

Mull Lines

FOUR new faces have joined the team at Tobermory lifeboat station bringing a raft of experience with them.

David Crane, a volunteer at the station's shop, has been appointed as sea safety officer. David's role will be to provide free advice on all aspects of sea safety to leisure craft users using the waters around Mull, including free lifejacket safety checks. He is an experienced and enthusiastic yachtsman.

Lydia Hosdell, manager of Tobermory Marine Visitor Centre and a member of Tobermory Coastguard Team, has been appointed education officer.

Lydia will liaise with local schools on Mull and Iona as well as organising tours of the station and all-weather lifeboat to visitors of all ages.

Two new deputy launching authorities have also been appointed. Keith Drake, co-owner of the Tobermory Chocolate Company, was a deputy second coxswain of the Tobermory lifeboat in the 1990s.

Neil MacInnes, is a former volunteer Coastguard and the commodore of the Western Isles Yacht Club.

Both Keith and Neil have extensive local knowledge of the seas around Mull and Iona and are thus well qualified to authorise the lifeboat to be launched when lifeboat operations manager Ian Stevens is absent.

Mr Stevens said: 'We're very pleased to welcome David, Lydia, Keith and Neil to the team who I know will build on the success of the past year.'

'Although our crew list is healthy, for some time we have wanted to do more in terms of working with local schools, organising visits and promoting sea safety.'

'For 2013 we would also like to boost our fundraising effort as the lifeboat can only launch through the generosity of charitable donations. We would love to hear from anyone interested in getting involved.'

The appointments come on the back of a busy year for Tobermory RNLI whose volunteer crew launched 24 times and rescued 40 people, the station's busiest year since 2009.

Of those rescued, 17 were under 18 years old, due to two rescues involving sail training vessels and a third involving a family in a dinghy off Ardnamurchan Point.

Almost half of the rescues were in darkness and between them Tobermory's volunteer crew spent 379 hours at sea on 'shouts' - the equivalent of 15 days.

The crew has continued to train weekly and has already been in action twice in 2013.



A MUSIC festival which encourages youngsters through professional tuition is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

The Mendelssohn on Mull Festival, which takes place from July 1 to 7, will see performances all over Mull and Iona as well as a finale in Oban.

The aim of the festival is to bring a new generation of musicians into contact with seasoned professional mentors in relaxed surroundings, providing free concerts for audiences.

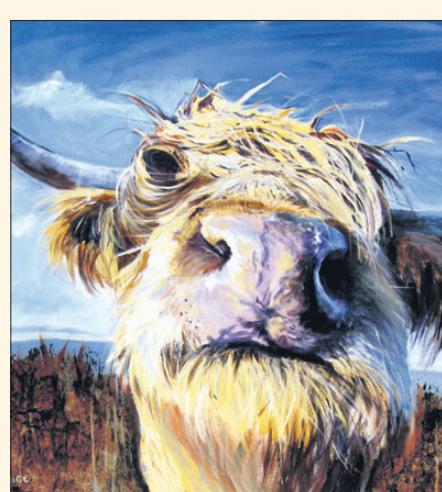
It is inspired by composer Felix Mendelssohn who, as a young man, made a life-changing journey through Scotland to Mull where he found inspiration to write one of his most famous pieces - The Hebrides Overture, Fingal's Cave.

Each year the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival, under the artistic directorship of Levon Chilingirian, invites a small group of young professional musicians at the start of their careers to take part in a week of discovery and performance.

They are mentored by highly experienced players of chamber music and perform to audiences in such diverse venues as the tiny Creich Church, which seats about 50 people and the imposing grandeur of Duart Castle's Great Hall.

This year the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival will be celebrating 25 years of incredible music making with mentors Levon Chilingirian, Gaby Lester, Susie Mészáros, Marcia Crawford, and Stephen Orton.

For a full programme of the week's events visit www.mendelssohn-mull.com.



An artist from the Isle of Mull had one of his paintings featured in a new Working Title movie. Graham Bruce-Richards, well known for his paintings of cows, was approached in March 2012 to discuss featuring one of his paintings in the new film 'Give It a Year'. The designer and director particularly liked Graham's style of work and decided to hang one of his paintings in the lead character's home.

Planners to consider Seil Sound fish farm

A PROPOSED fish farm in Seil Sound is due for consideration by Argyll and Bute's planning committee in March or April.

The relocation of the fish farm further south of its existing site at Ardmaddy has gained all necessary licences and the decision now rests solely on planning considerations.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has assessed the proposal and considers it will 'not adversely affect the integrity of the site'.

A spokesman said: 'The proposal outlined in the

application has been assessed and at the scale proposed, the likely significant effects are mitigated such that the impacts are considered to be within the carrying capacity of the receiving environment.'

Opposition

The plans, for 12 cages of 100m circumference plus the installation of feed barge, have attracted much local opposition.

Campaigners claim 'the resulting massive pollution would threaten the biodiversity in the waters of the Seil Sound and nearby Loch Melfort'.

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**Man close to being jailed after accusing Oban sheriff of making racist comment**

A KENT man came perilously close to prison after calling an Oban sheriff racist for trying to explain Scots law.

Frank Puttick, 23, accused Sheriff John Herald of making a racist comment when he said the system of Scots law was different to that in England.

Puttick, of 3 Swanfield Road, Whitstable, Kent, pled guilty to driving a stolen vehicle without a valid licence or insurance and failing to report an accident when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Problems arose when he denied two further charges of driving while unfit through drink



Bill Murray holds up a finger to mark his 100th donation to the Blood Transfusion Service.

15_107blood01

Oban man donates 100th pint of blood

Milestone reached after 35 years

AN OBAN man, who saw the benefit of blood donation first hand when his mother was ill with cancer, has donated his 100th pint of blood.

Bill Murray was one of nearly 300 people who donated to the Blood Transfusion Service in Oban's Corran Halls last Wednesday and Thursday.

After giving his 100th pint last Wednesday, the 65-year-old former civil engineer said: 'I first donated in Glasgow and a lot of people in my office were signing up to give blood.'

'I thought it was a good idea that day but that was 35 years ago and I am still donating.'

'Since then I have seen my mother go through treatment for cancer, during which time she needed a lot of transfusions.'

'Regardless of personal involvement, you always feel good about donating and it is satisfying knowing someone will benefit from it.'

Bill came to work in Argyll and Bute in 1986 and continued to donate here. He has only ever missed the opportunity to donate

through illness or holidays. Describing the process as 'a dawdle' now, the Bill Murray of 35 years ago was less assured with the process.

'I have to admit the first time I donated it was horrible, but that was only because the person taking the blood was not paying attention,' Bill added.

'The staff nowadays are very professional and the whole thing is very easy to do.'

Donating

'I have enjoyed life and I can help other people to have a good life by donating blood.'

'It doesn't cost me anything and I don't suffer because of it. I would encourage anyone to do it.'

Last Wednesday 152 people attended the Corran Halls, with 136 able to donate. Among them were 16 new donors.

The following day the Blood Transfusion Service took 160 donations from 178 attendees, 23 of which were new donors.

The total figure of 296 donors was 10 per cent higher than expected.

Man, 31, admits hotel assault

AN OBAN man who is currently the subject of three court orders has admitted carrying out an assault at the end of January.

James Hendry, 31, of room one, Willowdene Guest House, Glencruitten Road, Oban, pled guilty to assaulting a man at the Balmoral Hotel on January 26.

Hendry, who committed the offences while on bail, also admitted behaving in a disorderly manner by engaging in a stand up fight while drunk on licensed premises.

Sentence was deferred on Hendry, who is currently subject to three community payback orders, until March 5.

Police caught woman thief red handed

A WOMAN caught red handed by police with stolen property from a shop in Oban's George Street pled guilty to the offence during her trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Jennifer MacIver, 36, admitted stealing a pair of boots from a shop when she was stopped by officers on October 16 last year. But after receiving legal advice MacIver, of 4 Columba Court, Dunollie, Oban, denied the offence.

She later changed her mind and pled guilty during her trial last Wednesday. Sentence was deferred until March 5.

Towns get new recycling bins

FORT William and Portree are among nine Highland towns to get new recycling bins to help people recycle when away from home.

The bins, suitable for waste paper, cans, plastic bottles and card, will be placed at public transport hubs, tourist attractions, higher education institutions, shopping centres and NHS facilities.

Zero Waste Scotland is providing £54,373 for the bins from its 'Recycle on the Go' fund.

Director Iain Gulland said: 'We must stop thinking of used materials, like empty bottles and drinks cans, as waste. There's real value in the goods we throw away and the small effort it takes to separate waste for recycling can contribute to economic growth for Scotland.'

Training course

VOLUNTARY Action

Lochaber will hold its next winter training course at An Drochaid in Claggan next Thursday from 10am to 4pm.

The 'organising activities and events' seminar will offer guidance on event design and planning, personnel management and contingency plans. For more information contact VAL on 01397 706044.

Exile archive donated to Lochaber project

A CANADIAN-Scottish database of Lochaber people exiled during the Clearances, and their descendants, has been gifted to a west Lochaber 'roots' project.

The Mabou Pioneers Committee presented the 114,000-name archive to An Diasporra, which aims to reconnect descendants of emigrants to the land of their forebears.

The committee is based in Canada and has strong links to Cape Breton, where many Highland emigrants settled.

Now Howling Events, the west Lochaber-based grouping of cultural and ancestral organisations running An Diasporra, faces the daunting task

of digitising the database in time for Scotland's Year of Homecoming 2014.

Project co-ordinator Chas MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It is a real problem, albeit one we are glad to have.'

'Compiling digitally takes time. That is why we are asking anybody who may have some time available, say two or three hours a week, to help us get the information mounted. We already have some volunteers in training, but we need many more.'

'It is not just work. It is also an opportunity to contribute to the cultural richness of the community and to get involved.'

He added: 'This is an amazing act of

generosity by those who have compiled the Mabou Pioneers database of Scottish emigrants.'

'The size of the archive is massive and at base values for professional research would cost around £1.7 million. The Mabou group have given it freely, and we are humbled by their trust and generosity.'

In a separate development, Howling Events' tapestry team is to hold workshops with Mallaig High School pupils working on entries for Arisaig Highland Games' Boisdale Prize, an annual competition for young artists, next Friday at 2pm.

Their artworks will help design the final Diaspora Tapestry, which will feature

10 panels themed on Scottish identity from 25 countries with strong Scottish ancestry.

The tapestry will be similar to the huge Prestopans Tapestry completed in 2010, in which several stitchers from west Lochaber were involved.

The tapestry team is looking for volunteers to help stitch the monumental work and local people are invited to attend.

Howling Events aim to have the database live and the tapestry completed by early 2014.

Anyone wishing to help should email antileadhead2014@arisaighlandgames.co.uk.

**Lochyside spotlight on Burns**

Lochyside RC youngsters learned about the life and works of Robert Burns and saw poems such as Tam O'Shanter acted out during a visit from Hopscotch Theatre Company last week. They were quizzed on the meaning of some of the old Scots words used by the bard and got to meet and question Burns himself, played by Edward McGurn. Asked what their favourite Burns poems were, one pupil said 'My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose' while another suggested 'Ae Fond Kiss'. Mr McGurn and Zoe Chatterton, of Hopscotch, are pictured with some of the children.

MSP hails Scotland's numerous human rights achievements

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP David Stewart has hailed Scotland's numerous achievements in furthering human rights both at home and worldwide. In a speech to the Scottish parliament,

Mr Stewart said: 'Let us aim for Scotland to pick up the challenge as a leading nation in human rights and an exemplar of best practice, not just in Scotland but in Europe and beyond.'

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**Technological Leapfrog**

Every so often a new gadget comes along which truly amazes me. As I have often mentioned, when I started in practice the only way to examine your retina was with an ophthalmoscope. (That's a special torch which enables the examiner to look through the light beam into your eye.) The main disadvantage of an ophthalmoscope is the very small area of retina that can be viewed at any one time. Over the years new imaging techniques have been developed to give wider views of your retina without loss of clarity. These originally were based on "wet film" camera systems which were notoriously hit or miss when obtaining high quality images. Computers hastened the development of digital imaging retinal cameras which gave an instantaneous view of the retina. All these systems suffer the same problem. Only a fraction of the retina is visible at any one time.

Last night we became the first practice in Scotland to take delivery of the very latest Optomap® digital retinal imaging system. Not only has the amount of retina that can be viewed increased but the quality of the images has improved dramatically. The images obtained are now virtually the same high definition quality obtained by traditional small field digital cameras. What a difference five years make! I just wonder what new technology will come along next.

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or drugs and driving dangerously, causing an accident. Sheriff Herald told Puttick he would stand trial on the last two charges as he had pled not guilty but Puttick said: 'How can you send me to trial for something you know nothing about?'

Searchers find body at Loch Awe

THE BODY of a missing fisherman has been found in Loch Awe after a search that combined the vast resources of Strathclyde Police with local knowledge.

Rescue teams ended a six-day search for Michael Pringle at 12.50pm last Saturday when police divers located his body in the River Orchy, close to its north bank at Lochawe village.

The Mauchline man, who was engaged to be married, had been visiting the area with his father. The pair became separated after leaving The Tight Line pub in Lochawe in the early hours of February 3.

The 25-year-old's disappearance brought back memories of the four fishermen who drowned on Loch Awe in March 2009.

Among recommendations adopted following the fatal accident inquiry into their death was to formulate a 'list of assets' for future searches.

As a result, Strathclyde Police last week augmented its own resources with Oban Mountain Rescue Team, HM Coastguard and the locally-organised LochWatch. Iain MacKinnon of LochWatch said: 'Our 'spotters' utilised our thermal imaging equipment on the first night. Unfortunately, it did not help to find Michael but the fact he was not detected, suggested he was probably in the water.'

'It is very sad that another life has been lost around Loch Awe.'

The focus of the large-scale search was based on the discovery of Michael's jacket near the River Orchy. The search team included a police helicopter, mountain rescue teams, dog branch, underwater unit and the British Transport Police, which searched the railway line between Lochawe and Dalmally.

Michael's family, who were in the area when his body was found, have thanked rescue teams and the police for their efforts. See letters page.

New £400,000 playpark for Oban moves a step closer

PLANS to create a £400,000 playpark in Oban have taken another step forward after the group behind the project gained charitable status.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark is pushing on with ambitious plans to raise the capital for a new playpark

outside Atlantis Leisure. Its new management committee was formed at the annual meeting in December, when it was also announced Oban Community Play Park had gained charity status as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

So far the group has raised more than £12,000 with the help of the local community towards building a new and larger play park.

The group's acting chairwoman Lyndsay Elliott said: 'We've been obsessing over play equipment and design and figuring out who

makes the best equipment. We've been discussing the merits of wet pour cement versus wood chip, whether sand is practical and if we can squeeze in and afford all the great ideas.'

'So far, we've got four companies providing free designs and when we have

funds, we will use an open tender process for companies to bid for the contract. At this point we'll be opening the designs up to the wider community for inspection.'

The £400,000 is made up of planning and professional fees, equipment purchase,

landscaping, installation and VAT. The group is also working with Atlantis Leisure and Argyll and Bute Council to agree a sublease for the area of land.

Meanwhile, fundraising continues with a Wizard of Oz Film showing at Oban Phoenix Cinema on March 3.

Woman injured in firearms incident

A WOMAN was injured after a firearm was accidentally set off in a house in Seil.

The incident occurred at around 7pm on February 3 and although the woman required medical treatment, her injuries were not considered life threatening. As a result of the incident, two men have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for culpable and reckless conduct.

Mull fish farm site to be inspected after appeal

AN INSPECTION is to take place at a proposed site for a fish farm on the Isle of Mull as The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) aims to overturn refusal of planning permission.

Plans for a fish farm in Loch Scridain in the south of Mull were rejected by Argyll and Bute Council last September.

But SSC has entered an appeal to that decision and the outcome should be known by March 13. A site visit by a Scottish Government reporter will take place on February 26.

Cinema to show Tarantino film

OBAN'S Phoenix Cinema will be one of only 20 in the UK to be supplied with a 35ml film of Quentin Tarantino's new blockbuster Django Unchained.

The cinema is likely to use digital projectors from the end of April but until then it has try and attract the limited number of 35ml films available.

Cinema manager Fee Shaw said: 'I think we are one of only three cinemas in Scotland to get Django Unchained, so it is nice to know we are competing with the big guns.'

Django Unchained will be shown from February 22 to 28.

Man accused

AN OBAN man has been accused of acting in a threatening manner in his own home.

Craig Munro, 32, of 2 Hynish Crescent, denied charges when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday. Munro was released on bail to another address and is expected to stand trial on April 3.

He will appear next on March 20.



Left to right: Stuart Chalmers, Thomas Potts, Jess Macdonald and Kerry McInnes receive the cheque from Alex Milligan, Lions president, and Robert Chipchase. 16_107hope01

Lions bring hope to Oban kitchen

FUNDS to help homeless people get clean clothes, clean bedding and hot food have been provided to HOPE Kitchen in Oban by a local organisation.

Oban and Lorn Lions have donated more than £600 to help HOPE buy a washing machine, tumble dryer and baked potato oven.

Matching funds

Robert Chipchase of Oban and Lorn Lions, said: 'The Lions were moved by the plight of the

group of homeless that HOPE were supporting, at that time living in tents.'

'We decided to help to fund all of the items HOPE needed in order that matching funds could be obtained from a third sector grant.'

Jess Macdonald, a founder member of HOPE, said: 'I was blown away when I was told they were funding the whole 50 per cent – we were speechless.'

'This helps a lot because

people can't afford to get their things washed so we can give them clean clothes, clean sleeping bags, clean bedding.'

But Jess explained the money would do more than help homeless people as elderly Oban residents as well as young couples also use the service because it's cheaper than staying at home and paying for heating.

24 hours Hope

Talking of future plans for HOPE, Jess said: 'We want to teach people how to cook and show them how to make money go further.'

'We would also love to open up the hours that the guys need. You need drop in centres are open 24 hours.'

Stuart Chalmers, chairman of HOPE committee, added: 'Premises are now the number one priority. We're hoping to try and find a place for HOPE on its own. We are getting so full here we are outgrowing the place.'

lating in the local area that an appeal was 'imminent'.

Planning committee councillors voted unanimously to reject Clachan Community Energy's application last November.

Mr Young had offered to pay the community £80,000 per year

regardless of how much energy the wind farm produced.

But senior planning officer Arlene Knox said the proposal was within a 'sensitive and highly prominent location'.

Objector Irene Coulson referred to wind farm as a 'wind

factory'. She told the hearing: 'His industrial scale development is completely the opposite of a community project – it is community exploitation.'

Mr Young could not be reached for comment as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Edwards hit the bystander so hard he knocked the man's tooth out.

Edward's defence agent Edward Thornton blamed the assault on 'ill feeling' between Robertson and her victim's girlfriend. He said despite this being a 'nasty unprovoked attack of a violent nature', Edwards was 'normally a hard working young man'.

Laura McManus, speaking on behalf of Robertson, said she was 'deeply ashamed of her behaviour' and felt 'really bad' for the man she assaulted.

Mrs McManus, also defending MacMillan, said he felt a sense of loyalty towards him and 'foolishly intervened'. She added: 'He was initially trying to calm matters down but things took a turn for the worse.'

Sheriff John Herald sentenced Edwards to 21 months in jail and imposed a two-year community payback order on Robertson including 150 hours of unpaid work.

He said: 'I'm faced with a situation in the main thoroughfare of this town which turned into an appalling assault on two people minding their own business and a third person not only minding his own business but caught up in something which he had nothing to do with at all.'

Sheriff Herald acknowledged MacMillan's 'lesser part' in the assault but sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment as he has a 'lengthy record'.

No appeal lodged against Clachan Seil windfarm decision

A PROPOSED wind farm at Clachan Seil will not go ahead after the developer failed to enter an appeal by the deadline.

Developer Rory Young had an application for nine wind turbines turned down at a public hearing in November last year.

This move, confirmed by a Scottish Government official, comes despite rumours circu-

lating in the local area that an appeal was 'imminent'.

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regardless of how much energy the wind farm produced.

But senior planning officer Arlene Knox said the proposal was within a 'sensitive and highly prominent location'.

Mr Young could not be reached for comment as *The Oban Times* went to press.

THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN FISHERIES

Lecture by **Struan Stevenson MEP**

(Vice Chairman of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee)

followed by Q&A

Thursday 21st February 2013, 18.00-19.00

At the Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA

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Morvern Lines

THERE are many interesting and historical graveyards scattered throughout the Highlands and Islands but few to equal Kiel standing on a hill overlooking Lochaline in Morvern.

According to local tradition, the site was selected by St Columba himself which, if true, pushes its origin back to the 6th century.

Regardless of the exact date, the site is one of great antiquity and the fact that there have been at least four places of worship on record here since the 13th century confirms its importance.

The Romans were fond of burying their dead at crossroads. Kiel stands at a once busy crossroad and in this place people from Morvern have been buried for generations.

The longing to be laid to rest in the place of one's birth or home was and is very strong not only in the Highlands and Islands but throughout the world. Regardless of the distance, no effort was spared to take the body back to the family burial ground.

There are more than 240 inscribed headstones at Kiel with many more undoubtedly lying hidden beneath the surface. Not all graves are marked.

There are two reasons for this. Firstly, it was only relatively wealthy families who could pay a stone mason and secondly, up until the 18th century, it was often considered that it would bring bad luck to the family concerned if the deceased's name appeared on a stone - a sentiment echoed in a Latin inscription on the gravestone of a 13th Franciscan, now in the Museum of Budapest, which translated reads: 'Stranger do not seek my name, but when thou pass say an Ave for my soul'.



Ancient resting place: one of the old weathered gravestones in Kiel graveyard.

The oldest grave marker is dated 1709 and commemorates a Hew (sic) Cameron. This is actually a 'recycled' 600-year-old slab now inside the Kirk Session House, which was converted into a museum to display the rest of a superb collection of medieval stones brought in from the adjoining cemetery for preservation in 1914.

There are stones to the Camerons of Glendessary and the Macleans of Kingairloch and Kinlochafanne - important landowners and chieftains in Morvern at one time; local clergymen - including an Episcopalian bishop; a Spanish princess from the supposed treasure ship lying at the bottom of Tobermory Bay; local bards, doctors and John Sinclair, a wealthy Tobermory merchant and distiller who founded the village of Lochaline.

A stone erected by Hugh Cameron in memory of his mother Catherine who died in 1773, aged 52, depicts a cow which is unusual. Another erected by John Morrison, mariner, Ardrishaig, commemorates his son Angus, feur, Lochaline - 'Taken suddenly from time to eternity on 25 July 1852, aged 30 years'. His fate though is not known.

The most poignant and ornate headstone is undoubtedly that carved by John Cameron, the Morvern blacksmith, known as 'An Gobhainn Mòr' - the Big Smith.

It was erected in the late 1700s by him and his wife Flora in memory of their 11 deceased children whose little heads appear along the top edge of a raised panel.

There was a belief held in Morvern until recently that the spirit of the person last buried has to keep watch over the churchyard till the next burial takes place.

It was called 'Faire 'chlaidh' and was looked on as a very undesirable duty. When two deaths happened locally at the same time, there was often keen rivalry as to which of the deceased would be buried first.



SOMETIMES ago two funerals were approaching the graveyard at Kingairloch from opposite directions.

As they neared the cemetery on the shores of Loch a' Choire, both parties quickened their pace.

The one likely to reach the burial ground last went forward with a rush and instead of going round to the entrance, unceremoniously threw the coffin of the old woman who was being buried over the fence and reached the place first. A young boy belonging to the party, couldn't contain himself and clapping his hands with great glee, shouted in Gaelic, 'Chosuinn mi shean-mhatthan air reise' - my grandmother has won the race!

It is very sad to see the once revered and well-cared for Kiel graveyard and its surroundings falling into such a state of dilapidation. I will happily provide any reader from Morvern with details of their family stone from my register of inscriptions.

Iain Thornber.

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Business Gateway Workshops in Argyll and Bute

Planning to start your own business?

Develop your ideas into a practical and effective plan to launch your business. Getting the marketing right for your business is crucial to its success. This workshop will help you to understand your competitors, identify your customers and understand the things you need to consider for effective marketing.

Developing a realistic, working business plan is essential when you're starting up a business; this 2 day workshop shows you how to create a robust business plan. Good financial management is essential; learn to manage a profit and loss account; produce a cashflow statement; understand the meaning of working capital; describe the main sources of finance; and understand the different legal structures of a business.

February - 13/14, Lochgilphead

March - 5/6, Oban; 18/19, Campbeltown; 20/21, Helensburgh; 26/27, Rothesay

The "Practical Basic Book-keeping" workshop

Book-keeping is a core business skill, and, even if someone else does it for you, you still need to understand and value the process.

If you want to know the starting point for good record-keeping, this is the course for you. Those new to business and with little or no formal training in bookkeeping will particularly benefit.

February - 19, Dunoon

March - 1, Helensburgh; 12, Inveraray; 20, Oban

Introduction to social media for your business

This workshop is aimed at people that are very new to or still sceptical about the idea of using social media for their business.

