis doesn't do much to attract new referees to the game.' The proposal failed to find a second.

Glasgow Celtic Society put forward a plan to increase the penalty area by five yards, which only attracted two votes in favour.

Chief operating officer Torquill Macleod presented the Camanachd Association's strategic plan for the next two years, which includes plans to increase the number of volunteers involved with the sport by five per cent and the number of players by 10 per cent.

Mr Macleod said: 'We need more volunteers, we need more officials, and we need an upgrade of facilities in the sport.'

'We will be working closer with clubs in terms of volunteer recruitment, and be looking to grow the number of players by 10 per cent - that's male, female, junior and senior players.'

Kinlochleven boxers fight at Peterhead

BOXING

TWO FIGHTERS from Kinlochleven's Nether Lochaber 'Claymores' Boxing Club fought in front of a packed crowd at Peterhead Amateur Boxing Club's show on Saturday night.

Light heavyweight Sam MacLeod, aged 16, defeated local boxer Sarunas Gestautas after a gruelling contest which got off to a blistering start. After nearly two minutes of fighting at an incredible tempo, both boxers had just about run out of steam when they both connected with straight right hands. The Peterhead boxer's shot looked the better punch so the referee gave MacLeod a standing eight count to let him recover.

In the final round MacLeod managed to out-jab his opponent and earn himself a slim lead over

the courageous Gestautas.

At the final bell Kinlochleven's MacLeod was declared the winner by a narrow margin.

Jamie Banks of Inchree was due to take part in only his second fight but his opponent pulled out the day before having injured his hand. The 16-year-old instead took part in an exhibition fight with 14-year-old Sean Robertson. Both boxers put on a good display for the lively crowd who appreciated their efforts.

Tickets for Nether Lochaber's first home show on June 2 are available from the ticket hotline on 07700 705 742, or by emailing netherlochaberabc@hotmail.co.uk.

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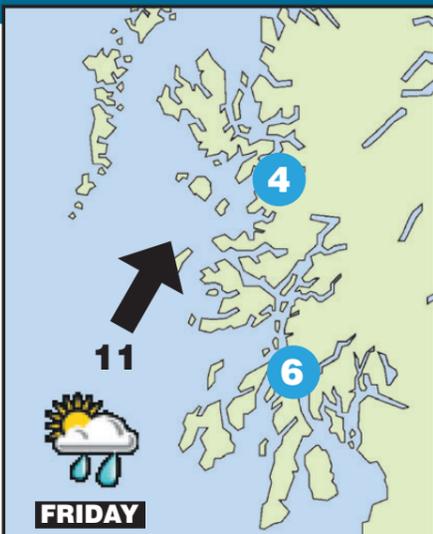
Weather

Thursday Cloudy with the odd sunny period.
Winds light, easterly
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C

Friday Cloudy with increasing risk of showers
Winds fresh, southerly
Temperatures 2°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy with the chance of showers
Winds light and chill, north-easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States	
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 9, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.24	0.5 06.33	4.1 13.03 0.7 18.53 4.0
Fri 01.02	0.4 07.06	4.1 13.37 0.7 19.24 3.9
Sat 01.42	0.4 07.40	4.1 14.12 0.8 20.00 3.8
Sun 02.23	0.5 08.18	3.9 14.52 0.9 20.40 3.7
Mon 03.09	0.7 09.00	3.7 15.38 1.1 21.25 3.4
Tues 04.01	1.0 09.48	3.3 16.35 1.4 22.22 3.2
Wed 05.04	1.3 10.53	3.0 17.48 1.6 23.48 3.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-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		

Phoenix boxers lose out

BOXING

LOCHABER Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club suffered a disappointing weekend with three fighters losing bouts after covering more than 800 miles to attend two shows at opposite ends of the country.

Scottish novice champion Igor Sliwinski and light welterweight Aidan Donnelly took part in Kincorth ABC's show in Aberdeen on Friday night, while middleweight Ryan Watson and James Aitchison fought in Whithorn Bravehearts Boxing Club's show in Galloway on Sunday.