Course objectives:

- Provide delegates with a basic understanding of what social media is and what benefits there may be of using it for business
- Give delegates a chance to explore some of the basic technical aspects of well-known social media sites (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- Show delegates how to get the most out of using social media and how to deal with negative feedback

The workshop will explain the principles behind what social media is, how it works and why it is so popular. It will explain how the "process" of social media allows it to be used for a wide variety of business objectives. It will discuss and explain a number of the most popular social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Blogger, etc.

February - 18, Mull; 21, Rothesay

March - 4, Inveraray; 7, Oban

Improve your business website performance

Aimed at small businesses that already have a website, whether this was built by a professional website designer or homemade, who feel that their website isn't producing the results that they expect, or needs refreshing. It is also suitable for people currently in the process of building or having a website built to make sure the end result is going to be successful. It is aimed at those with no technical web development skills BUT basic PC skills are required.

Course objectives:

- Provide delegates with a basic understanding of which factors are key to the success of a website
- Show delegates how these factors can be used to create a good design
- Give delegates examples of common mistakes made
- Provide delegates with a number of online sources that provide further good practice and advice

The course will discuss the 4 key success factors of website development: visibility, appearance, functionality and compatibility. It will cover issues including graphic design, layout, navigation, the online sales process, search engine optimisation, browser compatibility and site feedback.

February - 18, Mull; 21, Rothesay

March - 4, Inveraray; 7, Oban

Build your own business website

Aimed at small businesses looking to build their own business website. It is aimed at those with no technical web development skills or experience but basic PC skills are required. The course will include some very basic online trading.

Course objectives:

- Introduce delegates to the basics of good website design
- Explain the various (online) tools available to build a website and how to choose the one best suited for the purpose
- Show delegates the kind of activities that are involved in building their own website using an online tool

Delegates will be introduced to the basic essentials of website design, how to make it findable as well as attractive and at the same time usable. The course will explain which tools are available and how to pick the one that would be best suited for the purpose. Delegates will learn a wide variety of skills using a simple online website building tool. These skills include working with text, images, colour and layout as well as managing pages (navigation) adding links and some simple functionality.

February - 19, Mull; 22, Rothesay

March - 5, Inveraray; 8, Oban

NEW Online trading essentials

Small businesses that are considering selling products or services, or taking bookings and payments online, but don't know where to start. This course is less suitable for people who are already trading online and are looking for detailed technical advice.

Course objectives:

- Explain the basic building blocks of an online trading site
- Discuss various options available to achieve an online shop or booking system
- Show various means of taking online payment
- Make delegates aware of the legislation in relation to online trading

The workshop will introduce delegates to the basics of online trading. It will look at the essential things needed in order to be able to take online orders or bookings, and how they can be achieved, including online payment such as PayPal. It will cover various means by which an online shop or booking system can be achieved, including using third party providers such as eBay, Amazon or Booking.com.

March - 6, Inveraray

Community voices concern over Dalmally build project

'People should be more concerned about what would have happened if I had done nothing,' states owner



The listed Dalmally Station building. 16_107station01

THE OWNER of the 19th century railway station building at Dalmally has been accused of flouting planning laws and ignoring the concerns of the community by renovating the property.

But Graham Whaite, who bought the listed building from Network Rail 14 years ago, says the work he has done on the building so far has only been to stop it falling down.

His plan is to create workshops on the bottom floor, while converting the upstairs into residential accommodation.

But Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council contacted Argyll and Bute Council after concerns were raised over whether suitable planning permission was in place.

The local authority has since told the community council that at least two attempts to secure a planning application between

November 19 and December 21 were ignored and that Mr Whaite had been instructed on the first date not to alter the buildings without 'the necessary approvals'.

The developer has this week been served with an enforcement notice, which requires the submission of a planning application within the next 28 days.

ning team, and we cannot comment further at the moment.'

Asked whether he had planning permission for work on the station building, Mr Whaite said the matter was being dealt with by his architect.

The former Lunga man added: 'I have spent a lot of time and money on this building. People should be more concerned about what would have happened if I had done nothing.'

At Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council's January meeting, residents expressed concerns about the development, with one claiming Mr Whaite was 'alienating' the community.

However, community councillor John Ogden said: 'He has rescued an old building that could have fallen down but he is going about it the wrong way.'

The community council meeting is on March 6 at Dalmally Community Centre.

Loch Lomond island remains identified

HUMAN remains found on Inchmaon Island on Loch Lomond have been identified as those of a 13-year-old girl who died on the loch eight years ago.

Holly Buchanan fell into the loch on March 13 2005 while on a boating trip with her father Angus. Despite extensive land and underwater searches at the time, the bodies of Holly and her father were never recovered.

New Gaelic primary for Glasgow

CONSTRUCTION on a new Gaelic primary school in Glasgow is expected to begin in September this year following an investment of £800,000 from the Scottish Government.

The Gaelic Medium Education primary school will be part of the Glendale Campus in Pollokshields.

Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages Alastair Allan said: 'The continued increase in demand for Gaelic Medium Education in Glasgow clearly demonstrates that parents are not only recognising the impressive learning benefits that come with a bilingual education, but that we are securing a sustainable and vibrant future for the language in future generations.'

Glasgow's first Gaelic school, at Woodsie, opened in August 2006. Work on the new school is due to be completed in early 2015.

Lochaline woman 'didn't see motorcyclist'

A LOCHALINE woman who pled guilty to causing a head to head collision near Bridge of Orchy has been banned for a year and told she must sit an extended test to get her licence back.

Jennifer Laurie, 48, of 29 Torr na Faire, Lochaline, Morvern, was overtaking a car towing a trailer on August 27 when she collided with a motorbike.

Defending, Lindsay MacNeill said Laurie 'simply didn't see the motorcyclist'.

Laurie was also fined £355 when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.



Banavie primary trio complete project

Three Banavie Primary School pupils have finished a five-month project at Lochaber Rural Education Centre which saw them build devices to attract birds, bats and bugs. The youngsters - Caitlin Martin, 8, Neillie Clark, 9, and Reba Hunter, 7 - visited the complex once a week as part of the PERCY Project which was set up in October for children with learning difficulties. Lochaber High School pupils Drew Coupland and Rowan MacLeod also took part. Former Lochaber High School teacher Derek Hamilton ran the course, helping the children build bird and bat boxes and small 'bug hotels' which have been placed around the centre. Caitlin, Neillie and Reba are pictured with some of the finished articles. 20_f07box01

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Islay public meeting to debate views on Scottish land reform

CROFTERS and landowners on the Isle of Islay will have the chance to shape Scottish land reform in the coming years.

The Land Reform Review Group, whose recommendations will help shape the next phase of land reform in Scotland, will visit the island next Wednesday to meet with farmers, crofters, landowning representatives and the wider community.

The group, established by the Scottish Government last summer, is headed by Dr Alison Elliot. Her colleagues are Dr Sarah Skerratt and Professor Jim Hunter, supported by 12 advisers from a range of backgrounds.

Dr Elliot said: 'Our Islay visit is one of a number we've

been making since the autumn to different parts of Scotland – from the Borders, Dumfries and Galloway to Lewis, Harris and the Uists. We issued a call for evidence some months ago and we've received several hundred, often highly detailed, submissions that we're now going through. But while it's good to have lots of material of this sort, it's equally important that we meet with people in their own localities and give them a chance to put their views to us first-hand. That's what we'll be aiming to do in Islay.'

The group will host a public meeting at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, Islay's Gaelic College, at 7.30pm next Wednesday.

Oban man admits threatening partner's daughter

AN OBAN man who threatened to 'sort out' his partner's 16-year-old daughter appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Iain MacCall, 45, of 89 McKelvie Road, Oban, pled guilty to making a threatening phone call to his partner at the time, last October 19. Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence on MacCall until March 5 for the preparation of an alcohol assessment report.

Valentine's ceilidh fundraiser for Winter Festival

THE FIRST fundraising event for this year's Oban Winter Festival will take place in the unusual venue of Oban Distillery's No. 6 store.

The distillery storeroom proved a hit during last year's festival when it was used for the Christmas market and this Saturday it will host a Valentine's ceilidh with music from Tíre's Trail West and catering by Oban Spirtsoasts.

Organiser Pamela Lockhart said: 'I hope everyone who enjoyed the Winter Festival comes along to support us.'

'Fundraising is going to be more important than ever this year.'

Oban Winter Festival will take place between November 22 and December 1 this year.

Oban man admits refusing drink drive breath tests

REFUSING to provide police with two breath samples after they suspected he had been drink driving landed one Oban man in custody this week.

Hugh Ramsay, 40, of 11 Stalair Crescent, Oban, pled guilty to the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Sentence was deferred until February 18 for the production of his driving licence but he was banned in the interim.

Mull yacht club gains £6,500 funding boost

A YACHT club on the Isle of Mull has benefited from thousands of pounds of funding to increase its cadet membership.

Western Isles Yacht Club received £6,500 from Awards for All to buy equipment aimed at increasing its cadet membership and improving conditions for current members. Awards for All is the National Lottery's small grants scheme which gives out grants of between £500 and £10,000 that make a big difference across Scotland.

Man admits supplying cannabis

A MAN who was supplying cannabis in Oban appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Duncan Keary, 28, of 17c Corran Brae, Dunollie, Oban, pled guilty to the offence and had sentence deferred on him until March 5 for the preparation of reports.

critical incident management force-wide before the new national service goes live.

The public can still speak to local officers first hand and attend their local police station during reception opening hours.

Force Operations Centre Inspector Dave Ross said: 'From mid-November all Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey calls have been answered centrally by the control room and this has gone very smoothly.'

Prior to this, we were already handling all calls for Ross and Cromarty and Inverness. Where appropriate, police response is provided and if required, calls are transferred to staff at local stations.'

Stations currently handling calls, such as Fort William and Portree, will only receive external calls for service forwarded by the control room.

They will no longer be responsible for dispatching police resources, except in exceptional circumstances, freeing up front counter staff for other duties.

The new set up, police chiefs say, will enable consistency of service and effective

Dunbeg plan could prove key to re-invigorating Argyll and Bute economy

THE VILLAGE of Dunbeg has become a key strategic part of plans to re-invigorate the Argyll and Bute economy, according to council representatives.

A meeting of the Dunbeg Taskforce last Friday at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), featured presentations on the Lorn Arc, the European Marine Science Park, Dunstaffnage and the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan, all of which have implications for the village.

Councillor Iain MacDonald, who chaired the meeting, described the combined projects as the most important development in the county.

However, some residents expressed a fear of over-develop-

"The jobs impact will be positive."

Robert Pollock

ment, citing a poor roads network and inadequate school provision as reasons for concern.

Council planner Adrian Jackson-Stark gave a presentation on the local development plan, which makes allowances for up to 850 houses in the 'Dunbeg corridor' towards Oban and the creation of the nearby Saulmore Golf Course, among other developments.

The meeting also heard about plans to create a roundabout near the Halfway House Filling Station to improve access into the

village and to upgrade the Lorn Road and Kirk Road to make a double carriageway entrance to SAMS.

Robert Pollock, the council's head of economic development, said: 'We have always recognised Dunbeg and Dunstaffnage as an important asset and a key area for residential and commercial development.'

During her presentation on the European Marine Science Park, HIE project manager Morag Goodfellow said: 'By its very title, this is a site of European significance for research, education and the business community.'

A show of hands revealed around two thirds of the large audience to be residents of Dunbeg but a number of politicians were

also in attendance, including MP Alan Reid and Highlands and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie.

Addressing Mr Pollock and Mr Jackson-Stark, Mr MacKenzie said he had seen figures suggesting 2,500 jobs could be created as a result of the projects and questioned whether an adequate housing allocation was in place.

Mr Pollock said he believed provision would be adequate, adding: 'The jobs impact will be positive, but I don't think it will be as positive as 2,500.'

Dunbeg Primary School janitor Thomas Sharp raised concerns over how a population boom would affect the school and was given assurances the council's education department was looking into it.



Councillor Iain MacDonald described the projects as the most important development in the county.

Dismay at Western Isles Post Office plan

POST OFFICE plans to relocate its Stornoway branch into a local shop have been greeted with dismay in the Western Isles.

The Francis Street office is one of five Crown branches in Scotland and 70 across the UK being lined up with a possible retail partner.

The move is part of the biggest business transformation programme in Post Office history as it seeks to boost profitability in the face of fierce competition and electronic communications.

The Post Office says no compulsory redundancies or closures are planned and is committed to retaining a Crown Post Office in the town.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil MP said putting post offices into shops was an ongoing 'dismantling' of the service.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'In 2012, Stornoway Post Office won the title 'Best Performing Branch in the UK' and their award from the Post Office now seems to be that they want to dismantle it.'

'I will be asking the Post Office to come and talk to the local community before any further decisions are made on the future of the Crown Post Office on Francis Street, which is in the centre of Stornoway and as good a high street location as you could get.'

'I am sure the community will rally round and support the Post Office in Stornoway in the weeks and months ahead.'

Local MSP Alasdair Allan also hit out at the 'downgrade'

REPORT
by STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

and is seeking a meeting with Post Office bosses. He said: 'I would certainly be worried if, as suggested, relocating the Post Office into a shop would result in a reduction in number of services available such as the provision of passport documentation, vehicle licences and travel insurance.'

'It does trouble me that the UK Government appear to be going further and further down the road of privatising the postal service, something which in my view makes the case for these services being controlled in Scotland.'

The Post Office said moving branches into retailers would mean more 'open-plan' space and longer opening hours 'where possible'.

A spokesperson said: 'We are committed to having a Post Office branch within the area. Our overall investment will maintain the size of the network and modernise branches to meet customer needs.'

'Crown branches are a fundamental part of our long-term growth strategy and need to be brought into profit. They are currently operating at a £40m annual loss.'

'To maintain our high street presence we will be looking to find retail partners for 70 of our branches enabling us to stay in these locations.'

The move is subject to a six-week consultation with the local community.

Isle of Lismore crash driver fined £730

A PITLOCHRY teenager was fined £730 and given eight penalty points on his licence at Oban Sheriff Court last week after admitting four driving offences.

David Colthart, 19, declined legal advice when he pled guilty to careless driving and taking a car without the consent of its owner on Lismore.

Colthart, of 2 Wades Bridge Road, Old Bridge of Tilt, Pitlochry, lost control of the Vauxhall Corsa and caused significant damage to it when it left the road and landed in a ditch, the court heard.

The teenager also admitted driving without insurance and failing to report an accident.

School pupils suggest names for new Seil skiff

A SHORTLIST of 10 names for the new Seil Skiff, from suggestions by school pupils, boat builders and shareholders, has been drawn up.

These include Gaelic suggestions *Sgumain*, which means skimmer, *Mara* for sea and *Siabhan*, meaning sea-spray.

Other entries include *Seaweed*, *Soul of Seil*, *Kelpie*, *Selkie*, *Tornal*, *Cuan* and *Scarpa*. The name will be chosen by a vote held on the Seil Skiff website.

To nominate your first and second choice visit www.seiskiff.org.uk. Voting closes on February 28.

Ardfern driver who refused breath tests fined and banned

AN ARDFERN man who refused to provide two breath tests for police who thought he smelled of alcohol has been fined £335 and banned for driving for a year.

Michael Dyer, 49, of Ardlarach Chalet, Ardlarach Road, Ardfern, pled guilty to the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday. Defence agent Duncan Durbin said Dyer had acted 'foolishly' as he was 'wholly uninitiated in police procedure'.

Oban shop selects charity

AN OBAN shop has chosen to back the North Argyll Carers Centre as its chosen charity for 2013.

The Original Factory Shop has a minimum target of £500 to collect this year for the centre through fundraisers organised by staff. The centre was nominated as a worthy cause through the store's facebook page. Last year the store raised £1,527 for Oban's Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre.

Driver banned

AN OBAN man has been banned from driving and ordered to do unpaid work.

Derek Darrah, 36, of 88 Lorn Avenue, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court for sentencing last week after admitting the offences on a previous occasion.

Darrah was banned from driving for two years for an offence last October 18. He also had an 18-month ban imposed for crashing near Taynuilt last November 11 plus an 18-month community payback order, during which Darrah must complete 150 hours of unpaid work.



Ellen Phillips has been given back the silver rings she found on the shore.

Finder gets to keep silver rings washed up on Loch Linnhe shore

A WOMAN who found two silver rings washed up on the shores of Loch Linnhe has been allowed to keep them after their rightful owner could not be traced.

Geology student Ellen Phillips found the cubic zirconia bands in a water-damaged ring box in amongst rocks just south of Cuil Bay near Duror last July.

Police in Glencoe appealed for any information about where the rings came

from and contacted a jewellers in England where the rings were thought to have been purchased but could not source the original owners.

Ellen told *The Oban Times* it was a shame no one had claimed them, but said she was delighted to be allowed to keep the two rings.

She said: 'I got a phone call from the police in Glencoe to say no one had come forward

for them and then they sent them down to me.'

'I'm really happy to have them. I wear one of them daily, and the other one stays at home. They are a really nice reminder of my trip to Scotland.'

Ellen, a student at Cardiff University, spent part of last summer in Lochaber researching her dissertation on the formation of the Duror and Kentallen peninsulas.

Easdale primary pupils learn about food safety with songs and poems

PUPILS at Easdale Primary School have been busy lately learning all about food safety.

The youngsters have just completed the Food Standard Agency Programme where they learned 'about being healthy and having good hygiene'.

As part of the programme, children

carried out experiments to find the most effective way to wash your hands, tried new fruits and vegetables and created songs and poems about all they had learned.

The primary four to seven youngsters have also been getting active with sessions of rugby with Allan Wright. The children enjoyed learning new skills during the six rugby sessions.

For further information, contact the school on 01687 450200 or email info@easdaleprimary.com.

For more information on the Food Standard Agency Programme, visit www.food.gov.uk.

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JURA

THE ISLE of Jura holds a special place in the heart of HM the Queen, according to a letter received on the island from the monarch.

The team at Jura Lives, the island's oral history project, wrote to Her Majesty after collating stories about how many islanders greeted the Royal family on a visit to Jura 55 years ago.

A written response to Jura Lives arrived on the island on February 4, describing the Queen's 'many happy memories' as the Royal family visited Jura's beaches from the Royal Yacht.

Jane Carswell, who is leading the Jura Lives project, said: 'People I'd interviewed for our archives had been talking about their relatives meeting the Queen onboard *Britannia* out in West Loch Tarbert so I wrote to her to ask if she remembered them.'

'We are thrilled to have the monarch's memories on paper for future generations to see.'

'She's talking about 55 years ago, when her children were small, so it just shows you how memorable a place Jura is.'

The letter is on recycled paper with the crest of Sandringham House at the top and is signed by a lady in waiting.

You can see it in full, by typing Jura Lives into Google and following the links.

TIGHNABRUAIACH

THE MAXIMUM grant available to Kilfinnan Community Forest Company from the Big Lottery Fund has been secured to build a recreation area within the forest.

The fund is part of Awards for All, the National Lottery's small grants scheme, which gives out grants of between £500 and £10,000. The £10,000 grant secured by the Tighnabruaich company will develop a small recreation area within Kilfinnan Community Forest for use by the local community. They will also hold forest workshops for local primary school children.

Across Scotland, nearly 300 groups shared in Lottery funding worth over £2m last Thursday.

PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club (PSBSC) celebrates its 80th anniversary this year and members are being asked to look out for special events and activities during the summer to mark another milestone in the club's history.

The club has formed a working group with the Plockton Harbour CIC to examine what facilities are needed in future, consider potential option, and explore opportunities for funding – with changing rooms and showers a priority. The group will report back to both organisations with its findings.

RYA Scotland is currently running a survey of all members of affiliated clubs to get a clearer picture of facilities available for sailing around the

**Ballachulish primary pupils learn first aid skills**

Senior pupils at Ballachulish Primary School have learned emergency first aid skills after completing their 'Save A Life' training. Instructor Shirley Wright from the Scottish Ambulance Service, is pictured with the youngsters.

country. This could be quite timely for PSBSC and support any future efforts for funding from bodies such as Sport Scotland. PSBSC members are asked to complete the online survey by 4pm on March 1.

On Tuesday March 5 the club will hold a pre-season junior forum to give junior members a chance to have their say on what aspects of the club they like and what aspects could be improved. All juniors are invited to come along to the boatshow at 5pm. Parents are also welcome to attend.

Club members may be interested in attending the RYA Scotland Big Weekend in Largs on February 23-24 and the RYA dinghy show in London on March 2-3.

LUING

BUILDING work on the new Atlantic Islands Centre based on the Isle of Luing is set to start in June with plans for the centre progressing well.

A project development manager is currently being sought and Norman Bissell, vice chairman of Isle of Luing Community Trust, said there had been a lot of interest in this role.

He added: 'We have had a good response to the adverts for the project development manager and we are currently drawing up a short list. Interviews will take place at the end of February.'

'We have had confirmation for funding from the EU Regional Development fund of around £360k and the application for the building warrant will be going in this week.'

The next step will be to advertise for building contractors to undertake the work and we are now thinking of possibly June to start construction.

'It is all going forward very positively.'

□ □ □

FILM footage shot on the Isle of Luing has been included in a project about Scotland contributed to by people from all over the country.

The footage was filmed by Norman Bissell, who lives on

the island, after he was inspired to become part of the Northern Lights project by a workshop held in Cullipool Hall.

Norman, who filmed his contribution last June, said: 'They have chosen several extracts from the film, including the Ukulele Luing group singing and playing.'

'I just thought it was a great project and as far as I knew there hadn't been any recent films made about Luing.'

Northern Lights was put together as part of the Year of Creative Scotland and asked people from across the country to film pieces of footage which represented the past, present and future of the places in which they lived.

The world premiere of the finished film will take place at the Glasgow Film Festival on Saturday February 16 before going on general release later in the year. Norman's film can also be viewed on YouTube by searching Love the Isle of Luing.

LOCHCARRON

A LOCHCARRON butcher has been highly commended at the 2012 Countryside Alliance Awards.

S & M McKenzie & Sons Butchers won the accolade against competition from across Scotland at the awards ceremony, known as the Rural Oscars, only narrowly missing out on the top spot in the butcher category.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG and District Community Council held a meeting in the Astley Hall on January 21.

Abridged draft minutes:

PC Calder introduced himself to the community council and said that he would be attending each meeting from now on. He spoke about reports of a red deer coming into the village and possibly causing problems if it got too used to human beings.

Andy Tuckwood from TEC services said two more waste bins will be put into the car park opposite the Spar a fortnight

before Easter and will remain in place until October. One of these bins will be a large sized blue recycle bin.

The regular recycling bins by the public toilet will remain there and will be washed quarterly. He would look into marking the road to discourage long term parking so the people getting to the bins and the emptying of the bins will not be obstructed. The possibility of placing recycling bins, especially bottle banks, in the Back of Keppoch area will continue to be looked into. Mr Tuckwood agreed street cleaning had not been done satisfactorily in the recent past. Plans were being drawn up to provide a clearing rota and workmen and an edge cleaner will be coming to the village every second Tuesday.

Wards manager Dot Ferguson brought copies of a community emergency plan for winter resilience drawn up by Strathblane Community Council and offered to provide help for Arisaig to do something similar. It was agreed to invite her back to the next meeting, with a speaker from Scottish and Southern Energy, who will talk through possible assistance with the planning. This will be advertised to attract members of the public.

The community council has received £5,000 from the Gower Trust. The sum of £500 has been given to the senior citizens' Christmas event, £1,000 to the Astley Hall and £1,000 to the Land, Sea and Islands Centre. £400 will be paid towards the children's Christmas party at the Astley Hall.

Anyone wanting to apply for this funding should do so before the community council's March meeting, when further distribution will be discussed.

A830 works progress – some of the high friction duracing has been laid at the Arieenskill bridge, poor weather has stopped the completion of this work. To lay the other areas will involve the closing of the road as the points they need to go are too narrow for the work to be divided.

Working at night time would be too cold for the surfacing, so

consultation will take place to ascertain the best time to close the road temporarily during the day.

□ AOB – The junction of the A830 with the B8008 towards the Cnoc na Faire Hotel is still a problem. Nothing has been heard back form Transdev, so this will be looked at again.

The next meeting will be on February 18.

SOUTH UIST

THE SOUTH Uist-based Gaelic music school Ceolair put on a sold-out show in Glasgow recently as part of the Celtic Connections festival.

Uist locals Calum MacAulay, Dol Angus MacLean, Angus MacLean and Ian MacPhail performed in the dance band, with a number of Ceolas tutors also taking to the stage.

A group of UHI students from Benbecula also displayed their talents at the show.

TARBET

A GRANT of nearly £10,000 has been pledged to help replace play equipment in the village of Tarbet.

Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council were successful in gaining a Big Lottery Fund grant of £9,597.

The community council plans to replace play equipment in the village, creating a safe area for young people to meet and take part in outdoor activities.

KILCHRENNAN

A WELL-attended whist drive in Kilchrenan Village Hall has raised money for church funds.

The turnout to the monthly whist was all the more pleasing, considering the gales on the night.

Gents winners were: 1 Georgina Todd, Dalavich, playing as gent; 2 Geoff Kingsbury-Smith, Dalavich. Consolation – Marilyn Henderson, Kilchrenan.

Winners of the Ladies were: 1 - Joyce MacDougall, Kilchrenan, 2 - Peggy MacIntyre, Dalavich. Consolation - Isobel Brown Kilchrenan.

Successful bidders will be informed by March 31. They must complete the LEADER-funded part of their project and

TORLUNDY

THE 2013 LOCHABER primaries' cross-country running championships will be held in Leananach Forest, Torlundy on Tuesday February 26.

Registration will be at Nevis Range Car Park at 12.45pm ahead of the race start at 1pm. Each school team will consist of three boys and three girls.

The event is sponsored by Samuel & Partners Surveyors, Fort William.

ARRAN

ARRAN Youth Forum aims to take youngsters to London after securing a grant from The Big Lottery Fund.

The £5,830 will be used to take 15 people to London for two days to visit the Houses of Parliament, London Eye and other sites of interest.

The forum will also run a horse riding project for 10 young people on the island.

Across Scotland, nearly 300 groups have shared lottery funding worth more than £2m in this round of grants.

Awards for All is the National Lottery's small grants scheme which gives out grants of between £500 and £10,000 that make a big difference across Scotland.

COWAL

TWO COWAL-based groups last week secured £5,100 of funding from Awards For All. Dunoon and Cowal Heritage Trust has been granted £3,000 from the Big Lottery Fund.

The trust will use the grant to run a reminiscence project involving local residents to record the memories of older people for future generations.

Dunoon Amateur Swimming Club aims to splash out on training courses for volunteer coaches after gaining £2,100 from SportScotland.

The club aims to attract new members and enhance competitive opportunities for existing members by training 20 new volunteer coaches in UKCC Level 1 Teaching Aquatics.

Across Scotland, nearly 300 groups have shared lottery funding worth more than £2m in this round of grants.

Awards for All is the National Lottery's small grants scheme which gives out grants of between £500 and £10,000 that make a big difference across Scotland.

OUTER HEBRIDES

OUTER Hebrides community groups are being offered a final chance to win grant aid for new projects.

The cash, from the LEADER Innse Gall Programme 2007-2013, became available after some projects failed to use their full grant allocation.

Funding is strictly limited and completed applications must be submitted to the LEADER team by February 28.

Successful bidders will be informed by March 31. They must complete the LEADER-funded part of their project and

ISLAY LETTER

involving local artistes as well as entertainers from the neighbouring isle of Jura.

The participants' efforts were greatly enjoyed by the receptive audience whose members ranged from the very young to sprightly nonagenarians.

The programme showcased a wide variety of musical skills and abilities and all were well founded in the rich oral and musical traditions of the Gàidhealtachd.

The next Gàidhlig Bheò ceilidh, part of the new cultural heritage programme, takes place in the Gaelic Centre on February 27.

Bilingual lecture

THE BENEFITS of bilingualism will be under the spotlight at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile on Monday February 18 at 7.30pm, when Antonella Sorace, Professor of Development Linguistics at Edinburgh University, discusses the subject and highlights its merits.

Professor Sorace is a leading authority on bilingualism and points out that research has shown that speaking two languages gives children many linguistic and life benefits.

The lecture is being sponsored by the local Gaelic development group lomart Ghàidhlig Ile's Dhùthra.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone 01496 810658.

KILBRANDON

PRESIDENT Linda Brown welcomed members and visitors to the January meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held in Seil Island Hall.

Members toasted the New Year with a glass of bubbly, before brightening a gloomy January evening by sharing 'My Favourite Things'.

There was a wide range including pieces of music, family jewellery and Russian dolls. Everyone entered into the spirit of the evening and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other better.

Everyone in the audience had the opportunity to get in touch with their musical side and – eventually – strike the right note.

Sue Moss gave the vote of thanks to the bell ringers for providing such an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

claim their final LEADER grant by December 31.

The programme has awarded almost £3m to more than 75 community projects across the Outer Hebrides since its launch.

For more information and an application pack contact Kathlene MacDonald; Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator, on 0845-600-7090 or visit www.outerhebridesleader.co.uk.

WESTERN ISLES

FORMER Labour MP and 'YES Scotland' chairman Dennis Canavan is extending his trip to the Western Isles in March to include Uist.

Mr Canavan will address a meeting in Sgoil Lionacleit theatre room on Friday March 8 at 7pm on why he wants to see an independent Scotland.

Mr Canavan is already booked to speak at the Caberfeidh Hotel in Stornoway the previous evening at 7.30pm.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Western Isles) MP Angus B MacNeil said: 'Dennis, will be electrifying and I would

encourage people, regardless of party or even viewpoint on independence to come along and listen and even take a different point of view.'

KILLIN

ON THURSDAY February 7 the members of Killin SWRI welcomed their President Elizabeth Woods back in to the chair.

Elizabeth opened the meeting and in turn introduced Georgia Crook who gave a slide show explaining some of the pieces she had done for various projects in paper and wicker-work and she also brought along a few examples of some of her work which were really lovely. She rounded off her talk with a demonstration of how to make paper.

The competition winners were: Flower Arrangement, 1 Margaret Galloway and 2 Cathie Reid.

Handmade Bookmark, 1 Ellen Stewart and 2 Margaret Galloway.

Business was discussed and a cup of tea enjoyed by everyone.

ARDNAMURCHAN



Top Ways to Reduce Your Extension Costs

The number of people moving home is currently around half that in the peak year of 2007 but life does not stand still and homeowners are instead meeting their changing housing needs by improving and extending.



"The added benefit of improving your space is avoiding high transaction costs such as stamp duty, which can instead be invested in making the existing home a more enjoyable place to live in," says Michael Holmes, spokesperson for The Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show, which takes place at SECC, Glasgow on May 18 - 19 2013.

Holmes outlines nine ways to reduce your extension costs:

1. Keep the design simple

Keep the extension design as simple as possible: a rectangle or square footprint with a simple pitched roof will be the most cost effective option. Use standard materials that are readily available and easy to use, such as cast concrete for the floor, concrete block work for the walls clad in brick, render or timber, with a softwood timber roof structure. If possible, avoid complicated ground works, such as building near trees or drains and sewers or other buried services, as these will increase groundwork costs.

2. Do some DIY

Labour costs represent between half to two thirds of the budget for a typical extension, so if you can do some of the work yourself, there is great scope to make savings here.

The easiest tasks to take on are labouring, decorating and landscaping, followed by some of the 'second fix' trades such as fitting bathrooms and kitchens, tiling, fixing architrave and skirting etc. Be careful only to take on work you have the time and skills to complete effectively. Read up and don't rush in, as poor workmanship and wasted materials can make DIY a false economy.

3. Project manage the build

A builder will add 10-20 per cent onto the cost of labour and materials etc. to cover their time for managing the project, profit and overheads. You can save some of this cost by taking on the role of building contractor yourself. This means liaising with your designer/architect and the local authority building control department, finding and hiring tradesmen, directing the work and supplying all of the necessary materials and scaffold, skips etc.

4 Save on VAT

Most extension work will attract VAT at 20% on labour and materials, but if you use self-employed tradesmen who turnover less than the threshold for VAT registration, you will not be charged this tax, saving on labour costs. Second hand materials sold by private individuals on the internet will also be free of VAT. Some types of work can benefit from zero rating for VAT on labour and materials. Find out more at www.homebuilding.co.uk/feature/reclaiming-vat-renovation

5. Save on fees

For a simple low cost extension find a designer, be they an architect, architectural technician, chartered surveyor, or structural engineer, who will produce planning and building regulations drawings for a fixed, all-in price and choose someone with a track record in designing low cost projects with a simple shape and specification. If your extension can be designed to fall within permitted development rights, no planning application will be required and this will save on planning fees.

6. Use professionals

Beware ridiculously low quotes. To avoid being ripped off always ask family and friends for recommendations and always ask for and check references. Never pay for building work or materials in advance unless via a protected escrow account - pay only for work that has been completed and that you are happy with.

7. Measure twice - cut once

Making changes or mistakes that waste labour and materials is a major cost in many projects. Measuring everything on site rather than off plan will help reduce wastage, but having accurate scaled plans in the first place will help too. The more time spent at the design stage, visualising the end result, the more problems can be anticipated and headed off. Accurate and complete design will ensure you have services such as plumbing and wiring in the right places, get floor levels right between rooms, and ensure doors are hung to swing in the most space efficient direction. Once you have made up your mind, stick to it, as changes always incur extra costs, often in ways that don't reveal themselves until later on down the line.

8. Re-use, recycle and repair

Existing materials can be reused or sold rather than thrown in a skip. Old floorboards, doors, radiators, towel rails, kitchen units etc. can all be revived and reused, cleaned up and given a new finish. Sell or trade what you can't use. Buying salvaged materials on the internet or from salvage yards can also prove cheaper than buying new and introduce instant character. Second hand items that offer good value include roof tiles, bricks, timber floorboards, internal doors, fireplaces and roll top baths.

9. Negotiate trade discounts

Find out where those in the trade buy their materials and aim to get the same wholesale or trade prices. Always negotiate and see if there is any discount for paying cash (making sure you get a receipt). Bulk buying from a single supplier may mean getting a better discount, and you may be able to reduce delivery costs too. Buying end of line deals can save a fortune, especially on items like carpets, kitchens and appliances.

Visitors can get expert advice from Michael Holmes at The Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show which is taking place at the SECC, Glasgow on 18 - 19 May 2013. Opening hours: Saturday 10am - 5pm; Sunday 10am - 4.30pm. For more information call 0844 581 1377 or visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/scotland

homes &

With the days getting longer and outdoor plants starting to appear in the shops it seems like spring is just around the corner.

Getting ready for spring has traditionally involved a deep clean of your house but to make the most of this tradition why not go one step further and try a home makeover.

Whether you want to make small changes to your house or go the whole hog our spring homes and interiors guide will

help you along the way. Making simple changes to the interior of your home can go a long way in freshening it up for the spring time.

Most people will have heavy winter curtains up but with the nights getting longer and weather getting warmer it could be time to consider swapping these for lighter, airy equivalents.

Changing the colour scheme in your home can also freshen things up without costing

you too much. Pastel colours work well at this time of year and will lend a clean and bright look to any room.

If you are not confident about carrying out decorating yourself why not get in touch with one of the many painters and decorators the west of Scotland has to offer. They will be happy to provide a quote before any work starts.

If you only want to make changes to one room in your house why not consider the

bedroom. Home improvements don't have to be in a room where other people can see them and brightening up your bedroom could make all the difference to your morning mood.

Whether you want to get a new bed or mattress to ensure a better night's sleep or would rather invest in wardrobes and chest of drawers there are plenty of high quality supplier ready to meet your needs.



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interiors

Of course if you can't decide what to do with your home you could always employ the services of a professional interior designer to provide advice. Their tips and ideas will make your home unique in a way you may never have imagined. Many people may use this time of year to make their home more eco friendly, whether you want to install a wood burning stove or a small renewable system to provide energy there are lots of ways you can make your house more green. The outside of your home shouldn't be neglected either. Get walls, gutters, driveways and your garden into shape for spring. Tradesmen of all descriptions will be happy to help you with whatever work needs carried out. When the sun comes out and you can enjoy your garden without any fuss you'll be glad you made the preparations now.



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COMPETITION



WIN TICKETS TO THE SCOTTISH HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW

The Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show, Scotland's largest consumer exhibition for self-builders, home renovators and improvers, is back at the SECC on May 18 - 19 2013. We have 20 pairs of tickets to be won.

The show is the ideal place to meet self-build and renovation experts and gives visitors a one stop shop to source all the products, services and advice for building or renovating their dream home. New for 2013 is the Home Improvement and Interiors Zone where visitors planning home improvements will find products and services to help them extend, add space and improve their home including loft conversions, interior design, interior finishes, kitchens, bathrooms, conservatories, home offices, extensions and flooring.

As well as all the latest products and services from over 140 exhibitors, visitors can pick up useful hints and tips from the experts at 16 free seminars, 24 masterclasses, as well as the Ask the Architects and Ask the Experts Advice Areas.

The show is taking place at the SECC, Glasgow on 18 - 19 May 2013. Opening hours: Saturday 10am - 5pm; Sunday 10am - 4.30pm. For more information call 0844 581 1377 or visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/scotland

Advance tickets, which can be booked until 3pm on Friday May 17, cost £8 and on the door tickets £12. Under 16s go free.

Question: At which Glasgow venue is the Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show taking place?

Answer
Name
Address
Telephone
Email

Please post your entries to Wyvex Media, Homes Show Competition, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HU. Entries to be in by 12 noon Friday, February 24, 2012.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Tickets will be posted to the winners nearer the date of the event.

Types of home improvements

In the coming year, in spite of hard financial times, there will be home owners spending their hard earned money on home improvements. It is estimated that 15-million-odd owner-occupiers in Britain will each spend on average, £2,000 annually, improving their homes in some way or another. Whether these improvements are good value for money depends a lot on the reasons for having them done.

For example, take a simple conversion of an out-house into a small extra room. If that extra room is for a member of the family to use as a hobby-room or study, fine. If on the other hand it is supposed this extra room can be described as an extra bedroom in order to enhance the value of the property when it is put up for sale, not so fine. It may not even pay for itself.

Most home improvements can be looked upon as investments in that their yield is two-fold. First there is the convenience they bring to the householders, and second, the value they add to the property up to and beyond their actual cost. There are however important exceptions.

In terms of value for money however, the most popular improvements are necessarily those that will yield the best returns.

Top of the value pops is central heating, which will nearly always recoup the money spent and add a reasonable amount to the value of the property. This also includes up-dating any existing system.

Next comes conversions and extensions which will repay most of their cost. Kitchen and bathroom refits will recoup around two-thirds their cost, and double glazing up to half.

A recent survey taken countrywide revealed the commonest forms of home improvements are:

Double glazing or new windows.....	36%
New kitchens.....	35%
New bathrooms.....	24%
Central heating.....	20%
Conversions and extensions.....	16%

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FURNISHINGS

Cosy up in a Highland Blindcraft bed "hand made with a touch more care"

HighlandBlindCraft has over 100 years' experience in manufacturing beds and mattresses at their factory in Ardconnel Street, Inverness, but don't think for a minute that they are stuck in the past.

Their mattresses use the most up to date fillings and spring units such as pocket springs, traditional bonnell spring and a range of memory foam options. The variation in styles and models are quite startling and you are sure to find a mattress to suit your requirements.

They have also introduced a range of suede fabrics that enhance the look of the divan base.

These are available in a choice of colours and looks well in both the

modern and the more traditional bedroom.

Don't forget that they also make a range of headboards at their factory using velour, faux leather, suede's and recently introduced a range of light chenille fabrics.

They can also make a headboard to a specific size or shape that you might have in mind as a centre piece for your bedroom.

At their showroom in Ardconnel Street they also have a large range of pine beds and furniture, metal beds, a range of children's beds as well as leather bed options.

When you buy a bed from Highland Blindcraft not only are you sure of a quality prod-

uct but you are also helping to sustain local employment.

The company has a first class sales to door service and their experienced sales team will not only assist you in making sure that you choose the bed that is right for you but will make sure that the delivery suits you.

So come and have a look at their showroom in Ardconnel Street, opposite the Redcliffe Hotel, to see what they can offer.

Keep it to yourself but their autumn sale starts on Saturday 15th of September with genuine discounts on all their products including 40% off the Mayfair pocket sprung bed.

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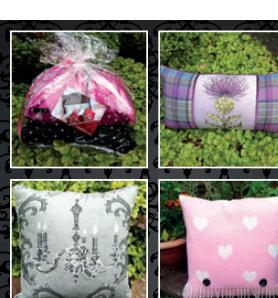
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Horse meat scandal raises several questions over European red tape

FOR YEARS we have been told that red tape and bureaucracy has been there to protect us, to prevent error and to ensure our safety.

It is this approach that demanded new food labelling detailing calorific and nutritional content, that placed restrictions on where things can and cannot be sold and saw British beef banned from sale in France following the CJD outbreak in the 90s.

It is ironic then that our supermarkets were sold imported beef 'contaminated' with horse meat - a twisted reversal to occurrences in years gone by.

The eye must be cast down towards legislation demanding the traceability of British meat. EU regulations mean sheep and cows are ferociously tracked from farm to abattoir to shop counter, a system that is supposed to stop us eating unsafe meat and ensure the utmost standards in animal welfare.

Yet, when it came to the crunch, people were still able to find horse meat in their ready meals.

The meat may have come from as far away as Romania, but the situation highlights several important and unavoidable questions. What purpose is there in putting so much effort into traceability if horses - and, who knows what other creatures - can make their way into the food chain seemingly unchecked?

What checks are in place to ensure this never happens again?

What standard of checks are our importers and supermarkets carrying out to ensure the quality of our food?

There is one easy way to avoid the chance of finding horse-meat in your meals - visit your local butcher. At least there you'll be able to ask and get a quick answer to where your meat comes from.

GLASGOW LETTER

Mull and Iona Association Annual Gathering

FOR THE territorial associations in the city the implementation of a successful syllabus from year to year has been increasingly difficult with the annual gathering and its demise being of particular concern.

Attendances nowadays are a fraction of past years and with this in mind the Mull and Iona Association responded to feedback from their members and decided to change the format of its Gathering.

The comfortable National Piping Centre was the venue and instead of a formal concert they decided on an evening of informality with the first part of the evening being traditional. This was followed by dancing interspersed with singing and musical items.

Douglas MacNeilage, a stalwart of the Tobermory community for many years and before retirement janitor of the high school, was the chairman for the evening and he and his daughter Shona were presented with mementoes of the evening by Layla and Cara MacFadyen, daughters of committee members Lorne and Mairi MacFadyen.

To ensure the success of the new format, the chosen artists were singers Emma Deans, Alistair Ogilvie and Calum Alex MacMillan and fiddler Alasdair White, a member of the Battlefield Band and nephew of president Charlie Kirkpatrick.

Add to this the Mull and Iona Pipers who included in their number young David Cameron, a native of Bunesan and a member of Oban High School Pipe Band, and Gunnia Sound providing the excellent music for dancing and the formula was in place for an excellent evening's entertainment.

Was the new format a success? I can only give a personal opinion but it certainly was the type of evening that one would choose to attend rather than one which one would attend simply out of loyalty.

5 Latha

THE RESIDENTIAL event 5 Latha, which gives Gaelic speaking participants the opportunity to spend time in a community where Gaelic is used naturally, will take place again this year between April

8 and 13 and will be open to only 16 youngsters.

While musical expertise is not essential, there will be musical workshops with Iain MacFarlane of Blazin' Fiddles and singer Norrie Maciver. Time is running out to apply. For more information contact Calum Alex MacMillan on 01463 225559 or calum@feisian.org

Annual choir concert

THE ANNUAL concert of both the seniors and juniors of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir will take place in Beardsen Burgh Hall on Friday February 22 at 7.30pm when Kathleen MacInnes will be in charge of proceedings.

Oban High School FPs

A FURTHER reminder that the annual dinner dance of Oban High School Former Pupils Association will take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Saturday March 9. The main speaker will be Bob McCulloch who will talk on 'Old Oban'. For tickets to attend this wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintances with former school friends contact Anne Byiers (Irving) on 0141 943 0810 or Ruth Oliver on 07764 816025.

Diary dates

Thursday February 14: Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Blazin' Fiddles.
Saturday February 15: Highland Club Dance, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm, Susan McPadyen's Band.

Tuesday February 19: Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.
Friday February 22: Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs Concert, Beardsen Burgh Hall - see above. Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am.

Saturday February 23: Glasgow Skye Association Buntafa's Sgadan, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, Buffet Ceilidh, Partick Bowling Club, Fortrose Street, 7.45pm.

Pub scene

COUNTRY FOLK will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Penny Dogs on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Scott Harvey on Friday, Deoch'n Dorus' Martin Pottinger on Saturday and Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Sunday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS

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

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

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

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

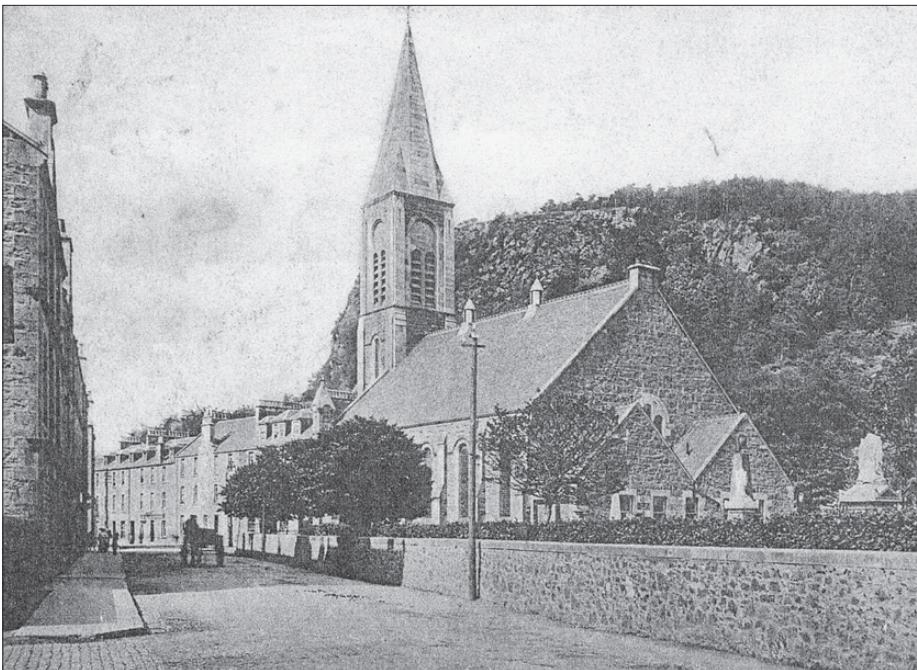
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WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

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.



Oban Parish Church in days gone by

Regular contributor Colin Armstrong of Coventry submitted this week's flashback photograph which features Oban Parish Church in days gone by. 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.

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No plans to charge for false alarm calls

Sir,

I refer to your recent article regarding the possibility of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (SFR) charging for attending false alarms.

As Area Commander for Argyll and Bute (A&B) I am surprised your story suggested this could be the case following my presentation to the full council meeting.

At no time was the issue of charging raised by me or any elected member.

I note your article referred to a retired member of SFR stating this could be the case.

I would like to reassure residents and businesses within A&B that SFR has no plans to charge for false alarm calls and all calls to SFR will result in this being the case.

I would suggest the retired member has formed this opinion as a personal view and not on the basis of being aware of current policy or doctrine.

I would also like to point out other inaccuracies attributed to my comments. Attendances at false alarms are to a range of domestic and non-domestic premises and not just care homes. As public safety is our top priority at all times, SFR work closely with occupiers to reduce false alarm instances whilst attending all actualities.

I hope this clarifies the main points of your article.

Jin Scott, Area Commander, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

□ Editor's note: The article did not state all callouts were to care homes but that Mr Scott had said 'many' were.

Elected to serve, not rule

Sir,

Re letters *The Oban Times* February 7, Mrs Gillies has stated her case so eloquently and sincerely, it would be churlish for me to argue further.

However, as I have pen in hand, I'd like to comment on the possible resignation as council leader of Councillor McCuish.

I think he has in a short time done a 'no bad' job, and as long as it does not affect his health, I suggest he continue.

To the other councillors I would say you were elected to serve, not rule.

Each of you is an individual with an equal share in any council decisions. Forming party blocks or groups for your own advantage is not what you are there for.

Permanent opposition to decisions made by the other side is an affront to the people and democracy.

People, I think, would be more inclined to accept hard decisions if they were made in good conscience for Argyll. To put it bluntly - stop faffing about. Put away your team colours and start earning your wages which are, if I may remind you, paid by the people.

Any help readers can give would be greatly appreciated.

Lisa Stafford, British Heart Foundation Scotland.

Unexpected generosity

Sir,

My wife and I and two friends were among a Lochs & Glens coach party leaving

Nottinghamshire on January 25 to reside at the Loch Awe Hotel for five days.

Daily coach excursions into the beautiful Scottish countryside were included and, as always, were a delight to behold.

An outing to Oban was to be one of the highlights. On arriving mid morning, we decided to look up places of interest including the distillery, but found many closed, but as it was out of season that was to be expected.

We then made our way to the North Pier for coffee and found ourselves discussing the nightly quiz sheet, questions about local slang terms, about which we were clueless.

Along to our rescue came a local couple from another table. We entered into an interesting conversation about everyday life and local history. If we all had had the time, I'm sure we will have been there hours later, but unfortunately that was not to be.

On leaving the restaurant we inquired what other places of interest were open and were informed possibly the War Museum. Saying our farewells we ambled the short distance to the museum but to our disappointment that, too, was shut.

Suddenly the couple we had been talking to came hurrying after us, profusely offering apologies, only realising after we had gone that the museum was indeed closed.

What followed was an act of generosity and kindness of the like I thought had long disappeared. We were to be ferried in the gentleman's car up to McCaig's Tower to enjoy some sightseeing.

Now back home, I am still consumed with disbelief but the ultimate pleasure of that act of human kindness. Thank you again for that lovely couple.