Donnelly topped the bill against experienced home fighter Lee Burnett in Kincorth, and in the first two rounds was careful not to over commit and leave himself open to counters.

With the scores even going into the final round, Donnelly tried to turn the screw but while he landed more punches he was forced to take a few on his way into range. A coin toss could have decided the winner, but unfortunately for the Fort William club their boxer lost out by a single point.

Earlier, Sliwinski suffered his first defeat when he took on Robert Reid of Lochce ABC. The 15-year-old Lochaber fighter tried to keep the shorter Reid at arms length where he could unload his powerful straight punches, moving side-to-side, constantly changing angles. The Lochaber camp were confident that Sliwinski had done enough but he also lost by a single point.

Club official Steve Docherty said: 'This was one of Igor's most accomplished performances against the best opponent he has faced. We have high hopes for him and sometimes you learn more from defeat than victory.'

'We have fast tracked Aidan to open class standard due to his age and he has risen to the challenge every time and this was definitely his best performance. Once he gets his first victory at this level I firmly believe the floodgates will open.'

Ryan Watson topped the bill in Whithorn as he faced Western District silver medalist Ryan Fairhurst in a rematch. Watson defeated Fairhurst on points in Fort William in October.

The four-round contest saw Watson produce the performance of his career, calmly blocking with his elbows and arms before firing back with his own hooks.

At distance Watson was controlling with his powerful jabs and with Fairhurst unable to land anything worthwhile in close, the pro-Bravehearts crowd was hushed and the Lochaber contingent assumed the decision was a formality.

To their astonishment one judge voted for Watson, one for Fairhurst and one all square. The final judge had to side with someone and went with the Bravehearts boxer.

James Aitchison's opponent pulled out injured so the 14-year-old took on Connor Wallace in an exhibition bout, which was given a huge ovation by the crowd.

FOOTBALL

Fort head North for tie with Turriff

LIFE without the Ellis cousins starts this weekend for Fort William FC as they travel to Aberdeenshire take on Turriff United this Saturday.

Sean and Michael Ellis have left the club after signing a deal with Australian side Combrams, but manager Danny Conlon will be able to call on keeper Jonathan Smith for the first time since November after he recovered from a broken hand.

Mid-table Turriff won a tight game at Claggan Park 1-0 when the two sides last met in October.

All of last weekend's Highland League fixtures, including Fort's scheduled home tie with Fraserburgh, were postponed due to frost and waterlogged pitches.

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Lochaber Leisure go 10 points ahead

LOCHABER LEISURE increased their lead at the top of the Ali Young Premier League to 10 points despite drawing 3-3 with Liverscaol in the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Nearest challengers TNF United fell to a heavy 6-1 defeat against fifth-placed Achintore FC, leaving Ballachulish to move into second with a 9-3 victory over AA Young.

Meanwhile, bottom club Bayern Bru picked up their first points of the season with a 3-0 win over The Granite House, and HWEnergy No-Stars recorded a 7-2 win against Steaua Sookabrest. The night's other game saw Stroke City beat Goon Squad 3-0.

SHINTY

Kinlochshiel ready for premier season

KINLOCHSHIEL'S preparations for their first season in the Premier Division have been hampered by heavy rain leaving pitches unplayable.

Last season's undefeated north division one champs saw friendlies away to Lochaber and Inverness cancelled in the last two weeks due to inclement weather, but manager Johnstone Gill is hoping to be able to give his players a run out this Saturday against Lochcarron.

Gill also told *The Oban Times* he had not lost any players from last season's successful campaign. He said: 'We will have much the same pool of players we had last year, but the younger boys are a year older, and hopefully that will give us a strong enough group.'

Armed Forces on search for players

SCOTS Camanachd, the Armed Forces shinty club, is looking for shinty players from within the Armed Forces to help increase the player pool within the club.

The Scots have entered the Bullough and Sutherland Cups in the 2012 shinty season.

Anyone interested in playing can contact Captain Robert Stoddart, club secretary, at robert.stoddart185@mod.uk.

Wherever you are... Whatever the weather

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