Cyril & Marg Reynolds.

School donation boosts British Heart Foundation

Sir,

I am writing to thank Lochaber High School for donating £400 at the end of last year to help with our fundraising for defibrillators in the Fort William/Lochaber area.

British Heart Foundation Scotland are looking for others to come on board and help to raise a final £600 to go towards our defibrillator appeal.

Defibrillators are life-saving machines and we have already placed more than 6,000 into local communities. Defibrillators are used on people who are in cardiac arrest and without defibrillation the chances of survival decrease by 14 per cent every minute. We hope to place a number of these machines in the local area and if any of readers would like to get involved by holding a fundraising event such as a bake sale, quiz or fun day, they can contact me on 01259 220451 or email stafford@bhf.org.uk for help and support.

Any help readers can give would be greatly appreciated.

Lisa Stafford, British Heart Foundation Scotland.

Sign up for BERTIE course

Sir,

I would urge anyone with Type 1 Diabetes to sign up for the BERTIE course as featured in last week's *Oban Times*. George Doyle, Ellenabeich, Easdale.

I was lucky enough to take part in the course held in Oban last year. Despite initial scepticism I found BERTIE to be a revelation. In four sessions I learned more about my diabetes and how to handle it than I have in nearly half a century of bumbling along with the condition.

The course was not just enlightening, I found it empowering and enjoyable.

The good humour, comradeship and solidarity of all the participants and practitioners continue to support and inspire me. The lunches were also an unexpected pleasure. If any employers have staff with Type 1 Diabetes I hope they will encourage and enable their workers to participate in the course as a means of ensuring their future productivity.

BERTIE is an excellent means of providing information to diabetes specialists. The more knowledge they have about how individuals deal with the disease increases the specificity of treatments and allows greater understanding of personal responses and circumstances.

The only element the course requires is participation by Type 1 diabetics.

J C Hanlon, Inverinan, by Taynuit.

Engineering scholarships

Sir,

I would like to draw attention to our new scholarships for students

studying engineering.

Students who get three grade 'A's at A Level or equivalent

are now eligible for a scholarship of £1,000 per year.

The Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) new Diamond Jubilee Scholarships will reward students who achieve three grade 'A's at A Level or three 'A' grade Advanced Highers and start an IET accredited engineering or technology degree course this autumn.

The IET's 2012 Skills and Demand in Industry Survey shows that, for the first time since the recession, companies are more confident in expanding their engineering workforce.

Starting salaries for graduate engineers and technicians are amongst the highest of all graduate salaries, but there still remains a national shortage of engineers.

This new scholarship initiative

is one of the many ways the IET is helping to address that shortage.

Students can apply for the scholarships by visiting

www.theiet.org/diamond.

Linda Delyan, Awards and Prizes Manager, Institution of Engineering and Technology, Savoy Place, London.

Tribute to Michael Pringle

Sir,

Michael was found at Loch Awe on Saturday February 9 after an extensive search by police, mountain rescue, friends and family.

We would like to express our gratitude to the mountain rescue teams and the local police division, especially Inspector McLeish and Peter McDonald who kept us informed at all times and who both came to see us in their own time to make sure we knew everything that had been done and how the search would continue.

Thanks also to The Loch Awe Hotel and the Tighnabruaich and all of the local Loch Awe community for their support and kindness during the search and afterwards.

Special thanks go to Michael's

New level crossing barriers unveiled



Dave Thompson MSP with Zoe Hands, Eddie Hunter, and Allan Henderson at the official opening of the new railway crossing at Corpach.

THE FIRST of 21 new safety barriers to be installed at Highland level crossings was officially opened on the Fort William-Mallaig line at Corpach on Tuesday.

The unveiling follows successful trials of the new 'stubby' barriers at Ardrossan last summer.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, a long-time campaigner for improved level crossings, attended the ceremony.

Local councillors Allan Henderson and Eddie Hunter, along with Network Rail route safety improvement manager Zoe Hands, were also present.

Mrs Thompson said: 'Besides Corpach, there will be safety barriers installed at three locations on the far north line around Golspie and Brora, while the programme to install safety barriers at all open level crossings in the UK will be completed by 2014.'

'The new safety barriers will ensure that the likelihood of accidents at our level crossings is significantly reduced. I am impressed that the first installation has been completed on schedule and I look forward to welcoming safety barriers at all open level crossings throughout the Highlands.'

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Lewis Salmon is purchased by Marine Harvest

MARINE Harvest Scotland has bought Western Isles-based Lewis Salmon as part of its ongoing expansion to meet global demand for farmed salmon.

But Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland explained, a major reason for the purchase is to maintain fish health.

'We operate a very strict regime on our farms to avoid the risk of spreading infection sea lice. For this to be effective, it's best if we can manage all the farms within a particular loch. By purchasing Lewis Salmon we can grow the fish and allow sites in a way which protects fish welfare and maintains the high quality of the salmon.'

Amongst the assets which have been purchased for an undisclosed sum, are two fish farm sites at Loch Leurbost, including Crown Estate leases and SEPA discharge consents.

The pens, nets, vehicles and other equipment were also included in the sale together with the fish, which have since been harvested. The sites will now lie fallow for some time before being stocked at a time to fit in with the other farms in the area.

Small business being left behind by politicians

SMALL business owners are becoming 'disenfranchised' from politicians after previous promises to reduce red tape were left unfulfilled.

Phil Orford, chief executive at the small business support and lobby group, the Forum of Private Business, said 2013 will see significant amendments to legislation and HMRC



Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland

Alan Sutherland added: 'We've been salmon farmers in the Outer Hebrides for a long time now and we're proud to grow our salmon in such pristine waters and also to employ local people in what are often fragile, rural economies.'

The purchase of Lewis Salmon will help to secure existing jobs in the area and allow us to continue to grow salmon of outstanding quality.'

Isle of Bute to host tourism industry summit

THE MARBLE Hall at Mount Stuart, Bute, will host the third annual Argyll and the Isles Tourism Summit next month, with the organisers hoping to build on last year's success.

Aiming at the upcoming focus on Scotland in 2014 with the Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup coming to the country in the year of Homecoming, the summit will launch its now uniquely Argyll website on the day, as well previewing the new 'Argyll Street' display for this year's national tourism Expo.

Mike Story, executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, said: 'I am looking forward to welcoming old friends and new delegates to this stunning venue to discuss how to capitalise on our vast and unique regional assets.'

To book a place, visit tourismsummit2013.eventzilla.net.

Past president wins Oban Camera Club

'Isolation' competition

OBAN Camera Club's recent competition was entitled 'Isolation' and attracted a reasonable number of entries. Members interpreted the theme in various ways and it was down to the visiting judge Roy Gibson, a respected member of Ayr Photographic Society, to decide.

Second and third places were awarded to Maurice Wilkins for a moody winter scene of an isolated cottage and a remote white building across the fields at Kilniver with the sea as a background.

Selected in first place was an image of a lone rowan tree at Wee Ganavan silhouetted against a dramatic sky, taken by went to past president Alex Clark. He received the coveted Laird Parker Trophy and a Websters Camera Shop voucher. See www.obancp.co.uk for images.

New members always welcome at the club's weekly Monday night meetings in the Regent Hotel, Oban at 7.30pm.

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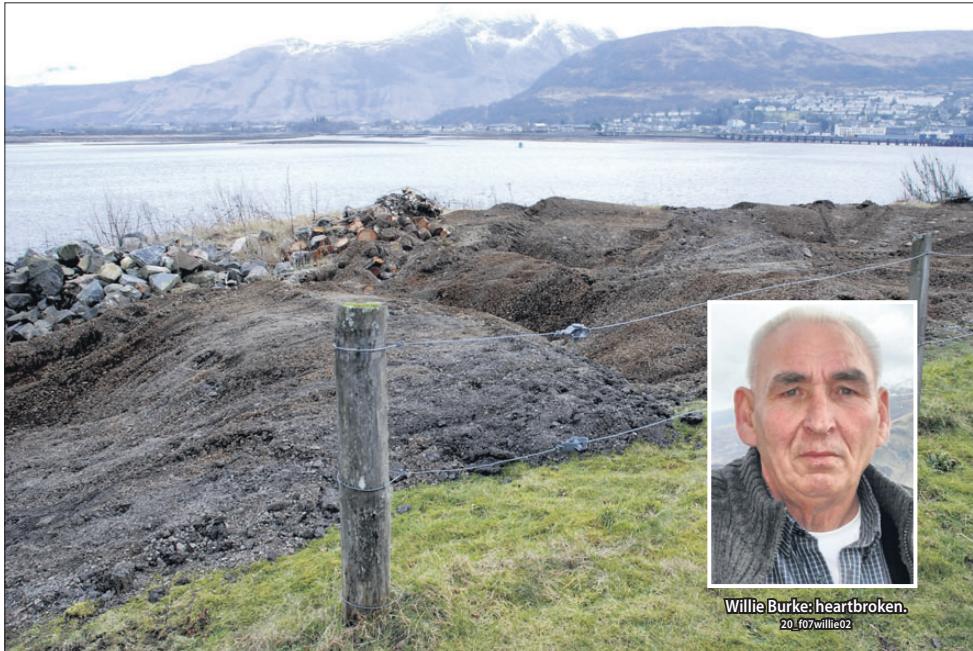
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Bomb site: Willie Burke's caravan pitch on Tuesday after being dug up with earth moving equipment. Ardgour Community Council has condemned the move. 20_f07dig01



Willie Burke: heartbroken.
20_f07willie02

Dogdy diazepam supplier spared jail term

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A CAOL man has avoided jail for supplying dodgy diazepam which landed himself and his pals in hospital.

And Sheriff Noel McPartlin told Stephen Hardie at Fort William Sheriff Court his actions could have had 'disastrous consequences'.

Hardie, 22, was appearing for sentencing after pleading guilty to being involved in supplying the impure Valium. He distributed the drug on April 21 and 22 at 35 Torlundy Road, Caol, and 87 Carn Dearg, Claggan, to Craig Love, Ruaridh Lappin, Keiran Donaldson and others.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said Hardie and four friends agreed to pool their money at a party to buy the Valium. Hardie took a taxi to meet 'an individual' – whom Hardie claimed

not to know – to purchase 100 tablets.

Mr Kennedy said: 'He had never previously used Valium and was curious about its effects. He brought the drugs back to the party and distributed them between his friends.'

'Unfortunately the drugs were bad. There seems to have been some sort of impurity and he and his friends were treated in hospital. Fortunately no long-term harm came to him or his friends. He made no financial gain from the transaction.'

Pleading for leniency, Mr Kennedy said:

'This has brought home to him how serious the offence could have been. He has shown genuine remorse and he accepts what he did was unacceptable.'

'He is aware an offence like this can often attract a custodial sentence.'

Sheriff McPartlin showed clemency and ordered Hardie to perform 150 hours of unpaid work in the community within six months.

He said: 'There was something wrong with the Valium and people ended up in hospital, including the accused.'

'This highlights the dangers of the drug. People became ill and there would be a cost to the public purse for hospital treatment, which I can't reflect in the sentence.'

Lochaber man placed on sex offenders' register

A LOCHABER man caught in possession of 53 indecent images of children has been placed on the sex offenders' register for two years.

And Cathel Gillanders must attend 40 sessions in a joint sex offenders project as part of his two-year probation.

Appearing for sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court, the 46-year-old had his laptop, flash drive, two memory sticks and a handheld personal digital assistant forfeited.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin also ordered the offshore worker to perform 200 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said Gillanders'

home was searched on May 13 2010 and 'various items' removed by police. Images had been sent to him as email attachments by a man he met in an internet chatroom whose email was known to police.

'Where he went wrong was he opened the attachments, keeping some and deleting others,' said Mr Melrose.

'Since then this matter has been hanging over him for the best part of three years.'

'He was fully co-operative with police and there was no denial about what had happened. He is very much hoping he will not lose his job.'

He is ashamed about his conduct and proper

remorse has been shown.' Gillanders, of Erracht Drive, Caol, earlier admitted downloading indecent images of children between January 26 and May 13 2010.

Sheriff McPartlin told him: 'Obviously the court takes offences such as this very seriously as does society in general. The usual approach is to consider a custodial sentence but having heard what has been said on your behalf and the circumstances of the case, and having read the favourable reports on you, I think it is appropriate to proceed otherwise.'

Gillanders' parents were both in court to hear the verdict.

Outrage as site is destroyed

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER residents have expressed outrage after a traveller's caravan pitch was 'vandalised' with earth moving equipment on Monday.

Kilbirnie grandfather William Burke brings his caravan to Camusnagaul, across Loch Linnhe from Fort William, every spring and summer.

The 62-year-old grandfather tends gardens and hedges for around 25 customers and is regarded with affection by many.

Last April, *The Oban Times* reported Mr Burke had enjoyed a trouble-free 25 years before one householder began complaining about litter to Congaled Estate, which allows Mr Burke to use the site. Local people said the claims were completely without foundation.

Now the same man, say locals, has dug up Mr Burke's site in an attempt to prevent his return. Ardgour Community Council condemned the move as 'vandalism' at its meeting last Monday.

Member Fergie MacLean told *The Oban Times* the man came in 'sneakily' last week when he and wife Rosie were out – then on Monday dug out more holes while he was prawn fishing in Loch Linnhe. Mr MacLean said: 'What a bloody mess he has made. I emailed the factor and phoned him and he assured me the guy was acting without

any authority or consent from the estate. He's dug up not only Willie's site but also the bit I use for my tractor to carry bait and diesel down. It's got to be tidied – it can't be left as it is. If he gets away with this what's the next thing he's going to do?'

Mrs MacLean added: 'After the first time there was people volunteering to come along with spades and shovels to sort the damage, but after today [Monday] it's a machine that's needed.'

Speaking from his Ayrshire home on Tuesday, Mr Burke told *The Oban Times* his caravan was supposed to go in on February 19.

He said: 'When Fergie phoned last night it just broke my heart. I have tried everything, but I can't win. Last year the guy [Congaled estate factor] said as long as there was just one caravan there was no problem.'

'Me and my wife were happy there for years. Since she died coming up there has kept me going. If the site was restored I would go back tomorrow.'

Congaled Estate factor David Mosgrove had not provided a comment as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Body recovered from Loch Linnhe

THE BODY of a 51-year-old man was recovered from Loch Linnhe at Fort William on Sunday night.

Local Maritime and Coastguard Agency personnel pulled the body from the water just off the West End car park around 10pm. It is understood the man, who is not believed to be local, entered the water from the sea wall surrounding the car

park. A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'There do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.'

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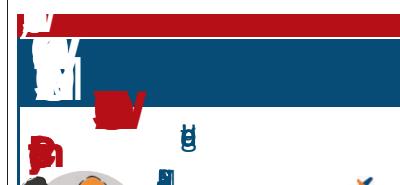
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Hidden Treasures



IN WASHINGTON DC there are restaurants where you can only book through word of mouth. These are called unofficial restaurants and to dine in one you have to be in the know.

In Paris there are hidden passageways full of incredible shops with an array of goodies to offer and in London you only need to head down a side street to stumble on quaint thrift stores or magic shops full of your childhood dreams.

But the good news for readers is you don't need to travel that far to come across hidden treasures of shops, cafes and restaurants.

The west coast of Scotland has plenty of these on offer. If you need to hike over a hill or take a boat to get there surely this just adds to the charm – and makes the perfect excuse for a day out. You can decide whether to take the family or not!

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Dalrannoch Tearoom is a small family friendly tearoom offering breakfasts, home-made soup, light snacks and main meals. A takeaway service is also available.

We offer a selection of homemade cakes and a small selection of gluten free cakes.

Coming soon a range of homemade preserves and homemade soups sold in tamperproof tubs so that you can enjoy them at home.

We can also provide outside catering and can cater for children's parties.

Lismore 'A People and their Place'

For centuries we were told that the chief barrier to our progress was the Gaelic language. Now the importance of the language along with the culture and tradition of our Island are brought to life in this museum, through the hard work of the island community.

Here you will find a busy meeting place, a quiet spot for lunch and a place to hear stories of the past. A welcome rest and tasty meal are on offer and you can enjoy your meal while admiring the beautiful views and every changing wild flower displays.

Patrick and Pam O'Donnell look forward to extending a warm welcome to you at **The Shower of Herring Restaurant & Bar**, Kilmelford. Set in the heart of Melfort Village, the Restaurant has been providing delicious food and friendly hospitality for over 25 years!

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He skips the 31-foot motor launch boat Mitchell 31, which features a galley, with refreshments available on board.

Duncan takes an active interest in wildlife in the area, and knows where to find the best sights.

'That fact that I am interested in it myself it's a bonus,' said Duncan. 'Every trip is an adventure for me.'

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Woman denies fraud charges

A LOCHIELSIDE woman accused of fraudulently claiming more than £36,000 in benefits over six years is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 25.

Anne Mustarde, 49, of Tigh Linn, Kinlochelie, denies pretending to have no savings to claim income support from the Department of Work and Pensions between July 2004 and August 2010. Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie expressed some concern about the trial date, as the Crown had yet to receive a request for disclosure of relevant documents from Ms Mustarde's solicitors.

School concern

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has expressed concern over the time being taken to build Portree's new Gaelic-medium education school.

Latest Highland Council timetables suggest work will not begin until 2015-16 at the earliest.

Mr Thompson hoped Highland Council could work with the Scottish Government to ensure the project is delivered 'as soon as possible'.

He added: 'Parents in Portree have clearly expressed their desire to see the new school in operation as soon as possible, and are understandably disappointed with the delays that have beset the project.'

Rollover jackpot

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £300 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw on Sunday.

Numbers in this week's draw were 2-3-6.



Roy Bridge Stores: set to stay open with a new coffee shop extension being planned. 20_f07shop01

Call for explanation as trial is postponed

THE TRIAL of two Lochaber men facing charges linked to a disturbance in Invergarry has been postponed until February 25.

Cameron MacInnes, 18, and Alexander Williamson, 23, were due to stand trial on Monday but Mr MacInnes' defence lawyer called off through duties at Glasgow Sheriff Court. Four witnesses were due to give evidence.

Sheriff Eric Brown told Fort William Sheriff Court the lawyer would be required to explain why he only gave notice he would not be present only the Friday before

the trial, which had already been postponed in December because of legal aid issues.

Mr MacInnes, of 51 Castle Drive, Lochside, denies shouting and swearing, and refusing to desist at an address in Garry Crescent on October 7 2012 while on bail.

Mr Williamson, of 4 Glenmallie Terrace, Caol, denies resisting arrest by three police constables, struggling with them, kicking out at a police vehicle, refusing to get into it and continuing to struggle with the officers during the same incident, also while on bail.

Scott Crichton, 20, of Flat 6, An Cala, Fassfern Road, had denied holding the walking aid in a threatening and menacing manner on the town's Union Road on December 11.

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Onich pensioner escapes driving ban

AN ONICH pensioner has escaped a driving ban after he crashed his car coming down through Glencoe last summer.

Former coach driver David O'Neill was exiting the last corner below Glencoe gorge when his vehicle drifted across to the opposite verge, struck a rock and overturned. The July 20 accident closed the A82 in both directions.

Minutes earlier, the 80-year-old riskily overtook a van and a car at Glen Etive straight, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

O'Neill, of Muirkirk, admitted careless driving and forcing the van driver to brake sharply to avoid a collision.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

He also admitted losing control of and crashing his car near Achtriochtan, forcing German driver Anke Heinz to take evasive action.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said O'Neill told police 'his attention had strayed' coming through the gorge.

'Police found the accused in the car,' she said. 'Both lanes were blocked by the car sitting in the roadway. He was unable to say why he lost control. The vehicle was a total loss.'

Defending, Hamish Melrose said former colonial police officer O'Neill had been 'taking his time' coming home from a visit to England.

'He has never been in a situation like this before,' he said.

Points

Sheriff Eric Brown said 'rather than disqualification' he would fine O'Neill £220 and endorse his licence with six penalty points.

The sheriff noted that O'Neill already had three points on his licence from a speeding offence and warned him one more indiscretion could lead to a ban.

Roy Bridge village shop saved from closure

ROY Bridge village shop has been saved from possible closure and ambitious plans put in place to expand it with a coffee shop and public toilets.

Owners Lorna and Ray Weir told *The Oban Times* in December they were considering shutting the store after a downturn in business in 2012.

But their son Christopher and his partner Claire have taken over running the shop and hope the coffee shop will provide a boost to both the business and the village.

The pair have already submitted plans to Highland Council for a small cafe and toilets which will be available to the public. Ray

and seats inside for people who want to come in for a coffee. We've put plans into the planning office, so we've just got to wait to hear back from them.

Ray said he and his wife, who have owned the store since 2007, will continue to have a role in the shop's future.

He said: 'We looked at absolutely everything and we think having a wee coffee shop is the only way forward.'

'During summer, we have so many tourists coming in and asking for toilets so I think this will be a real benefit to the village.'

And hopefully they'll buy some sweets or a coffee on the way out.

'We'll have a takeaway menu

Groups outline Dornie play/sports area plan

DORNIE and District Community Council and Dornie Projects Group have written to Highland Council leader Drew Hendry asking that land within the grounds of Graham House be converted into a play/sports area.

The letter, from DDCC chairman Shona MacLennan and DPG chairman John Don MacKenzie, proposes a three-way partnership under which the council and the two local groups would provide the facility for local youngsters.

The Lochalsh representatives state: 'In light of the political encouragement to facilitate

physical activity for social and health reasons as well as recognising the desires of our young people, we would request that the council, currently owner of Graham House and its surrounding land, contribute an area of the grounds (between one half and one acre) to enable our partnership to progress a wide age group.'

Funding

'With the council's contribution, we would take this project forward for funding and create a best practice partnership which

offers in the region of £175,000 are being sought.'

A council spokesperson 'any reasonable offer' to lease the asset would be considered.

Trial stalls as solicitor dumps client

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

THE TRIAL of a man accused of assaulting three people during a fracas at a Fort William nightspot failed to go ahead after his solicitors dumped him.

Derek Cumming, appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday with co-accused, brothers Ian and Fraser Roy, discovered his lawyer had pulled out, leaving him with no legal representation.

Mr Cumming, 43, told Sheriff Eric Brown he had been in touch with his solicitor only last Friday and was unaware of the move.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'It is extremely unfortunate that we are in this situation.'

Six civilian witnesses and one police officer were due to give evidence, she said.

Rescheduling the trial for April 22, Sheriff Brown said: 'It is very unsatisfactory that one of the solicitors has had to pull out for reasons that have not been made clear to the court.'

Representation

He told Mr Cumming: 'It is up to yourself to find out why you have been left to yourself today. I would suggest you do something sooner rather than later with regard to your representation.'

Mr Cumming, of 22 The Avenue, Whitburn, denies punching Dennis Roy and Callum Duncan on the face during a birthday bash at the BA Club on November 3.

He also pleads not guilty to punching Sharon Cameron on the face, knocking her to the ground and kicking her on the face to her injury.

Ian Roy, 28, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan and Fraser Roy, 25, of 38 Blaeberryhill Road, Whiburn both deny repeatedly punching and kicking Dennis Roy on the head and body to his injury.

The pair previously admitted a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest. But further police inquiries resulted in more charges.

Fraser Roy is also accused of headbutting Callum Duncan and repeatedly striking him on the head and body to his injury.

Dinnerware from £5

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A new business is to open its doors this week in Oban. Original Kitchens will offer a wide selection of kitchens and accessories that are both affordable and of high quality.

Stephen Campbell, who operates SEC Joiners and Builders, is a well-established business within the Oban area. With ten years' experience in design and installation of kitchens, Stephen is well placed to offer advice. Together with his wife, Kathryn, they decided to expand the kitchen aspect of the business hence the development of Original Kitchens.

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Kevin Baker as Max, John Robinson as Leo and Linsey McGlone as Ulla in Spotlight Theatre's The Producers.

Corran Halls cameras rolling for The Producers

THE CAST is ready, the scene is set, it's time for Spotlight Theatre Group to unveil The Producers.

The comedy production is a stage classic but also recently hit the big screen with Uma Thurman playing the lead role of Ulla. The Oban production is based on the 2005 Film and Stage show of the same name and the cast is working hard

to fulfil multiple parts being played by each actor.

Complex choreography and multiple set changes mean the stage and set team has had to increase the size of the Corran Hall stage.

Stage manager Stephen Day said: 'We have been rehearsing since August 2012, and there have been particular

challenges with the set and scene changes, the increased stage size and choreography, but as usual we are ready to give Oban a spectacular show and lots of laughs.'

Actors

The principal actors in the show are Kevin Baker as Max, John Robinson as Leo and Linsey McGlone as Ulla.

'It's a bit different from our 'normal' shows,' admits Louisa Hyde, one of the show's producers. 'But it's a great fun show with lots of fast-paced narrative in it as well as great songs and big show-stopping numbers.'

The Producers is playing for three nights only at the Corran Halls, from February 21 - 23.

Trumpet players sound the next Oban Music Society concert

Winter season welcomes next star turns

OBAN Music Society's winter season is well under way.

The next concert is a performance by the trio, Brass Divisions on trumpet, trombone and piano.

This ensemble promotes a wide range of repertoire with two graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and one of Spain.

Tom Poulson, on trumpet, has performed with the English Symphony Orchestra and Scotland's national orchestra.

Glasgow-based trom-

bonist Antonio Jiménez Marín was born in Córdoba, Spain.

Scholarship

He gained a first class degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Granada and was offered a scholarship from Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Trust to complete a masters of music.

Pianist Christopher Baxter is originally from Aberdeen

and has completed a BMus with 1st class honours and MMus.

Christopher has also participated in master classes



The pupils in Iona Primary School and pre-5 unit have been finding out about the story of the animal symbols used to depict the different years in the Chinese zodiac system. They were visited by a friendly dragon who told them the story about the Jade Emperor and the race across the river.

Award-winning bed and breakfast owners praise island businesses

AN ISLE of Mull bed and breakfast has received a gold award from Scotland's national tourism association.

Brockville, run by Helen and Gordon Chalmers in Tobermory, was handed a four-star gold award from VisitScotland.

Helen said: 'Obviously I'm delighted by this award, which recognises the efforts Gordon and I have made over the years to continually improve our business, but it would be wrong to think we did this alone.'

'Our efforts have been helped along the way by the many complementary businesses; the

restaurants, the wildlife and sea tour operators and the people of Mull and Iona in general, who make this a fantastic place to visit and a wonderful place to live.'

Rockpool House, in Achارacle, which is run by Val and Richard Padbury also received the award, which recognises serviced accommodation businesses which consistently achieve the highest levels of excellence within their VisitScotland star grading.

Businesses achieving the award will excel in the areas of customer care and hospitality and show evidence of a real commitment to staff development and training.

Clachaig Inn writer returns to Glencoe

A WRITER will return to the Glencoe pub where he worked for three years to launch his debut novel later this month.

Keen climber Alex Roddie penned much of *The Only Genuine Jones* while employed at the Clachaig Inn from 2008 to 2011.

The bar, a well-known haunt for climbers and walkers, will play host to the book launch on February 27.

The event will feature a brief talk from Alex, a reading from the book, and an opportunity to purchase signed copies.

The novel, set in 1896-97, provides an alternative vision of the formative years of mountaineering in Britain and the Alps.

It includes historical figures such as Owen Glynn Jones and his climbing rival Aleister Crowley, who was better known as an occultist.

Several parts of the book are set in Glencoe, where the Clachaig Inn holds a prominent location.

Mr Roddie completed a number of winter climbs using Victorian equipment in the glen, learning that so-called 'primitive' gear actually has certain advantages over the lighter, more efficient equipment of the present day.

Lincolnshire-based Mr Roddie hopes the book will be available at local outlets in Lochaber later in 2013. It was released on Kindle last year.

The paperback special edition is illustrated by the author and is available online from FreeARead.

Ladies night at Oban Speakers

EMMELINE Pankhurst, Florence Nightingale and Betty Boothroyd were the topics at the annual ladies night of Oban Speakers Club.

John Maclean, Eamonn Arthur and Malcolm Black spoke first with critics, Jim Fraser, Donnie Graham and Tom Clegg. Bill Leech issued a variety of topics starting with a question to Jim Fraser 'whit gaur you loup'.

Other topics speakers were Martin Wilson, Carol and Bill Leech, Alec Clark and Archie McPhail, who was also timekeeper.

The evening was rounded off with a considerate and excellent general evaluation by Frank Walton.

The next meeting is on February 21 in the Ambo Room at the Church Centre.

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standing of, the pressures on local independent caterers.

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Celtic Connections is just the ticket

MORE than 100,000 people attending Glasgow's Celtic Connections helped ticket sales to top £1m this year.

The 20th festival was held over 18 days in January and February, featuring 2,100 artists from around the globe.

Celtic Connections continues to have an international appeal but among the 50 shows that sold out were Argyll band Washington Irving and Donnie Munro and Joy Dunlop.

Celtic Connections artistic director Donald Shaw, who hails from Taynuilt, said: 'We are delighted that once again the talented musicians who have taken part and the enthusiastic festival audiences have made this year another brilliant success.'

'We've witnessed some unique one-off collaborations and fantastic performances over the past eighteen days.'

'We now turn towards next year when the 21st Celtic Connections will kick start what is going to be a very exciting year for sport and culture in Scotland.'



Jack and the Beancounter play makes £1,000 for charity

The annual Lorn and Islands Hospital pantomime took place in Oban High School last weekend, raising more than £1,000 for charity. Jack and the Beancounter, written and directed by Sandra Melville, saw Isla Grierson as the bad Beancounter while Cathy MacFarlane took up the role of Jack. A total of £1,070 was raised on the night and will be distributed to charities, which have still to be confirmed. Pictured are some of the cast members and their little make-up helper, seven year old Sophie Houston. 16_107panto01

Fiddlers set the tone at Skye club



Gemma Donald and Gordon Pattullo were the highlight of the evening at Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club.

THE USUAL venue of the Royal Hotel, Portree provided a warm and welcoming meeting place for a good turnout of musicians and listening enthusiasts at the February meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club.

After a welcome by club chairman and M.C. Jim Campbell, the audience were entertained by music selections from fiddlers Caerina Campbell, Eilidh MacPherson and Wendy Riva, piano accordionists John Cameron (Braes), John MacGilvary and John Cameron (Portree) who also played keyboard, and Donald John Campbell on drums.

A special welcome was afforded to John 'The Box'

Mackerlich who had travelled from Ardverie on the mainland and played several fine sets on his 5-row button-key accordion, accompanied by Donald John Campbell on drums and John Cameron (Portree) on key-board.

Highlight

Highlight of the evening was the eagerly awaited return visit to the club by accordionist Gordon Pattullo of Blairgowrie and Shetland fiddler Gemma Donald.

In the hands of those top class musicians the blend of box and fiddle produced a superb sound for their wonderful and varied repertoire, from haunting melodies such as 'The Furrow's

End' to driving sets such as 'The Kiwi Pipers' pipe medley. For a special request Gordon played solo with his 'Flying Scotsman' tribute and to round off their guest spot both played a stunning version of 'The Orange Blossom Special' to the great acclaim of the delighted audience.

Gemma and Gordon kindly stayed on stage to lead a group of the club players in a rousing 'stramash' to bring an evening of the finest music to a close.

The next club meeting will be in the same venue on Thursday 7th March when the audience will be entertained by the great sound of the Marian Anderson Band.

John Grundy.

Rose Cottage inspires Ardtornish Quintet poetry

AWARD-winning Scottish author and poet Jackie Kay has kindly given The Oban Times exclusive permission to share with our readers five poems she recently composed in Morvern.

In this simple sonnet, the second in our series of her Ardtornish Quintet, Jackie evokes

a feeling of timelessness in and around Rose Cottage on Ardtornish Estate where, as Scottish Book Trust writer-in-residence, Jackie wrote her evocative poetry, inspired by Morvern's landscapes and people.

See the next Ardtornish Quintet poem in next week's Oban Times.

ROSE COTTAGE

*My mother carried me in a cottage
Like this sleeping on her side,
Her face turned to the wall.
Travelling spoons hanging in the dark hall.
Soleace in the spill of yellow fields
In the morning, heart heavy at night.
But, day broke; waters broke – oh, the light.
Tonight, outside this Rose Cottage,
I shine my torch to watch the river,
Rush as if to meet a love r-dark as the past.
In the morning I open the blinds, back at last,
And there's my river running still.
Relief – it hurries on: nobody's will.
The years are somehow carried over.*



The Taynuilt Organic Growers on their first day on site. 16_107togs01

Organic garden group takes seed

A GROUP of enthusiastic organic gardeners have taken over part of the old Highland Heathers site near Taynuilt and are looking for others to join them.

The recently formed Taynuilt Organic Growers (TOGS) are busy clearing out a poly tunnel before creating soil and dividing it into plots to grow their own food.

Marilyn Turbitt, of TOGS, said: 'We are initially using one poly tunnel which will be divided into four plots with an option

for people doing a communal plot. We are interested in it being an organic growing place and we are all going to help each other out, working together on the clear up and creating the top soil – we are starting from nothing.'

The group hope to sell surplus food in the future but for the moment are looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the Taynuilt Organic Growers contact TOGS2013@gmail.com.

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gang members. He is headed straight for Summerton Junction, where the U.S. law enforcement will have their last opportunity to make a stand and intercept him before he slips across the border forever. Sheriff Owens (Schwarzenegger) ultimately accepts responsibility for the face-off.

• **Ice Age 4 (U)**
When Manny is separated from Ellie and Peaches on an iceberg but he promises that he will find a way to return home. While crossing the ocean, they are captured by the cruel pirate Captain Gutt and his crew.

• **Master and Commander (12A)**
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Syllabus/ Entry Forms from 'Oban Music' or www.obanfestival.org
Closing date: 18 March

Marie Curie Cancer Care Afternoon Tea in St.John's Cathedral Hall, Oban, Saturday 16th February 2pm – 4pm Various stalls including Raffle, Baking, Preserves, Books etc.

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sickness and Health in the Scottish Highlands during the late 19th Century - an Island Perspective: Pat Whately Saturday 16 February Port Appin Hall 2.30pm ALL WELCOME! www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

ROYAL NATIONAL MOD – OBAN 2015 What is a Mod?
If you're not sure, we'll tell you at the next Meeting of the Local Organising Committee on Wednesday, 20th February in the Pipe Band Hall at 7.30 p.m.
The LOC meeting will answer your questions and show ways in which you can help. Gaelic and non-Gaelic speakers welcome

WE NEED YOU - Hope you can join us

Lorn Garden Club Come and join us on Tuesday 19th Feb in St John's Cathedral Hall Oban (entrance from lane at rear) 7.15 for 7.30 to hear David Rankin from Kenock Nursery talk about Wild Wet Woodland Gardening Everyone welcome, refreshments including home baking Plants for sale from Chelsea award winning Kenock Nursery

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unfashionable not everything you can hire is industrial. Kilts have been traditionally available for men to hire for occasions such as weddings but ladies can also take advantage of a similar service.

Designer dresses, shoes and bags are all available for hire for specials occasions and if we're honest with ourselves, outfits bought for weddings are rarely worn again.

If you're throwing a party consider hiring any glasses and crockery you may need, unless this is provided by caterers.

And if you're more of a caravan person you needn't feel like you have to buy one to enjoy a holiday in one. There are many locations on the west coast of Scotland where these are available for hire.

We're not suggesting you go to quite the extremes of the latest craze in China – girls are hiring a boyfriend to take home to meet their parents – but if you're in need of a carpet cleaner you know what to do.

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High quality pleases Highland judge

JUDGE Jack Ramsey was well pleased with the quality of cattle presented as the Highland Cattle Society held its 122nd annual spring show and sale at Oban Livestock Centre earlier this week.

Mr Ramsay from Millerton Farm, Mauchline, said it had been a 'very good show', adding: 'The top end of the cattle were excellent, really top drawer.'

'The heifers especially were outstanding.'

He selected as his show male champion, the two-year-old red bull MacLean of Allanfearn, from Maureen MacArthur and John Ashton from Allanfearn.

The bull is out of Abigail 2nd of Tirry-Side and by Crusoe of Brue.

Maureen said after the show: 'We are just absolutely delighted, couldn't be happier. We bred the bull and are just over the moon that he's won.'

He was later purchased in the sale ring by Robert Phillip of Hellfield, North Yorkshire for 3,000gns.

The female champion of the show was a four-year-old heifer from the fold of Lady Lithgow, Ormsary.

Iseabal 19th of Carsaig, out of Iseabal 19th of Carsaig and by Gille Dubh of Craigowmill was shown by stockman Alan Bosomworth and is due to calve early April to the 2010 Oban champion, Calum 2nd of Goldenberry. She found a new home on Monday when Gavin Brown, Penicuik paid 3,500gns for her.

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Business

Advice on mis-selling of financial products

ADVICE is to be offered to local firms which may have been mis-sold financial products after a study showed 90 per cent of firms had fallen victim.

The figures from the Financial Services Authority (FSA) report have alarmed the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), which has vowed to offer guidance. Rory MacKail, Argyll and the Islands FSB branch chairman, said: 'We felt it was important for the businesses that have been affected to be able to take appropriate and professional advice to ensure they get the redress they deserve. They now have a choice of support to help them through this.'

Historic Scotland on lookout for apprentices

APPRENTICES willing to train in traditional skills are being sought by Historic Scotland throughout the west coast of Scotland.

The organisation is looking to recruit 18 individuals to work on its sites including Iona Abbey and Ardchattan Priory. Historic Scotland is seeking 15 apprentice stonemasons, two electricians and one joiner to take up the four-year posts. The trainee positions will focus on learning the traditional craft skills required in their chosen discipline with a focus on conservation. While much of the training will take place on-site at one of Historic Scotland's properties in care, there will be time spent in college at various stages throughout the programme.

For further information and to find out how to apply, visit www.historic-scotland.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is this week.

International market manager for brewery

VERONICA Michaluk, who currently runs Arran Brewery, has become the company's first international marketing manager.

Veronica has a degree in Economics from Glasgow University and studied brewing at the VLB in Berlin. She is bilingual and has been dealing with the firm's first international orders. The appointment was made possible after Arran Brewery received a grant under Scottish Enterprise's export managers scheme.

New venture is looking forward to busy spring



Ruaraidh Neish has consolidated landscaping firm Neish Contracts with gardening equipment and servicing company Blades at the Landscape Centre. 15_107neish1

AFTER taking on one of Oban's best known brands and moving into new premises, local businessman Ruaraidh Neish is preparing for a busy spring.

Having run landscape gardening firm Neish Contracts from a cabin in Taynuilt for the past eight years, Ruaraidh took the plunge in November and bought local garden machinery company Blades from Derek Worth, to complement his own business.

Having built a reputation for quality over the past 30 years, Ruaraidh is hoping the addition of Blades add value to the business he started from scratch. Consolidating the two businesses at The Landscaping Centre at Lochavullin Drive, Ruaraidh said: 'It does mark an expansion for us. We've now moved into the former Historic Scotland building near Tesco and so far so good. 'We also have extra staff now and we do a lot more than we did before.'

The move comes at a time when most businesses are cutting back, but Ruaraidh hopes the move will pay off long term. It felt right the right time to do it. It definitely makes sense, with one business complementing the other.'

Renovation of Oban depot will allow better service says Brogan Fuels

'New depot offers clean, professional surroundings for our customers'

AN EXTENSIVE renovation project to upgrade Brogan Fuels' Oban depot has been completed.

The Glengallen Road depot suffered from wear and tear since the company was bought by GB Oils in 2007, to the extent that a full revamp was deemed essential. Under the guidance of area manager Scott Wilson, who has worked for the company for nearly 15 years, a new office block has been built along with an upgrade of the entire depot.

Brought bang up to date with state-of-the-art technology, it is hoped the new facility will bring a better quality of service for customers and the company's 10 local employees.

Scott said: 'We aim to provide the highest standard of service possible, complemented by a comprehensive range of premium fuels and lubricants and our new depot enables us to do just that. We decided to refurbish the depot in Oban as the location is a hub for our customers on the west coast

of Scotland. We've been here for a number of years now and I'm proud to see how the business has developed and continues to do so.'

'The new depot offers clean, professional surroundings for our customers, who have already expressed their approval of the work undertaken.'

'In addition, the new facility provides a lighter, safer environment for employees, which lifts morale. The happiness of our staff is fundamental to the success of our business.'

The depot provides a key support function for the Oban community by servicing commercial, agricultural and domestic customers in the region with road diesel, gas oil, heating oil and a full range of Shell and Total lubricants. It also stocks Harlequin oil and water tanks. Although focussed on the Oban area, the depot has the ability to reach Brogan Fuels' customers throughout Argyll and the islands.



Oban mum Victoria Gage with her own children during one of her local Creative Station sessions.

Landcatch, based at Ormsay near Lochgilphead, has now taken delivery of the first batch of SNP Chips, cutting-edge genomic selection tools.

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021



Pre-school art sessions for children launched in Oban

AN INNOVATIVE and award winning programme for pre-school children has been launched in Oban.

The Creation Station's hands-on art and craft exploration sessions give even very young children the chance to safely experiment with a wide range of materials, tools and ideas.

'Excited'

Local mum Victoria Gage is leading the weekly, term-time programme for youngsters and their parents/carers at Oban Guide Hall every Tuesday morning from 10am-10.50am and at Connell Church Hall on Thursday mornings 10.25am-11.15am.

Victoria has two lively young children so knows how difficult it can be to entertain babies, toddlers and young children. Using her business design and marketing background, she has found a unique gap in Oban's baby and toddler diary.

Victoria said: 'I am really excited about

bringing the Creation Station to Oban. Our aim is to inspire children's imaginations through our specially designed art and craft activities and products.'

'As well as being terrific fun for both child and adult, the sessions encourage positive parenting skills through practical creative play.'

'Creating their own piece of art each week also helps develop a child's thinking and creative skills.'

'Another plus point for parents is that even when we get messy using paints and clay they don't have the worry and stress of cleaning up like they would at home.'

To celebrate the launch, everyone buying a trial session at the Creation Station will get a second session for free.

For further information and to request a trial, contact Victoria on 0844 874 7335 or visit www.thecreationstation.co.uk.

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Presbytery Clerk for the Church of Scotland, Presbytery of Argyll. SCO 001424

Applicants are invited for the salaried post of Presbytery Clerk, with the anticipated retirement of the present Clerk, Marion Madagan in June.

The prospective candidate is expected to be familiar with the normal practice and procedures within the Church of Scotland. While knowledge of Church law is desirable, further training in this could be offered if required.

Candidates must have good administrative and communication skills, be flexible and show ability and discretion in all aspects of presbytery business.

Further details can be obtained from Rev Liz Gibson, Convenor of Presbytery Business Committee, e-mail: lizgibson@phoonecop.coop or from the Presbytery website: www.arryllpresbytery.org.uk

Closing date for applications is 28th February 2013.

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Is seeking Seasonal staff to work in our busy coffee shop in Craignure, Isle of Mull.

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Applicants must have extensive experience of stalking both stags and hinds with guests/owning family. Applicants should have some experience working with Grouse.

Attractive package with house. Possible part-time work in lodge/holiday cottages for partner.

Applications no later than 1st March 2013 to: The Factor, Ardverikie Estate Office, Kinlochlaggan, Newtonmore, PH20 1BX.

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Please send CV to Yvonne, Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll PA34 4XA or mail@cuilfail.co.uk

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No agencies please

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Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day, year-round, has a staff of nearly 200 people and is unique in both its physical characteristics and its potential as a world centre of excellence.

Reporting to the Stores Manager, as part of the site stores team, you will be expected to carry out a varied range of tasks including:

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We are looking for a reliable and enthusiastic individual who is willing to work hard to deliver departmental targets safely and efficiently.

Ideal candidates will have previous stores/warehouse experience, basic computer skills and positive Health and Safety attitude.

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To apply, please send a CV and full covering letter to svs@onlineresourcing.co.uk. Ref OLR5186

MEARS

Have you ever Considered a Career in Care?

Mears is one of the leading domiciliary care providers delivering care services at home to over 20,000 people of all age groups each week.

We are currently looking to recruit care Workers to join our friendly teams based across Oban and surrounding area.

- Full time, part time roles available, flexible hours to suit, Shift patterns also available – 7am-3pm/3pm-11pm
- Weekend only positions available
- No experience necessary as full training will be given
- Opportunity to complete your SVQ in Health and Social Care
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- Competitive rates of pay

We are also looking for an experienced co-ordinator and a Visiting Officer

For more information and to apply please contact our Friendly team at our Oban Branch on 01631 562422 (Monday – Friday 9am-5pm)

Business



Argyll-based company leading the world in salmon genetics technology

'Now it's time to start the real evaluation on Scottish salmon,' says Dr Alan Tinch

AN ARGYLL aquaculture firm is leading the world in applying state-of-the-art genetics technology to salmon to produce more robust, disease-resistant fish.

Landcatch, based at Ormsary near Lochgilphead, has now taken delivery of the first batch of SNP Chips, cutting-edge genomic selection tools that will allow their scientists to take the next step in pinpointing inherited traits in individual fish DNA.

SNP Chips are glass slides used to analyse variations in DNA sequences, or Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs), which act as biological markers and help scientists locate a range of genes associated with disease resistance.

Genomic selection using SNP Chips is already routinely applied in crops, cattle, pigs and chickens but Landcatch is the first company to apply the science to salmon.

The company supplies genetic services and Atlantic salmon eggs and smolts to the aquaculture industry. It uses selective breeding to develop strains of salmon which can perform

to ever higher levels at every stage of production from eggs to adult fish.

The firm is part of the global Hendrix Genetics multi-species food production organisation whose mission is to help the world meet its food needs through innovative and sustainable genetic techniques which inform their breeding processes.

"It's a new chapter in a very exciting story,"

**Dr Alan Tinch,
Director of Genetics**

Dr Alan Tinch, Director of Genetics at Landcatch, said: 'The chips are now ready to use on Landcatch fish. We will be starting right away working out the best way of using them and in 2014 they will be routinely deployed in our Scottish programme to improve sea lice resistance and other traits in salmon.'

'At the same time we will begin to use the new technology in Landcatch

breeding programmes in Chile to improve the traits important to our international customers.'

'We are the first salmon breeding company to be doing this. We have done a lot of background work to get to this point and now it's time to start the real evaluation on Scottish salmon.'

'It's a new chapter in a very exciting story.'

The chips are used to correlate variations in SNPs with performance. There are many millions of markers in every species and these can be used as milestones on the DNA map. Scientists, who previously examined only five markers for one salmon gene, can now interrogate 250,000 markers to look at 20,000-30,000 genes.

The technology means Landcatch geneticists are now able to get a much more detailed, digital-quality description of the genetics of individual fish.

Previously, accurate information required measuring many thousands of fish over many generations. But now the best fish for breeding can be

identified quickly using hundreds of thousands of SNPs for each fish.

The work to develop the SNP Chips, led by Dr Alastair Hamilton of Landcatch, is being undertaken with a number of commercial and academic partners, including Edinburgh University (Roslin Institute and the GenePool Laboratory), Stirling Institute of Aquaculture, Glasgow University and Affymetrix Inc, with support from the UK Technology Strategy Board.

The arrival of the SNP Chips is another landmark for Landcatch which in 2007 was the first aquaculture company to be involved in work to pinpoint a gene controlling resistance to Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis which poses a major threat to Atlantic salmon.

The company later also proved that sea lice resistance is heritable, subsequently producing juvenile fish which were less susceptible. This allowed breeding from selected pedigree families and increased genetic resistance in each new generation. Work by Landcatch and

its partners in this field means it is getting ever nearer to becoming the first in the world to locate the genes that determine how susceptible individual Atlantic salmon are to certain diseases.

It is on target to have this science for sale and applied to their salmon eggs by 2014.

In what will be a major breakthrough for the industry, eggs and smolts will then be produced to selectively breed healthier, disease resistant salmon and other fish as the technology can cross over to other species.

The work accelerates the pace of progress and will help breeders and researchers examine traits in individual fish and better understand their general survivability, omega-3

-rates. It will mean improved quality products and an acceleration of genetic techniques in farmed fish which the industry and commentators, including the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, believe is necessary to address world food shortages caused by climate change.

Take a fresh look your business for New Year

WITH the festive period over, many small businesses are using the start of the new year to review their activities and plan the year ahead, particularly in light of the continuing difficult economic climate.

Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway is on hand to help entrepreneurs develop their plans. Small business owners know their own business better than anyone but the Business Gateway team can signpost additional sources of help that could be beneficial.

'Business Gateway can help busy small business owners keep updated about relevant additional help,' explains Kate Fraser of the local team. For instance, we can signpost what funding is currently available to help with staff training, or free specialist advice on a range of issues like exporting, branding or health and safety.'

Business Gateway can also help through personal meetings with an experienced business adviser for anyone wanting to discuss their plans in more detail.

The website, www.bgateway.com, provides a wide range of information and Business Gateway also offers a variety of business skills workshops. To find out more or to book an appointment with a business adviser, contact business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 605 459.

New retail outlet opens in Oban

OBAN welcomed another new retailer this week after Original Kitchens opened its doors on George Street.

Owned by Stephen Campbell of SEC Joiners and Builders, the venture is a natural extension of the business, offering fitted kitchens, bathrooms and office furniture.

The business also offers a range of home furnishings, ornaments, candles and accessories and Stephen says he's already been encouraged by early enquiries.

He added: 'I've always wanted to have a shop and we've gone from being a kitchen showroom into what we have here, which is more than just kitchens. SEC still has its own side but the businesses sit side-by-side no problem. It just made sense to do it.'

Original Kitchens opened on Monday.

Morvern estate director to address family business mini-conference at Inverness

'This story is a great example of how families-in-business can thrive'

A MORVERN estate managing director will be the keynote speaker at a mini-conference at the Kingmills Hotel, Inverness, on March 19.

Hugh Raven will tell family business delegates at the Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie (WJM) Inverness event how Ardornish Estate has diversified over the years into tourism, selling energy through a hydro scheme as well as farming.

The untimely death of Hugh's brother just as the estate was going through an ambitious diversification was a huge blow and Mr Raven will explain how the family responded to the challenge by creating the Raven Family Constitution.

Mr Raven will also speak about how he felt during this testing time as an 'insider' who wore different hats - family member, a trustee and beneficiary of the trust that owns the estate and a director of the company that runs the estate.

Angus MacLeod, who heads up WJM's Highland and Islands office in Inverness, said: 'WJM expect the conference to be very popular because it gives family businesses and advisers a unique opportunity to hear from a family who tackled the challenges that every family business faces at some time.'

'This story is a great example of how families-in-business can thrive through becoming better organised.'

'I know that's easier said than done, but the story of the Raven family shows how it can be done well.'

Attendance at the afternoon conference is free but places are limited and must be booked through invernessevents@wjm.co.uk.



Hugh Raven will address conference.

Practical help, advice and support for new and growing businesses

To find out how Business Gateway can help your business, contact the local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com

Supporters of the Oban Times business pages



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Bonnar Sand & Gravel Co Ltd

Has a full time vacancy for HGV Mechanic/Fitter

Pay negotiable depending on experience.

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Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay

Southend Medical Practice
Clerical Officer/Receptionist – Band 2

£14,508 - £17,253 (pro rata)

23 Hours per week

Fixed Term Due To Service Redesign (1 Year)

An opportunity has arisen for a Clerical Officer/Receptionist to work at Southend Medical Practice.

You will be required to cover a wide range of duties including data entry, working as a receptionist, face to face contact with the public and as a member of a team. You will require excellent communication and organisational skills, be computer literate and also have the ability to prioritise work and work on your own initiative whilst under pressure.

Information enquiries: Annie Colville, Practice Manager, Tel: 01568 830635.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Arrochar, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB, Tel: 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or E-mail: recruitment.lab@nhs.net

Please quote reference: 12ab/261.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 28 February 2013.



www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

Business Advisers (2 Posts, Permanent)

£31,023 - £33,943

Full time, 35 hours per week

Part time, 21 hours per week

Ref: DVE00178

Ref: DVE00062

01546 604334

Lochgilphead



Closing date: 22 February 2013.

To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

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Supporting People & Communities

Carr Gomm is a national charity and not-for-profit company. The main focus is Supported Living – supporting people to lead their lives, access services and achieve their hopes and dreams.

SUPPORT ASSISTANTS - OBAN

Full time or Part time: £13,548 - £15,133 pa plus on-call

Relief: £6.95 per Hour

Support Work covers the whole range of tasks to help people live in their own homes safely, to follow their interests, develop friendships and deal with health issues. If you believe that everyone has a right to live the life they want, we would like to meet you. You may be experienced and be looking to develop your career, or you may be new to this work and have the right personal qualities to build on. Either way, this is a chance to help people to make a real change to their lives.

Please quote Job Reference number: 266 when applying for this post.

HOME CARE ASSISTANTS - OBAN

Full time or Part time: £12,315 - £13,140 pa

Relief: £6.31 per Hour

You would be assisting people with practical tasks while supporting them to maintain an appropriate level of independence.

We offer competitive terms and conditions including:

- No experience necessary – full training given, including opportunity to complete SVQ2
- Paid travel time
- Travel expenses reimbursed
- 35 days annual leave (including public holidays) in the first year
- Contribution towards cost of PVG Membership

Please quote Job Reference number: 267 when applying for this post.

We aim to offer competitive terms and conditions including: pension, enhanced annual leave and sickness, and training opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination. For an application pack visit our website: www.carrgomm.org, e-mail: recruitment@carrgomm.org, Tel: 0131 659 4770, or contact Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.

Closing Date; Noon, Monday 25th February 2013

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in Scotland: SC 236436
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Senior Care Workers

2 posts • £19,541 - £20,813 • Qualification bar applies

4 x 12 hour day and night shifts per week

CrossReach is one of Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisations, offering care and counselling. At Auchinleck in Campbeltown, our aim is to provide a quality of care for older people with dementia that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.

In return for planning your shift, leading a team and being on-hand for service users, we'll give you the time and support to widen your experience, fulfil your potential and take up new challenges. We also offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. You will need at least an SVQ Level 3 or equivalent.

In return we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. Applicants are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos, which is an Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010. These posts are subject to PVG Scheme Membership.

For more information and to apply visit www.crossreach.org.uk or call 01586 55268. Closing date: 1st March 2013.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

crossreach.org.uk

CROSSREACH



Assistant Farm Manager

Loch Lomond

Salary - £24,700 - £26,947 per annum, plus overtime

We are currently looking for a key individual to assist with the management

Business



Douglas Millican

Scottish Water appointment new chief executive

THE BOARD of Scottish Water has unanimously agreed the appointment of Douglas Millican to the role of chief executive with immediate effect.

Mr Millican, the finance and regulation director of Scottish Water since its formation in 2002, has been interim chief executive since the sudden death of Richard Aycroft in October 2012.

Mr Millican is a chartered accountant and an associate member of the Association of Corporate Treasurers. He was Scottish Finance Director of the Year in 2010.

Marine Harvest to join Royal Coronation Festival party

FORT WILLIAM-based Marine Harvest Scotland will be one of 200 Royal Warrant holders attending a prestigious event to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation it was announced this week.

The four-day Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace gardens from July 11-14 will celebrate innovation, excellence and industry. It will also showcase a range of brands, including Marine Harvest Scotland, which was awarded its Royal Warrant in 1990.

Marine Harvest Scotland managing director Alan Sutherland said: 'The Coronation Festival will provide us with a great platform to showcase our fresh Scottish salmon which we now export to the Far East as well as supplying major retailers and processors in the UK and Europe. We are delighted to be able to attend this unique event at Buckingham Palace.'



Hand-dived scallops are helping to drive sales growth at Keltic Seafare

to plate in 24 hours.

'HSBC was impressed by Keltic Seafare's ability to successfully embrace business growth

opportunities both at home and abroad. We are confident that our international capabilities will help the company to expand

in global markets and build on its impressive reputation for supplying quality seafood products across the world.'



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Applicant must be computer literate, have excellent communication skills and be able to work under pressure.

Hours: 12pm – 5.30pm, Monday – Thursday
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Please telephone 01586 552105 or email campbeltownpractice@nhs.net for application form.

To be returned to:
Katie Ferguson, Practice Manager
Campbeltown Medical Practice, Stewart Road,
Campbeltown PA28 6AT.
(Closing Date: Friday 1st March 2013)

Campbeltown Community Orchard and Gardener Co-ordinator

£17 – £18,500 pro rata
Job Share, employee or self employed.
Closing Date: 22 February 2013
Contact A Clark:
adark@inspiralba.org.uk
Mob: 077 48674861

THIS PROJECT IS BEING PART-FINANCED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY Argyll and the Islands LEADER 2007-2013 Programme

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Project Administrative Officer

Kilmartin Museum is seeking to appoint a Project Administrative Officer to help the team take forward exciting plans to re-develop the Museum and to strengthen business led operations. This is currently a one year full time project funded contract with the possibility of further extension - subject to funding. The salary is in the region of £20,000 per annum. For more information and an application pack please email admin@kilmartin.org or phone Anne on 01546 510 278. The closing date for applications is 1st March 2013.

LGV Driver/Waste Operative

Shanks are one of Europe's leading waste management businesses. With over 4,000 employees we have operations in Belgium, Canada, Netherlands and the UK and provide a range of recycling and energy recovery solutions and technologies to customers in the public and private sectors.

This position will be based at the Lingerton Landfill Site, Lochgilphead, and will report to the Area Operations & Recycling Manager. The main duties will include:

- Driving various skip and ro-ro vehicles, picking up waste and delivering recycling throughout the west of Scotland.
- Assist site personnel in the running of the waste disposal site which may include manual work as and when required.
- Loading containers and manning the civic amenity site, shunter driving and painting skips.
- Ability to keep accurate drivers records.
- Must adhere to Shanks Health and Safety standards.
- Any other duties as reasonably requested.

Candidates must hold a LGV Class C+E licence. Experience of driving waste management vehicles is preferred but not essential, as training will be given. You will need to be able to work on own initiative whilst having the ability to work within a proven team. The individual must be able to follow written and verbal instructions accurately. Due to the nature of the work you must be willing to work in all conditions.

Working 5 days over 7, 39 hours per week, the hourly rate is £7.92. Benefits include 34 days holiday per annum (inclusive of public holidays) and paid overtime.

To apply please write enclosing an up to date C.V. and covering letter quoting reference number 716 to Ria Findlay, Human Resources Department, Shanks Waste Management, 110 Easter Queenslie Road, Queenslie, Glasgow, G33 4UL, or via ria.findlay@shanks.co.uk.

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Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan

sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568021

Live shellfish supplier expands with bank backing from HSBC

DINGWALL-based live shellfish supplier Keltic Seafare has appointed HSBC as its banking partner as the company enters a new phase of growth in both domestic and international markets.

The seafood producer, which recorded a turnover of £6.3m in 2012, has secured £750,000 funding package from the bank to support brand development and boost sales in key markets including France, Spain, and Hong Kong.

The company is also focusing on increasing domestic customers on the back of reeling in a number of award-winning London restaurants in the past year, supplying them with hand-dived scallops, native lobster, langoustines, and white crab products.

Established in 1992, Keltic Seafare has steadily grown its operations to today's position where its global trade activities account for 55 per cent of turnover.

Keen to pursue further expansion opportunities at home and overseas, the 44-strong company has developed chilled transportation routes to ensure growing demand from its customer base of worldwide restaurants, supermarkets and wholesalers is met.

Hailing the HSBC tie-up, Keltic

Seafare managing director Ben Murray said: 'As well as rapid domestic growth, we have experienced an increase in trade opportunities with new overseas markets and I was looking for a banking partner with a strong global presence which could provide us with the necessary market knowledge, support and guidance.'

I am confident that HSBC's international expertise will help us to maximise our potential and achieve our growth aspirations. I look forward to further developing our market position with the support of our new banking partner.'

Mark Tate, head of commercial banking for HSBC in Scotland said: 'The Scottish Food and Drink sector is going from strength to strength and Keltic Seafare is a shining example of a company which provides a world class product with a world class service, in some cases delivering from sea

to plate in 24 hours.

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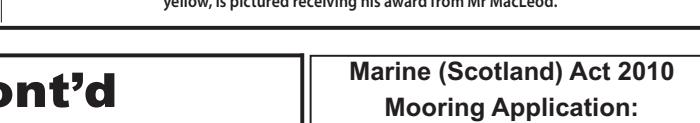
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Project Administrative Officer

Kilmartin Museum is seeking to

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07 FORD TRANSIT 115PS, Double cab type, alloy drop side, 6 speed, white, Met Blue, 50k miles.....	£7,350
07 FORD TRANSIT 115PS, Double cab pickup, manual, high top truckcanopy, e-pack, met silver, choice.....	£6,450
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FORD KA 1.3



Petrol, 04 plate, metallic blue, 3 dr, MOT end Feb 2013, tax end Mar 2013, service history.

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Landrover Defenders from 1990 – 2012

All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD

Mot'd or not All models required (Uist)

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1 year M.O.T. Taxed August 2013 Mileage 69,495 New Timing Belt & New Exhaust Fitted.

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53 plate, 93,000 miles, FSH, one owner from new Taxed and tested.

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BIRTHS

JOHNSTON - Andy and Jennifer (née Campbell), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second beautiful daughter Seren Alison, on January 30, 2013 at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. A much loved sister for Logie, Archie and Megan.

MARRIAGE

OWEN - CONNOR - At Kinlochleven Parish Church on Saturday, February 9, 2013, Carol to Patrick. Best Wishes from parents and families, Kinlochleven and Trossachs, Glasgow.

RUBY WEDDING

MACKAY - COOPER - At St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on February 17, 1973 by M. Thomas Wynne, Allan to Tricia.

DEATHS

DAVIS - Peacefully, after a short illness, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on February 11, 2013, aged 62 years, Betty, dear wife of Stewart and loving daughter of Elsie and the late Alasdair Black. Funeral will take place from Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday, February 15 at 1 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Cancer Research (UK) Scotland & MS Therapy Centre.

JAMES - Suddenly at her home, Torr-Na-Fhaire, Ardfern on Sunday, February 10, 2013, Joan James (née Nauls), much loved wife of Ian, cherished mum of Christine and adored granny of Miranda, Tilda and Theo. A much respected member of the Lochgilphead Drama Club. Funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium on Monday, February 18 at 12.15pm, thereafter a service of celebration of Joan's life will take place at Donald MacDonald's Funeral Parlour, Lorne Street, Lochgilphead on Tuesday, February 19 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to MS Centre, Mid Argyll. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

HUNTER - Diane (née Ower), Edinburgh. Peacefully at St Columba's Hospice on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, Diane, dear sister of Terri and brother-in-law Neil, caring aunt of Ross and Bruce. Diane will be sadly missed by her family, friends and ex colleagues. A funeral service will take place at Warriston Crematorium Cloister Chapel on Saturday February 16, at 11.30am, to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please, there will be a retiring collection at the service for St Columba's Hospice.

MACAULAY - Suddenly but peacefully at Western Isles Hospital on January 23, 2013 - Alastair MacAulay, aged 69 years, beloved husband to Flora and a much loved father to eight sons and one daughter, also a dear father-in-law and a proud Pappy to fifteen grandchildren - very sadly missed, R.I.P. 4 Hacklet, Isle of Benbecula.

MACINNES - Suddenly on February 6, 2013 at home in Eriskay, Roderick aged 78, beloved husband of Peggy and a loving father, grandfather, brother and father-in-law. Sadly missed. R.I.P.

MACIVER - Suddenly in Oban on February 1, 2013, Iain Alexander, aged 35. Loving son of John and Catherine, dear brother of Donald, grandson of Rena also a dear nephew and cousin.

McKINNEY - Suddenly at home, 4 McKellar Building, Lochgilphead, on February 1, 2013, in his 71st year, Charlie (formerly of 8 Croft Avenue, Oban), a much loved brother of Jessie, Michael and Pat and the late Margaret, Maurice, Owen and Marjorie. A special uncle and great uncle. Funeral arrangements to be announced later, but will be family flowers only, with a retiring collection taken for the Church Hall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of Anne Cameron would like to thank everyone for their support and love following the loss of a great member of our community. Special thanks to the paramedics, air ambulance, the staff of the Golden Jubilee Hospital, the Rev. Jeff MacCormick for an uplifting service and Ian MacInnes of DA Munn for his superb support. The collection raised over £700 for the Golden Jubilee.

CAMPBELL - Marion would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind support following the sad loss of Norman, for all the cards, flowers and phone calls received. Thanks to all the medical staff at Larbert and Stirling hospitals. Thanks to Rev. Liz Gibson for a comforting service to Andrew Anderson funeral director for his care and efficient handling of funeral arrangements, Killin Hotel for providing refreshments. Finally thanks to all who attended at the church and graveside to pay their respects, £450 was collected for church funds.

MACARTHUR - The family of the late Morag would like to thank all relatives and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls and for all the kind donations of food which was very much appreciated. We would like to thank all the Island doctors and nurses for there exceptional care throughout Morag's illness, thank you to the Rev Elspeth MacLean for a personal and uplifting service and Lachie MacKinnon for his Gaelic prayer also to Andrea MacArthur for playing the church organ. Finally to all those who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. There was a retiring collection for the surgery fund and the Church of Scotland which raised the sum of £451.

MACAULAY - Flora and all the family of the late Alastair MacAulay would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and expressions of sympathy at their recent bereavement. Thanks also to doctors, nurses and ambulance staff at Uist and Barra Hospital, the air ambulance service, doctors and nurses at Western Isles Hospital, Archibald MacRae - Funeral Director in Stormyway, Fr Roddy Johnson, Caledonian MacBrayne staff - Leverburgh to Bernera, Alastair MacEachen & staff at CNES, Angus MacPhee - Funeral Director in Benbecula, Fr Ross, Catriona Garbutt, Paul MacCallum, Willie Bauld, Mikki Campbell, Grav Diggers & Car Park Attendants, Angusina Morrison & Dark Island Hotel Staff for catering. Many thanks to all who attended the funeral, some who travelled a great distance.

MACDONALD - Eileen and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards, mass cards, flowers and messages of condolence following the recent sad loss of Ken. We would especially like to thank Monsignor MacKinnon, Father Culley and Deacon Pamula for the beautiful requiem mass. Many thanks to all who attended the funeral and gave so generously in Ken's memory. The magnificent sum of £600 was raised for Parkinsons UK. Special thanks to Ken's ex-workmates and those who travelled a distance to the funeral. Finally thanks to Mike McFall undertaker and the West End Hotel for catering. We are grateful to you all.

SMITH - Myrtle and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, support and many expressions of sympathy received following the sudden and sad loss of Angus. Our grateful thanks to Dr. Neil Bennett and ambulance staff who attended and Dr. Richard Wilson, Lorn Medical Centre and cardiac nurse Betty Graham for their care of Angus during his short illness. Sincere thanks to Rev. George Cringles and Rev. James Beaton for their uplifting and comforting service and to Neil and Sheila Sinclair for their moving and meaningful musical contributions. Thanks to D&A Munn for their efficient and compassionate handling of the funeral arrangements and to all who attended St. Oran's Church and graveside to pay their last respects. The retiring offering raised £730.24 for A.B.C.D.

MEMORIAMS

ANDERSON - In loving memory of Catherine (Rena), who passed away February 13, 2009, a much loved mother, mother-in-law and nana.

As time unfolds another year Memories keep you ever near. - Mandy, Duncan, Alaine, Kenny and Craig.

BARRIE - In ever loving memory of our dear father Matthew, who passed away February 14, 1984.

Sadly, Valentine's day a caring and thoughtful father was taken.

Forever sadly missed.

Wendy and Matthew.

CAMPBELL - Treasured memories of our darling mum Anne, who died February 15, 2007, also all our other family no longer with us.

We love and miss you every day.

- Margaret, Ada, Mairi, George, Lorna and families xx

COOPER - In loving memory of Billy Cooper, much loved husband, father and grand dad, who died on February 17, 2009.

- Sadly missed by Kathryn, Andrew, Douglas, Pauline, Zoë and Abby.

CURRIE - Cherished memories of Lily who died February 15, 1989 and Archie who died June 1, 1998. Loved and remembered always.

- Margaret, Donald and family. Never far from my thoughts - Mike, London.

DOW - In loving memory of Molly, a dear mum and granny who passed away on February 17, 2012.

Always in our thoughts, Forever in our hearts. James, Laura, Jamie and Christopher.

ELLIS - In loving memory of Frank who died February 12, 2012. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. Dear are the memories precious they stay no passing of time can take them away.

FERGUSON - Treasured memories of a special sister and auntie, Ina, who died February 18, 2012.

- Bobby, Marie, Jacky, David and families.

LAIRD - Precious memories of Susan (Oozie) who died February 14, 2003. Loving wife of the late Davy and a much loved mum and nana to all of us. In our hearts and minds always. - The Laird family.

LAIRD - 14.02.03 Remembering on the tenth year of our wonderful mum Oozie's (Susan) passing.

Loved and missed so much. - Alice, Brenda, Poacher, Leigh and Danica xxx

- Love you always, Damian xxx

LAMONT - In loving memory of my dear sister Joanne, who passed away on February 17, 2009.

Quietly remembered every day. - Ann.

MACALLISTER - William (Billy), loving husband, dad and grand-dad, who passed away February 8, 2010.

What else in life do I never fail to think of you. - Mary Jane.

MACARTHUR - In fond memory of John, died February 21, 2010 and his son John who died March 25, 2010. From all the family at Middleton, Tiree.

MACCALLUM - Alister, loving brother and uncle taken from us on February 11, 2010. We cried when you passed away. Still we cry today.

Although we loved you dearly

We couldn't make you stay A Golden Heart stopped beating Hard working hands at rest God broke our hearts to prove To Us He only takes the best.

Also remembering those gone before and sadly after.

- Inserted by Catherine, Ellen, Allan, Wilma and our children.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Thomas Freelend, passed away February 12, 1986 and Jessie MacKenzie, passed away February 7, 1994.

Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by Donald, Neil, Isobel and family.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of a dear mother, gran and great-gran Catherine, who passed away on February 6, 1998 and loved ones gone before.

- Freema and family, Iochdar, Bunessian.

POULTON - In loving memory of our precious son and brother Danny, who died on February 12, 1992, aged three days.

Never more than a thought away,

Loved and remembered every day.

- Mum and Hannah, Bunessian.

POULTON - In loving memory of my grandson and our nephew, Danny, who died on February 12, 1992.

Loved and remembered always.

- Brenda, Poacher, Leigh and Danica.

SPREADBURY - MUIR 16.2.06 Donna our beautiful friend.

Loved always, missed so much xxx.

- Brenda, Poacher, Leigh and Danica.

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, Keri, Iona and Catherine xxx.

We can only treasure the memories of days that used to be. Fondly remembered.

- Penny, Kevin, Penny, Jonny, Ross and Emma.

MCLOUNNAN - In memory of a much loved husband David MacLounnan, died February 17, 2006 at his home in Balephuil, Tiree.

Thank you for the years we shared

Thank you for the way you cared

I loved you then and I love you still

Forget you David I never will.

Miss you.

- Your wife Nan, Balephuil, Tiree.

MCLOUNNAN - Precious memories of my dear dad, father-in-law, grandpa, David, who sadly passed away on February 17, 2006.

Though his smile is gone forever,

And his hand I cannot touch,

I still have so many precious memories,

Of the Dad I loved so much.

Forever in my heart

I miss you Dad

I always will.

- Christine, Lachie and family.

McKINNEY - In loving memory of a dear brother Owen who died on February 12, 2009.

You will always be in our thoughts

- from all the family at home and away.

O'HARA - Loving memories of Tommy, who passed away on February 10, 2012. A loving husband, dad and papa. Loved and remembered always.

- Janet, Alex, Neil and Jodi xxxx

POULTON - In loving memory of our precious son and brother Danny, who died on February 12, 1992, aged three days.

Never more than a thought away,

Loved and remembered everyday.

- Mum and Hannah, Bunessian.

POULTON - In loving memory of my grandson and our nephew, Danny, who died on February 12, 1992.

Loved and remembered always.

- Brenda, Poacher, Leigh and Danica.

SLOSS - In loving memory of David Sloss who passed away on February 15, 2003.

Ten years have passed since you left me

With each year the hurt still

bad

Still I smile whenever I think of you

I'm so proud that you were my Dad

Always remembered.

- Davie.

SPREADBURY - MUIR 16.2.06 Donna our beautiful friend.

Loved always, missed so much xxx.

- Brenda, Poacher, Leigh and Danica.

OT

Chris takes North of Scotland title

Two golds and a silver for Lochaber Phoenix boxers in Aberdeen

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER Phoenix pocket dynamo Chris Bradley boxed superbly to take the North of Scotland Schoolboys Open Championship 46kg title last



Pocket dynamo: Chris Bradley is the new North of Scotland 46kg champion 20_f07boxing01

Youngsters start back after break

MINI RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club coaches are getting organised for the return of their young players following their eight-week winter break.

Mini rugby starts back at Banavie on Saturday from 10am to 11.30am and the club is inviting boys and girls from P3 to S2 to give the game a try. All coaches at the club are SRU trained and disclosure checked.

Club membership secretary Pauline Donaldson said: 'The club welcomes all parents who want to stay and wait for their children. The clubhouse is open where they can watch their child progress their rugby skills by waiting on the sidelines.'

'More installed as early favourites

SHINTY

REIGNING champions Newtonmore have been installed as early favourites to win the Orion Group Premiership in 2013.

Fort William are third favourites on 5/1 to win the league, according to bookmakers in the town, while Lochaber are joint fourth at 10/1.

Kinlochshield and newly promoted Oban Camanachd currently have the longest odds of winning at 33/1.

Saturday at Aberdeen – despite moving up a weight.

His opponent was the reigning Scottish and British champion in the division, Byron ABC's David Dalglish – who had beaten 16-year-old Bradley previously.

In a bout fought at a blistering pace Chris had edged ahead by the third only to be caught by a bomb of a right hand and left hook, which physically lifted him off his feet.

But the Fort William lad, the Scottish and British champ at 38kg, showed incredible resilience to come firing back immediately with combinations to take the initiative, deservedly earning the judges' verdict.

And Lochaber was celebrating again soon after when 15-year-old James Aitchison outpointed Aberdeen's Eddie Copland in his first ever championship.

Chris proved once again the quality we know he has with probably his best ever win and James is maybe the most improved young boxer in Scotland this season with incredible powers of concentration.

BOXING

another title was coming back to the west.

Lochaber's third finalist was 13-year-old Robbie Hall, who was up against Kinorth ABC's Conor McKenzie.

The boys had fought twice before, sharing a win apiece – and predictions of an even contest turned out to be spot on.

After two tight rounds, who had the greater stamina would prove crucial and Hall's solid combinations proved just enough to edge the verdict 10-8.

Lochaber Phoenix ABC official Steve Docherty was delighted with two golds and a silver.

He told the Oban Times: 'All three boys boxed well with Robbie gaining great experience in his first ever championship.'

'Chris proved once again the quality we know he has with probably his best ever win and James is maybe the most improved young boxer in Scotland this season with incredible powers of concentration.'



Gordy MacKinnon foiled by Skye keeper Michael Nicolson in the first half - 20_f07fort02

Magnificent seven for Fort William against Skye

SHINTY

Kenny MacLeod fired his effort over the bar.

Fort stepped up a gear and finally broke the deadlock after moving Gordie MacKinnon to full forward.

MacKinnon grabbed four of Fort's goals, while Ryan Campbell hit the back of the net twice. Alexander MacMillan also got on the score sheet, with Will Cowie netting a consolation for the islanders.



West Highland Wheelers line up for the Winter Series race at Inchree.

Wheelers visit trails above Inchree

CYCLING

THE NEVIS Cycles-sponsored West Highland Wheelers Winter League visited the well-loved trails above Inchree on Sunday with Joe Barnes once again far too strong for the field.

Joe came in well ahead of a closely fought battle for second place, in which Ewan Thorburn won out against Huw Oliver by just two seconds.

Meanwhile, Roger Gibbons was walking his dog before the start, noticed the signage and decided to nip home for his bike – just showing that the Wheelers welcome all hardy souls!

Gary MacDonald, the Kinlochleven trials bike rider, continued his fine form on engineless wheels to cross the finish line in fourth.

There were some fine tussles in the middle of the field too with John Macrae leading a posse

of perspiring pursuers.

Fiona Beattie took the ladies race from Hannah Barnes to take a clear lead in the series.

Meanwhile, Roger Gibbons was walking his dog before the start, noticed the signage and decided to nip home for his bike – just showing that the Wheelers welcome all hardy souls!

Thanks go to the Dent family for a very well run event. Next round is at Duror on Sunday 24th February.

Spean slope off with the title

SKIING

SPEAN Bridge Primary School has won the Nevis Range qualifier for the 2013 Scottish Alpine Series, organised by Snowsport Scotland.

Finlay Cameron, Alasdair Poll, Jochem Baak and Ben Fulford claimed first place in the entry-level primary school category.

Spean's success came a day before Glencoe Mountain Ski Centre hosted the third qualifier, the West of Scotland schools race.

A sunny day with a moderate westerly breeze greeted the 70 racers to a course of 20 mixed slalom and grans slalom gates, set down a run known as Happy Valley.

Snow conditions were firm and some great skiing was on show from both primary and secondary pupils.

Oban High School A and B teams secured silver and bronze in the secondary category and the Nether Lochaber group of primaries claimed silver in the primary sections.

The winning schools were:

- Morrisons/Dalmally/St Fillans Cooperative; Primary, experienced racers - Bearsden Primary; Secondary, entry level - McLaren High School, Stirling;

- Secondary, experienced racers - Bearsden Academy B Team. With the Glencoe, Glenshee and Nevis series qualifiers

now complete there remains only one more qualifying race at The Lecht on 21st February when schools can qualify for the

finals to be held at Cairngorm on March 15.



Nevis Range winners Spean Bridge: left to right, Finlay Cameron, Alasdair Poll, Jochem Baak and Ben Fulford f07ski2no

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This week's nearest ball winners, who each receive

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D MacNeil

Castle Bay, Isle of Barra

L Wilson

Taynuilt, Argyll

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochgilphead, 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.

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.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Fort need to pick up the pieces after defeat at Rothes

FORT WILLIAM

FORT WILLIAM will endeavour to pick up the pieces against Inverurie Locos at Claggan Park on Saturday after losing 5-0 at Rothes last time out.

Now manager Danny Conlon has the task of preparing for Locos and must do without keeper Bell, whose is on loan from Saturday's opponents. Striker Davie Forbes could also be missing through work commitments.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'We are still in shock about Saturday's result – it does not give a true picture of the game.'

'All the players said at training last night (Monday) they had a really bad weekend. Now we have to try to get the heads back up.'

Lochaber rugby boys back in action

RUGBY

LOCHABER RFC kick off again to Ross Sutherland on Saturday after a break for Scotland's internationals against England and Italy.

RBS Caledonia League Div 2 North has been split and with Lochaber now sitting in the bottom half the club aims to finish strongly and head the rankings. The first home game will be on March 2.

Leisure defeat rivals Achintore

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER Leisure edged clear at the top of the Ali Young Indoor Premier League after defeating rivals Achintore FC 2-0 in the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

The Goon Squad consolidated their third place with a 6-2 win over Portoway, while Ballachulish were held to a 0-0 draw by Caol FC.

All Blacks moved up to sixth with a fine 3-0 win over HW Energy No Stars and Old Codgers defeated bottom club AA Young by the same score.

Graeme has top individual game

TEN PIN BOWLING

TOP individual games this week came from Graeme Robertson of Splitheads with 192 scratch, 247 handicap. Brian Stewart (Council) chipped in with a 171. Graeme Robertson also had the top two-game series with 314 scratch, 424 handicap.

Top team games of the week were 573 scratch from Alleycats and 790 handicap from Council. The best scratch two-game team series was 1138 from Alleycats whilst the best handicap two-game series was 1524 from Splitheads.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelock (Alleycats) with 166, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 154 and Rossamy Wareing (Ardtoe/Radio 4) & Colin Pinkett (Council) sharing third on 147.

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Association agrees three law changes

THE Camanachd Association has announced the following three changes to ByeLaw 3 which were agreed at a recent board meeting and will be in place for the coming shinty season:

1: The Competitions Working Group, after consultation with clubs in Marine Harvest North Division One, proposed that a third round of fixtures be played again this season, with these being a reverse of the third round of fixtures which were scheduled last season.

Non fulfilment
The sanction for non fulfilment of a third round match will be the

same as for the first two rounds of fixtures and this was agreed by the Board.

2: Beauly Shinty Club proposed that 'Any four of the ten players named in the player pool can feature in a reserve league fixture. There is no restriction on how many times a 'named player' can feature in league fixture for the reserve team over the course of the season'. The Board agreed an amendment to the proposal of reducing the four to two and that it would be reviewed at the end of the 2013 season.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank the clubs for submitting these proposals and would welcome new proposals for future seasons.

3: Aberdour Shinty Club proposed that in addition to the existing sanctions for non

SHINTY

fulfilment of fixtures in Marine Harvest North Division Three and Marine Harvest South Division Two, the team which is responsible for causing the fixture to be cancelled will also be deducted one point as a penalty for not completing the fixture.

This was agreed by the board and will be implemented for the 2013 season.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank the clubs for submitting these proposals and would welcome new proposals for future seasons.

Lisa Norman announced as new WCA President

THE Women's Camanachd Association (WCA) has announced Lisa Norman is the new president of the association.

Lisa is taking up the post vacated by Fiona Mathie at the end of 2012 because of work commitments. The WCA is extremely pleased Lisa has accepted the voluntary post of president and looks forward to working with her to further the development and success of women's shinty.

Lisa currently plays for Glasgow Mid Argyll women's team in Marine Harvest National Division One and for Aberdour Mens second team in South Division Two. Holding an impressive eight Scotland caps and two Valerie Fraser Cup winners medals, Lisa is an experienced and successful women's shinty player.

Off the field, Lisa founded Aberdour Shinty Club in 2001 and is currently head coach

at the club where she coaches players from primary school level through to senior men's shinty.

Lisa is no stranger to the WCA, having previously held the position of president in the early years of the association and holding the post of international co-ordinator for several years. Given Lisa's wealth of experience in shinty coupled with her full time job as sports development officer for Fife Council, the WCA is confident she will be able to both advise and guide the committee to further growth and success in the women's game.

On taking up her new post Lisa said: 'I am delighted to once again be taking up the role of women's president.'

The WCA has moved on so much in the last few years and the dedication and fresh ideas of outgoing president Fiona Mathie has left a lasting impact on the game. It is vital this momentum

SHINTY

OBAN CELTIC retained the Robert Wylie Memorial Cup on Saturday after an entertaining match against Strathglass at Mossfield that was well handled by referee Billy Wotherspoon.

A spectacular Lee Askew strike eight minutes from the time secured a 3-2 win for the hosts, who retained the cup in memory of their former player.

In what was Celtic's first pre-season match, they came out of the blocks surprisingly quickly and David Hill had them 1-0 up within 25 minutes.

However, a lucky deflection presented Strathglass with their first real chance and they converted just before half time.

Strathglass looked the better team after the interval and quickly took the lead following a defensive lapse.

It took until the 75th minute for Celtic to even the tie through Scott Burnett, as the play began to flow from end to end but Askew had the final word with his winner on 82 minutes.

Robert's sister Lorna presented the cup to Celtic captain John Hill at the close of play.

Oban Celtic next play Inveraray at Mossfield on February 23.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS continued their good pre-season form with a 3-0 victory over Kilmory at Ganavan.

Craig 'Winky' MacDougall scored twice and Malcolm Clark added another in a dominant first half display. There was no further scoring in the second half.

Lochside are away to Tayforth this weekend.

TAYNUILT'S new manager Willie Gillies said his team dominated against Fort William 2nds last Saturday despite being on the wrong end of a 2-1 scoreline.

David Campbell scored for the home side but despite playing some good shinty, Taynuilt were unable to capitalise on scoring opportunities.

Taynuilt travel to play Invergarry this Saturday, before hosting Kyles Athletic's second team the following week.

Willie said: 'We should have scored more goals. I was impressed with how we played but the final ball wasn't good enough.'

Having retired from playing last season, Willie has challenged the younger players in the squad to realise their potential and stake a claim for a first team place.

INVERARAY coasted to a 7-0 win over visitors **STRACHUR** on Saturday with Lewis MacNicol netting four times for the Royal Burgh.

Both teams took the opportunity to give some juniors a run out and teenagers Robert Wood and Fraser Watt impressed for the home side.

MacNicol (2) and Stuart Robertson made the half time score 3-0 before another two goals from the 19-year-old and further strikes from interim manager Garry MacPherson and Chris Crawford in the second half completed the rout.

The emergence of such young talent will be a relief to Inveraray who have lost the services of the retired Scott Robertson and talisman Russell McKinlay who is unable to play this season.



Oban Celtic with the Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy.

Celtic retain Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy



Oban Celtic's John Turnbull gets his block in during last Saturday's match against Strathglass at Glencruitten.

Inveraray next play Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday at home, weather permitting.

KILMALLIE'S preparations for life in Marine Harvest north division one got off to an impressive start as they defeated Kinlochshield 2-0 at Canal Parks on Saturday.

A decent crowd turned up to watch Duncan Kelly's first game in charge of the Caol-based team and they left happy after seeing a promising performance.

Despite missing John Stewart and Liam MacDonald through injury, Kilmallie impressed up front and in defence during a game which proved ill-tempered at times.

The Jubilee Park saw the next stage of the **BALLACHULISH** revival with a friendly fixture against Kilmallie's second team.

The game started openly with Kilmallie having the best of the early exchanges.

Ballachulish scored, almost

against the run of play in the 15th minute with an impressive

flowing move involving all the forwards and finished sharply by Duncan MacDonald.

Two further goals from Scott Henderson made it 3-0 at half time.

The home team had the comfort of making as many as seven changes in the second half without any weakening of the team including confident shows from 14-year-olds Cian MacPhee and Alistair MacDonald.

Substitute Garry Young got two goals, Scott Henderson completed his hat trick and the scoring was finished at 7-0 by Jamie 'Tiger' MacLean.

Ballachulish have a free Saturday this week before a visit to Strathglass on February 23.



Shiel's Keith MacRae and Kilmallie's Iain Robertson chase down the ball during Saturday's friendly.

Opening fixtures for the start of the new season

SHINTY

THE shinty season starts on Saturday 2 March with the following fixtures:

Orion Group Premiership
Inveraray v Fort William
Kinlochshield v Kingussie
Kyles Ath v Oban Camanachd
Lochaber v Lovat
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kilmallie v Beauly
Skye v Inverness
Strathglass v Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy v Aberdour
Lochside Rovers v Kilmylor
Oban Celtic v Strachur
Taynuilt v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Beauly
Glengarry v Aberdeen Uni
Glenurquhart v Newtonmore
Kingussie v Kinlochshield
Lovat v Skye

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour v Col Glen
Ballachulish v Bute
Glasgow MA v Inveraray
Tayforth v Kyles Athletic

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine v Lewis
Caberfeidh v Kilmallie
Inverness v Strathglass
Lochcarron v Lochbroom
Strathspey v Lochaber

Stableford results from Glencruitten

GOLF

THE CLUB'S Stableford competition has been running most Saturdays, weather permitting, throughout the winter.

This competition has become very popular, attracting up to 30 competitors per week.

It is a credit to Dougie MacIntyre, head greenkeeper and his staff that the competitors have been able to play on the big greens.

Last Saturday there were 29 competitors and the winner was Steven McCuish who won with 41 points.

Result: 1 Steven McCuish 41 (16); 2 Stuart Cameron 39 (15); 3 Iain McCuish 38 (06); 4 Innes MacColl 38 (17); 5 John MacKinnon Jnr 38 (05); 6 John MacKinnon 37 (11); 7 Alan Garrett 37 (08); 8 Steven Murphy 36 (23).

Magnus trains with senior Scotland squad

RUGBY

JUNIOR international Magnus Bradbury got a glimpse of senior international rugby after joining a training session ahead of Scotland's victory over Italy last weekend.

The 17-year-old was one of seven lucky youth players selected to join the 23-man senior squad for a training session before the Six Nations match.

Merchiston Castle School pupil Magnus, who was captain of the Scotland under-17s last year, was due to play yesterday (Wednesday) for an under-18 Edinburgh/Borders select against a Glasgow/Caledonia team.

Meanwhile, younger brother Fergus has been selected for the Glasgow under-16s to play against Caledonia on February 20 at Murrayfield. These district matches are used by Scotland youth coaches to pick the Scottish age group squads.

Important shinty dates for 2013 season

SHINTY

THE Camanachd Association has announced the key dates for shinty in 2013 including the season start date and the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final.

The dates for 2013 are as follows:

- Season start 2 March
- The MacTavish Cup Final 15 June at Bught Park, Inverness
- The AJG Parcels Celtic Cup Final 29 June
- The Balliemore Cup Final 13 July
- The Sutherland Cup Final 27 July
- The Artemis Macaulay Cup Final 17 August at Mossfield Stadium, Oban
- The Bullough Cup Final 31 August
- The Strathearn Cup Final 31 August
- The Women's Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Finals 7 September
- The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final 14 September at Aird, Fort William
- The Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International: Scotland v Ireland 20 October at Croke Park, Dublin and 26 October at Bught Park, Inverness.

Atlantis Leisure Winter League

INDOOR FOOTBALL

RESULTS: Glenorchy 8, OES 2; OHS 5, Handy Men 2.

Fixtures (Sunday): 5pm Royal Hotel v The Handy Men; 5.30pm Oban Times v Atlantis; 6.40pm RM Builders v Carpet Fitters; 7.30pm Glenorchy v Oban High School; 8.20pm Stoddarts T&T v OES.

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atlantis	6	6	0	0	18
Carpet Fitters	7	6	0	1	18
RM Builders	7	6	0	1	18
Oban High	7	5	1	2	16
Oban Times	7	5	0	2	15
Stoddarts T&T	6	2	1	3	7
The Handy Men	8	2	0	6	6
Glenorchy	8	2	0	6	6
Royal Hotel	6	1	0	5	3
OES	7	1	0	6	3



The victorious Oban A team.

Brags rights for Oban Badminton Club as they lift the Argyll Cup

OBAN Badminton Club has won the county's bragging rights after winning the annual Argyll Cup.

The Oban A team won its section in the mixed doubles team event with 35 wins. Dunoon were runners-up with 26 wins, while the combined Mid Argyll/Campbeltown team recorded 13 wins.

There were some excellent performances across both the A and C tournaments, held in Oban's Atlantis Leisure.

Most notable performance in the Oban A team was from the pairing of Debbie Craig and Gregor Brydon. High school pupil Gregor is still eligible to play

INDOOR FOOTBALL

at under-19 level but stepped up well to adult competition and the pair won eight out of a possible 10 games.

The C cup was hotly contested and Dunoon marginally edged out Oban to take it by four wins. Elliot Dougall and Gillian MacCorquodale of Oban did their best to give Oban a double victory, recording an impressive 10 out of 10 wins.

The day was followed by a meal and disco in the rugby club. Next year the competition will be held in Dunoon.

Saints battle through after losing two early goals

'We played some good football and fully deserve to be in the last 32 of the competition'

Scottish Amateur Cup
5th round

Burntisland United 2

THIS 5th round Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup tie finally got played at the fourth time of asking when the match was switched from Burntisland to Oban.

The Fife team had three attempts to get the game played, but these were all called off due to their pitch being unplayable and with the 6th and 7th rounds of the Scottish Cup already drawn it left secretary George Watson no option but to order the game to be switched to Oban.

As if they had something to prove, Burntisland started the game at a whirlwind pace and showed their intentions when a great shot from James Woodhouse whistled past Daniel Cassells' left hand post in the first minute.

The home side were a bit sluggish in the opening exchanges and it was United who looked the better team.

Etive Vikings come out on top

YOUTH RUGBY

ETIVE Vikings hosted the latest round of the Dalriada Tournament in Taynuilt on Sunday, when more than 50 youngsters took part.

Oban Lorne and Isle of Mull made up the three-team tournament, the first Dalriada of 2013. The hosts won all their games on the day and were awarded with medals and Dalriada trophies.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright said: 'The standard of all the players has improved vastly since the start of the season, which is down to the hard work of the volunteer coaches.'

Mini Rugby sessions are held every week at local clubs as follows: Oban Lorne RFC, Sundays 1-2pm at Glencruitten; Isle of Mull RFC, Sundays, 11am-12pm at Harmony; Etive Vikings RFC Wednesdays, 6-7pm at Taynuilt Playing Fields.

Burntisland took the lead in the 12th minute when Ben Couper got in front of Craig MacEwan at a free kick to head the ball home. This was a poor goal for Saints to lose at a set-piece.

Eventually the home side settled down and got their passing game going, taking the game to their Fife opponents, and created a couple of chances, but they were to find the United keeper Craig Downie in outstanding form, pulling off some great saves during the 90 minutes.

Arrears

The Oban side found themselves 2-0 in arrears in the 19th minute when they gave the ball away in midfield. A well worked Burntisland move carved open the home defence and Craig McCall was lurking at the back post to slide the ball home.

The home side looked to be in big trouble, and facing a mountain to climb, but this squad never lies down and they came storming back and should have got on the scoresheet in the 23rd

FOOTBALL

minute when the ball was played square across the goalmouth for Keith Millar, but he knocked the ball over the bar when it looked easier to score.

Saints had their tails up now and were putting the Burntisland rearguard under pressure but not for the first time in the game keeper Craig Downie denied the home side with a great save.

The home side pulled a goal back two minutes before half time when Donald Campbell was unceremoniously upended in the box leaving referee John Scott, who had a good game, no option but to point to the spot.

Donald dusted himself down and slammed the ball home to make the half time score 2-1.

Saints came flying out of the blocks at the start of the second half, but it was at the other end that Daniel Cassells had to make a great fingertip save to touch the ball round the post to deny United a third goal.

The home side were playing some good one-touch football

and were unlucky not to have

taken the lead in the 68th minute when a Willie Gemmell pile-driver crashed off the bar and was scrambled clear.

However, the third goal that

Saints were desperately looking for arrived two minutes later when Donald Campbell was sent clear and this time the Saints

front man made no mistake,

thumping a great left foot shot in

off the keeper's left hand post to give the Oban side the lead for the first time in the match.

The homesters had several other good opportunities to kill

the game off, but again that man Downie between the sticks for United denied the Saints strike force with some excellent saves.

The best was a save from Craig MacEwan with his legs.

With nothing to lose the visitors pushed more men forward in attempt to get an equaliser that would take the game back to Burntisland, but by this time the Oban team had introduced Marc MacCallum and Jamie Graham to strengthen the defensive unit and shut up shop.

Entertaining

The Oban side played out time and in the end ran out 3-2 winners in an entertaining Scottish Cup tie and a place in the last 32 of the competition.

The homesters had several other good opportunities to kill the game off, but again that man Downie between the sticks for United denied the Saints strike force with some excellent saves.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

they knuckled down and fought back from 2-0 down. We played some good football on the day and fully deserve to be in the last 32 of the competition which started with nearly 700 teams.

'The scoreline could, and should have been a lot better as we missed three or four great chances and their keeper had a string of brilliant saves.'

This Saturday Saints stay on

Scottish Cup duty when they

take on top Caledonian League

side Cambusbarron Rovers in

the 7th round of the competition.

The Stirling team knocked

Saints out of the cup last season,

so this is a great chance to gain a bit of revenge.

The game will be played at

Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Home advantage pays dividends in cup semi-finals

POOL

THE Oban Filling Station Cup will have a new name engraved on it this year as Markie Dans 'A' and the Lochavullin took full advantage of being the home sides in their respective semi-finals.

Current league leaders and champions Markie Dans 'A' proved too strong for the Cellar, booking their place in the final without the need for any doubles matches.

The Cellar, having been the form team in recent weeks, will be disappointed in the manner of which their crown was so easily taken from them.

In the other semi-final the Lochavullin came through what can only be described as an ill-tempered clash against the Lancaster 'A'. Despite twice being behind the Lochavullin eventually took control and confirmed their final spot on March 14.

Results: Markie Dans 'A' 5, Cellar 1; Lochavullin 5, Lancaster 'A' 2

This week's fixtures: Markie Dans 'B' v Lochavullin; Kelvin v Markie Dans 'A'; Lancaster 'A' v Lancaster 'B'; Gluepot v Cellar; Claredon v Lochnall

Player of the Year standings:
1 Jim Muir - Markie Dans 'A';
2 Barry Clark - Lancaster 'A';
Geo Adam - Cellar; 4 Richard MacDougall - Lancaster 'A';
5 Laura-ann Sneddon - Lancaster 'B'; 6 Gordon McKenzie - Cellar; 7 Mark MacDougall - Cellar; 8 Colin Maxwell - Cellar; 9 Donnie MacLean - Lochnall; 10 Gerry Davies - Markie Dans 'A'

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results:
Friendly - Dumbarton Riverside 1, Under 14s 7. On target for Saints were Jay Cooper (3), Arik MacKechnie (3) and Owen Neilson. Under 15s, and Under 16s had no games. Under 17s 0, Harmony Row 6.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Drumchapel United; Lenzie Colts v Under 16s.

Green Machine back in action

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne are back in West Division 3 action this Saturday and are looking for revenge against promotion-chasing Uddington at Glencreuitten.

The visitors inflicted Oban's only defeat of the 2012/13 season so far when the Green Machine found itself on the wrong end of a 27-12 scoreline last October.

A win could potentially lift Oban Lorne to joint first place in the table with two games in hand against current leaders Loch Lomond, who have a tricky home game against third-placed Isle of Arran.

Oban Lorne versus Uddington will kick off at 3pm.

Oban Ladies will also be in action this Sunday at home to Kirkcaldy with a 1pm kick off.



Burntisland sweeper Sean Marshall brings Donald Campbell down in the box, leaving referee John Scott no option but to point to the penalty spot. Donald scored from the resultant penalty kick. Photo: Stephen Lawson

More international honours for young Oban golfer



Scotland cap Robert MacIntyre hopes to take excellent national form onto the international stage. t07bob01

GOLF

what squad will be there on the day.

'I'm really chuffed to be called up but I will be quite nervous during the competition.'

'Whatever happens, it will be a good experience for me.'

Runner-up

Left-hander Robert was runner-up in the Scottish Boys Under-16 Stroke Play last year.

Scotland team for the Boys Quadrangular 2013: George Burns (Williamwood); Ewen Ferguson (Bearsted); Bradley Neil (Blairgowrie); Conor Syme (Dumfries & Galloway); Alan Waugh (Cowglen). Reserve: Calum Hill (Tantallon).

The event format will be over three foursomes ties and six singles matches (36 holes per day).

He added: 'As a non-statutory service within the council, we

Flagship coaching event could be axed in council's proposed budget cuts

COACHING

have had to absorb reductions in budget, staff and investment, but this has made us more focused on partnership working.

'The ending of the coaching champions weekend will not stop sport growing in the area as the numbers who have been supported and trained will suggest.'

'It will be important to reappraise the situation at a future date in order to prioritise if necessary the support organisations receive.'

Incomprehensible'

But the proposal to shelf Coaching Champions was described as 'incomprehensible' by opposition councillor Rory Colville.

'This event gained a London Inspire Award in 2012 and the council papers acknowledge that it is a best practice example of coaching qualification development,' he said.

Nick Wesley, general manager of Atlantis Leisure, which hosted many of the events, said: 'We

are very proud to be involved in Coaching Champions. It is a very cost effective way of training volunteers and Atlantis coaching staff have benefited hugely from it being based here.'

'It means that more people get trained because it is a local event.'

Davie Buchanan, secretary of Oban Saints AFC criticised the planned cut. Davie, who has volunteered with the club for more than 40 years, said: 'I think this is a big mistake. Sports clubs, from football to shiny to swimming, are reliant on the volunteers who offer their time freely to develop sport in Argyll for the young people.'

'Coaching Champions has enabled this to happen for the last few years, equipping hundreds of volunteers with the skills and qualifications needed to coach sport effectively.'

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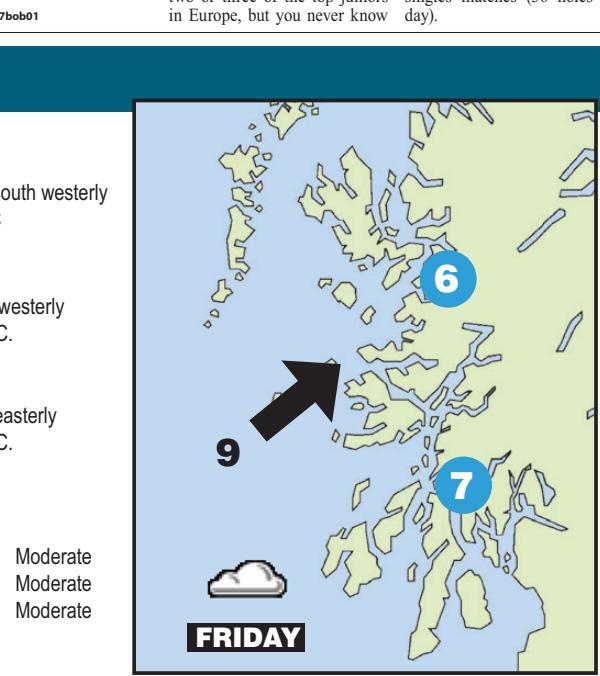


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Weather

Thursday	Light rain Winds moderate, west south westerly Temperatures 5C to 7C
Friday	Cloudy Winds light, west south westerly Temperatures 4C to 7C.
Weekend	Light rain Outlook Winds moderate south easterly Temperatures 6C to 7C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist
Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay



Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, February 14, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	02.16	0.7	08.04 4.0 14.35 0.9 20.09 3.7
Fri	02.51	0.9	08.37 3.7 15.11 1.2 20.39 3.5
Sat	03.28	1.2	09.12 3.4 15.51 1.4 21.13 3.3
Sun	04.09	1.5	09.50 3.2 16.39 1.7 21.54 3.1
Mon	04.59	1.8	10.42 2.9 17.36 1.8 22.50 2.9
Tues	06.03	2.0	12.42 2.7 18.43 1.9 **.**

The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.



HOMES & INTERIORS

SPECIAL ON PAGES 8 & 9



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Inside this week

Live shellfish supplier expands with bank backing from HSBC



Magnificent seven for Fort William against Skye



Also inside

- Hidden treasures
 - Don't buy it, hire it
 - Business section
- plus all the latest job vacancies and sports news



Bomb site: Willie Burke's caravan pitch on Tuesday after being dug up with earth moving equipment. Ardgour Community Council has condemned the move. 20_f07dig01



Willie Burke: heartbroken.
20_f07willie02

Outrage as site is destroyed

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

any authority or consent from the estate. He's dug up not only Willie's site but also the bit I use for my tractor to carry bait and diesel down. It's got to be tidied - it can't be left as it is. If he gets away with this what's the next thing he's going to do?

Mrs MacLean added: 'After the first time there was people volunteering to come along with spades and shovels to sort the damage, but after today [Monday] it's a machine that's needed.'

Speaking from his Ayrshire home on Tuesday, Mr Burke told *The Oban Times* his caravan was supposed to go in on February 19.

He said: 'When Fergie phoned last night it just broke my heart. I have tried everything, but I can't win. Last year the guy [Conaglen estate factor] said as long as there was just one caravan there was no problem.'

'Me and my wife were happy there for years. Since she died coming up there has kept me going. If the site was restored I would go back tomorrow.'

Conaglen Estate factor David Mosgrove had not provided a comment as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Body recovered from Loch Linnhe

THE BODY of a 51-year-old man was recovered from Loch Linnhe at Fort William on Sunday night.

Local Maritime and Coastguard Agency personnel pulled the body from the water just off the West End car park around 10pm. It is understood the man, who is not believed to be local, entered the water from the sea wall surrounding the car

park. A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'There do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.'



Dogdy diazepam supplier spared jail term

A CAOL man has avoided jail for supplying dogdy diazepam which landed himself and his pals in hospital.

And Sheriff Noel McPartlin told Stephen Hardie at Fort William Sheriff Court his actions could have had 'disastrous consequences'.

Hardie, 22, was appearing for sentencing after pleading guilty to being involved in supplying the impure Valium. He distributed the drug on April 21 and 22 at 35 Torlundy Road, Caol, and 87 Carn Dearg, Claggan, to Craig Love, Ruairidh Lappin, Keiran Donaldson and others. Defending, Stephen Kennedy said Hardie and four friends agreed to pool their money at a party to buy the Valium. Hardie took a taxi to meet 'an individual' - whom Hardie claimed

not to know - to purchase 100 tablets.

Mr Kennedy said: 'He had never previously used Valium and was curious about its effects. He brought the drugs back to the party and distributed them between his friends.'

'Unfortunately the drugs were bad. There seems to have been some sort of impurity and he and his friends were treated in hospital. Fortunately no long-term harm came to him or his friends. He made no financial gain from the transaction.'

Pleading for leniency, Mr Kennedy said:

'This has brought home to him how serious the offence could have been. He has shown genuine remorse and he accepts what he did was unacceptable.'

'He is aware an offence like this can often attract a custodial sentence.'

Sheriff McPartlin showed clemency and ordered Hardie to perform 150 hours of unpaid work in the community within six months.

He said: 'There was something wrong with the Valium and people ended up in hospital, including the accused.'

'This highlights the dangers of the drug. People became ill and there would be a cost to the public purse for hospital treatment, which I can't reflect in the sentence.'

Lochaber man placed on sex offenders' register

A LOCHABER man caught in possession of 53 indecent images of children has been placed on the sex offenders' register for two years.

And Cathel Gillanders must attend 40 sessions in a joint sex offenders project as part of his two-year probation.

Appearing for sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court, the 46-year-old had his lap top, flash drive, two memory sticks and a handheld personal digital assistant forfeited.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin also ordered the offshore worker to perform 200 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said Gillanders'

home was searched on May 13 2010 and 'various items' removed by police. Images had been sent to him as email attachments by the man he met in an internet chatroom whose email was known to police.

'Where he went wrong was he opened these and downloaded the attachments, keeping some and deleting others,' said Mr Melrose.

'Since then this matter has been hanging over him for the best part of three years.'

'He was fully co-operative with police and there was no denial about what had happened. He is very much hoping he will not lose his job. He is ashamed about his conduct and proper

revenge has been shown.' Gillanders, of Errach Drive, Caol, earlier admitted downloading indecent images of children between January 26 and May 13 2010.

Sheriff McPartlin told him: 'Obviously the court takes offences such as this very seriously as does society in general. The usual approach is to consider a custodial sentence but having heard what has been said on your behalf and the circumstances of the case, and having read the favourable reports on you, I think it is appropriate to proceed otherwise.'

Gillanders' parents were both in court to hear the verdict.



Nicola would like to thank everyone for coming along on the evening, the support that I have received since taking over has been overwhelming.

Thank you to customers for their continual support and I look forward to seeing them all in the future.

Also a huge thank you to Sheri, leanne, Dannie, most of all my mum, dad, family and friends"

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Woman denies fraud charges

A LOCHIELSIDE woman accused of fraudulently claiming more than £36,000 in benefits over six years is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 25.

Anne Mustarde 49, of Tigh Linn, Kinlochelie, denies pretending to have no savings to claim income support from the Department of Work and Pensions between July 2004 and August 2010. Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie expressed some concern about the trial date, as the Crown had yet to receive a request for disclosure of relevant documents from Ms Mustarde's solicitors.

School concern

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has expressed concern over the time being taken to build Portree's new Gaelic-medium education school.

Latest Highland Council timetables suggest work will not begin until 2015-16 at the earliest.

Mr Thompson hoped Highland Council could work with the Scottish Government to ensure the project is delivered 'as soon as possible'.

He added: 'Parents in Portree have clearly expressed their desire to see the new school in operation as soon as possible, and are understandably disappointed with the delays that have beset the project.'

Rollover jackpot

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £300 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw on Sunday.

Numbers in this week's draw were 2-3-6.



Roy Bridge Stores: set to stay open with a new coffee shop extension being planned. 20_f07shop01

Call for explanation as trial is postponed

THE TRIAL of two Lochaber men facing charges linked to a disturbance in Invergarry has been postponed until February 25.

Cameron MacInnes, 18, and Alexander Williamson, 23, were due to stand trial on Monday but Mr MacInnes' defence lawyer called off through duties at Glasgow Sheriff Court. Four witnesses were due to give evidence.

Sheriff Eric Brown told Fort William Sheriff Court the lawyer would be required to explain why he only gave notice he would not be present only the Friday before

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Assault trial date

THE TRIAL of a Caol man accused of assaulting a woman in her house has been put back to February 25.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard legal aid was not yet in place for Daniel Cameron, of 29 Camaghael Road, who denies repeatedly slapping the woman at her home in Mamore Crescent, Fort William, on January 12. Two witnesses are set to give evidence at the 38-year-old self-employed window cleaner's trial.

Case deserted

THE CASE against a Fort William man accused of brandishing a broken crutch has been deserted at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Scott Crichton, 20, of Flat 6, An Cala, Fassfern Road, had denied holding the walking aid in a threatening and menacing manner on the town's Union Road on December 11.

Onich pensioner escapes driving ban

AN ONICH pensioner has escaped a driving ban after he crashed his car coming down through Glencoe last summer.

Former coach driver David O'Neill was exiting the last corner below Glencoe gorge when his vehicle drifted across to the opposite verge, struck a rock and overturned. The July 20 accident closed the A82 in both directions.

Minutes earlier, the 80-year-old riskily overtook a van and a car at Glen Etive straight, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

O'Neill, of Muirkirk, admitted careless driving and forcing the van driver to brake sharply to avoid a collision.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Defending, Hamish Melrose said former colonial police officer O'Neill had been 'taking his time' coming home from a visit to England.

'He has never been in a situation like this before,' he said.

Points

Sheriff Eric Brown said 'rather than disqualification' he would fine O'Neill £220 and endorse his licence with six penalty points.

The sheriff noted that O'Neill already had three points on his licence from a speeding offence and warned him one more indiscretion could lead to a ban.

Roy Bridge village shop saved from closure

ROY Bridge village shop has been saved from possible closure and ambitious plans put in place to expand it with a coffee shop and public toilets.

Owners Lorna and Ray Weir told *The Oban Times* in December they were considering shutting the store after a downturn in business in 2012.

But their son Christopher and his partner Claire have taken over running the shop and hope the coffee shop will provide a boost to both the business and the village.

The pair have already submitted plans to Highland Council for a small cafe and toilets which will be available to the public. Ray

and seats inside for people who want to come in for a coffee. We've put plans into the planning office, so we've just got to wait to hear back from them.

Ray said he and his wife, who have owned the store since 2007, will continue to have a role in the shop's future.

He said: 'We looked at absolutely everything and we think having a wee coffee shop is the only way forward.'

'During summer, we have so many tourists coming in and asking for toilets so I think this will be a real benefit to the village.'

'And hopefully they'll buy some sweets or a coffee on the way out.'

'We'll have a takeaway menu

Groups outline Dornie play/sports area plan

DORNIE and District Community Council and Dornie Projects Group have written to our Highland Council leader Drew Hendry asking that land within the grounds of Graham House be converted into a play/sports area.

The letter, from DDCC chairman Shona MacLennan and DPG chairman John Don MacKenzie, proposes a three-way partnership under which the council and the two local groups would provide the facility for local youngsters.

The Lochalsh representatives state: 'In light of the political encouragement to facilitate

physical activity for social and health reasons as well as recognising the desires of our young people, we would request that the council, currently owner of Graham House and its surrounding land, contribute an area of the grounds (between one half and one acre) to enable our partnership to progress an outdoor multi-activity park for a wide age group.'

Funding

'With the council's contribution,

we would take this project

forward for funding and create a

best practice partnership which

would provide the facility for

local youngsters.'

The Lochalsh representatives

state: 'In light of the political

encouragement to facilitate

no outdoor facilities for play.'

On January 31, *The Oban Times*

reported local concerns about the deteriorating condition of Graham House, a former nursing home.

The building has been boarded

up and put on the market since it

closed two years ago.

So far, there have been no takers

for the extensive property.

The 1.41-acre site is currently

on the market for a reduced

asking price.

Offers in the region of

£175,000 are being sought.

A council spokesperson 'any

reasonable offer' to lease the

asset would be considered.

Trial stalls as solicitor dumps client

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

THE TRIAL of a man accused of assaulting three people during a fracas at a Fort William nightspot failed to go ahead after his solicitors dumped him.

Derek Cumming, appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday with co-accused, brothers Ian and Fraser Roy, discovered his lawyer had pulled out, leaving him with no legal representation.

Mr Cumming, 43, told Sheriff Eric Brown he had been in touch with his solicitor only last Friday and was unaware of the move.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'It is extremely unfortunate that we are in this situation.'

Six civilian witnesses and one police officer were due to give evidence, she said.

Rescheduling the trial for April 22, Sheriff Brown said: 'It is very unsatisfactory that one of the solicitors has had to pull out for reasons that have not been made clear to the court.'

Representation

He told Mr Cumming: 'It is up to yourself to find out why you have been left to yourself today. I would suggest you do something sooner rather than later with regard to your representation.'

Mr Cumming, of 22 The Avenue, Whitburn, denies punching Dennis Roy and Callum Duncan on the face during a birthday bash at the BA Club on November 3.

He also pleads not guilty to punching Sharon Cameron on the face, knocking her to the ground and kicking her on the face to her injury.

Ian Roy, 28, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan and Fraser Roy, 25, of 38 Blaeberryhill Road, Whiburn both deny repeatedly punching and kicking Dennis Roy on the head and body to his injury.

The pair previously admitted a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest. But further police inquiries resulted in more charges.

Fraser Roy is also accused of headbutting Callum Duncan and repeatedly striking him on the head and body to his injury.

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West Highlands and Islands Trade Show comes to town

MORE than 100 exhibitors representing the catering, refrigeration and hospitality industry will converge on Oban's Corran Halls later this month for one of the biggest trade events in Scotland.

The annual West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow on February 27 and 28, hosted by Forteith Foodservice, is open to trade only and the focus of the event is firmly on food and drink.

There will be an array new products and concepts plus promotional offers on show.

Forteith Foodservice has been successfully trading in the West Highlands and Islands since 1955 and says it organises the trade show because it has empathy for, and an understanding of, the pressures on local independent caterers.

Burns event brings Lorn area schools together



Some of the children with Bill Griffiths and John MacLean.
16_07burns01

HUNDREDS of local school children took part in a Burns event – organised by pupils – in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Monday.

The event, funded by Oban Burns Club, saw children from different primary schools coming together to compete in art, poetry, singing and instrumental competitions.

Pupils from Taynuilt, Rockfield, St Columba's, Kilniver, Lochmell, Barcaldine and Ardchattan made up the 426 entries on the day and enjoyed a theatre group in the afternoon.

The Burns club awarded £500 to help the children stage the event and John MacLean, president of the club, said the quality on show was ‘absolutely tremendous’ – so much so they would be offering the money again next year.

Berni McMillan, head teacher of Kilniver Primary School, said it had been a successful day thanks to the children planning ahead. She added: ‘They worked together to organise this as they have an interest in Burns. The pupil council committee from three schools met and discussed what they wanted and how they wanted to do it. They planned the whole thing, found the theatre company and arranged the hall. I think they did a great job. This is the first time we have done something between schools but plan to have it again next year with more schools involved.’

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Lewis Salmon is purchased by Marine Harvest

MARINE Harvest Scotland has bought Western Isles-based Lewis Salmon as part of its ongoing expansion to meet global demand for farmed salmon.

But as Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland explained, a major reason for the purchase is to maintain fish health.

‘We operate a very strict regime on our farms to avoid the risk of spreading infection sea lice. For this to be effective, it’s best if we can manage all the farms within a particular loch. By purchasing Lewis Salmon we can grow the fish and allow sites in a way which protects fish welfare and maintains the high quality of the salmon.’

Amongst the assets which have been purchased for an undisclosed sum, are two fish farm sites at Loch Leurbost, including Crown Estate leases and SEPA discharge consents.

The pens, nets, vehicles and other equipment were also included in the sale together with the fish, which have since been harvested. The sites will now lie fallow for some time before being stocked at a time to fit in with the other farms in the area.

Small business being left behind by politicians

SMALL business owners are becoming ‘disenfranchised’ from politicians after previous promises to reduce red tape were left unfulfilled.

Phil Orford, chief executive at the small business support and lobby group, the Forum of Private Business, said 2013 will see significant amendments to legislation and HMRC



Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland

Alan Sutherland added: ‘We’ve been salmon farmers in the Outer Hebrides for a long time now and we’re proud to grow our salmon in such pristine waters and also to employ local people in what are often fragile, rural economies.

The purchase of Lewis salmon will help to secure existing jobs in the area and allow us to continue to grow salmon of outstanding quality.’

rules which business owners need to plan for. He accused government of pandering to big business and forgetting about the small enterprises that drive the economy. Mr Orford added: ‘When economic times are tough, politicians need to provide leadership and look beyond short-term political survival strategies.’

Isle of Bute to host tourism industry summit

THE MARBLE Hall at Mount Stuart, Bute, will host the third annual Argyll and the Isles Tourism Summit next month, with the organisers hoping to build on last year’s success.

Aiming at the upcoming focus on Scotland in 2014 with the Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup coming to the country in the year of Homecoming, the summit will launch its now uniquely Argyll website on the day, as well previewing the new ‘Argyll Street’ display for this year’s national tourism Expo.

Mike Story, executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, said: ‘I am looking forward to welcoming old friends and new delegates to this stunning venue to discuss how to capitalise on our vast and unique regional assets.’

To book a place, visit tourismsummit2013.eventzilla.net.

Past president wins Oban Camera Club

‘Isolation’ competition

OBAN Camera Club’s recent competition was entitled ‘Isolation’ and attracted a reasonable number of entries. Members interpreted the theme in various ways and it was down to the visiting judge Roy Gibson, a respected member of Ayr Photographic Society, to decide.

Second and third places were awarded to Maurice Wilkins for a moody winter scene of an isolated cottage and a remote white building across the fields at Kilniver with the sea as a background.

Selected in first place was an image of a lone rowan tree at Wee Ganavan silhouetted against a dramatic sky, taken by went to past president Alex Clark. He received the coveted Laird Parker Trophy and a Websters Camera Shop voucher. See www.obancp.co.uk for images.

New members always welcome at the club’s weekly Monday night meetings in the Regent Hotel, Oban at 7.30pm.

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All Argyll to feel the pinch

This week's budget will affect everyone

FROM primary school children to elderly residents, commuters to businesses, everyone in Argyll and Bute likely to feel the pinch when the area’s budget is delivered this week.

The full council will meet at Kilmory on Thursday to propose what has already been described as the ‘Valentine’s Day Massacre’ by the deputy leader of the opposition Ellen Morton.

Helensburgh councillor James Robb – who has been touted to take on the leadership role if, as expected, Oban’s Roddy McCuish

“The one thing we can never forget with a budget is it is about people.”

Councillor James Robb

stands down from the position at the meeting – acknowledges this year’s budget won’t be popular, but believes the measures outlined are the best available.

If passed, the budget will broadly shave three per cent from all budgets, with fees for many services set to rise by at least the same margin.

Road repairs

Milk will be removed from primary school meals. Meals on Wheels costs will increase by 32 per cent to make the service self funding and road repairs will be less frequent as up to 20 full time equivalent posts go from the roads operations department.

Streets will also be cleaned less and businesses forced to pay more as the council strives to meet savings targets of £5.8million a year over the next seven years.

Even leisure services won’t escape the cuts, with Atlantis Leisure in Oban warning it would ‘not be able to exist as it does now’ if a deferred £12,000 cut to its service level agreement is passed.

Some 430 full time equivalent positions will be made redundant if the proposals are passed as the council aims to axe 670 positions.

For our full budget run-down, see page 7.



Young Highland cattle showman Dougie MacDonald, Benderloch, gets to grips with the task. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

Starting young in the Highland show ring

ONE OF the youngest local handlers at last Sunday’s Highland Cattle Society Show at Oban Livestock Centre was 10-year-old Dougie MacDonald, from Tyree, Benderloch.

The youngster, who aims to have his own farm when he’s

older, was helping Duncan Buchanan of Shenvallie, Benderloch, in the busy yearling

classes.

Dougie led out the red yearling heifer, Peigi 6th of Benmeanach, which took a second in class award and went on to be sold at

Monday’s sale to Andy Smith, Fort William, for 480gns. He has helped his father Douglas to several awards. He said: ‘The best bit is getting the rosettes, I’ve been showing Highlanders for three years and got a first at the Highland cattle show last year. I also won at Lorn, Tiree and Lochgilphead.’

Working hard

The youngster has been working hard on the farm after school every night and at the weekends and looks forward to the summer show circuit where

Oban and Lorn could have voluntary care ‘Hub’

VOLUNTARY care services for Oban and Lorn could be gathered under one roof as those in the sector make plans for the future.

Common clients

Given the working title ‘The Hub’, the one-stop shop model would be based on the North Argyll Carers Centre (NACC), which houses a number of services that have common clients.

Dr Mac Armstrong, chairman of Oban Hospice, said: ‘At the moment The Hub is just a twinkle in the eye but we have come to realise that lots of

organisations support the same people.

The Hub idea reflects the re-

alisation that in the future people

will be treated in, or near, their own homes and volunteers will be key to delivering services.

‘We’ve gone from saying

‘someone should do something about this’, to ‘what can we do about this?’

Organisations like the NACC and initiatives like our Oban Hospice Community Service are working examples of policy still being developed elsewhere – we are ahead of the game.’

The movement has attracted interest from a number of volunteer services and received the backing of local councillors Louise Glen Lee and Elaine Robertson.

A steering group will now be formed to take the plan forward and secure funding for new premises before opening it out to other groups.

Philip White, chairman of

NACC’s board of trustees, admitted the carers’ centre would outgrow its current Albany Street premises in five to 10 years, regardless of whether

he has helped his father Douglas to several awards. He said: ‘The best bit is getting the rosettes, I’ve been showing Highlanders for three years and got a first at the Highland cattle show last year. I also won at Lorn, Tiree and Lochgilphead.’

The Hub is in existence. He said: ‘We have to be careful we don’t include everyone in this at the start because the plan would never get off the ground.’

We need to form a steering group to see if this is feasible. Do we all want the same thing from this and are we all on board with it? If not, we will go our separate ways.’

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FW

Saints battle through after losing two early goals

'We played some good football and fully deserve to be in the last 32 of the competition'

Scottish Amateur Cup
5th round

Oban Saints 3

Burntisland United 2

THIS 5th round Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup tie finally got played at the fourth time of asking when the match was switched from Burntisland to Oban.

The Fife team had three attempts to get the game played, but these were all called off due to their pitch being unplayable and with the 6th and 7th rounds of the Scottish Cup already drawn it left secretary George Watson no option but to order the game to be switched to Oban.

As if they had something to prove, Burntisland started the game at a whirlwind pace and showed their intentions when a great shot from James Woodhouse whistled past Daniel Cassells' left hand post in the first minute.

The home side were a bit sluggish in the opening exchanges and it was United who looked the better team.

Etive Vikings come out on top

YOUTH RUGBY

ETIVE Vikings hosted the latest round of the Dalriada Tournament in Taynuilt on Sunday, when more than 50 youngsters took part.

Oban Lorne and Isle of Mull made up the three-team tournament, the first Dalriada of 2013. The hosts won all their games on the day and were awarded with medals and Dalriada trophies.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright said: 'The standard of all the players has improved vastly since the start of the season, which is down to the hard work of the volunteer coaches.'

Mini Rugby sessions are held every week at local clubs as follows: Oban Lorne RFC, Sundays 1-2pm at Glencruitten; Isle of Mull RFC, Sundays, 11am-12pm at Garmany; Etive Vikings RFC Wednesdays, 6-7pm at Taynuilt Playing Fields.

Burntisland took the lead in the 12th minute when Ben Couper got in front of Craig MacEwan at a free kick to head the ball home. This was a poor goal for Saints to lose at a set-piece.

Eventually the home side settled down and got their passing game going, taking the game to their Fife opponents, and created a couple of chances, but they were to find the United keeper Craig Downie denied the home side with a great save.

The home side pulled a goal back two minutes before half time when Donald Campbell was unceremoniously upended in the box leaving referee John Scott, who had a good game, no option but to point to the spot.

Donald dived himself down and slammed the ball home to make the half-time score 2-1.

Saints came flying out of the blocks at the start of the second half, but it was at the end that Daniel Cassells had to make a great fingertip save to touch the ball round the post to deny United a third goal.

The home side looked to be in big trouble, and facing a mountain to climb, but this squad never lies down and they came storming back and should have got on the scoresheet in the 23rd

FOOTBALL

minute when the ball was played square across the goalmouth for Keith Millar, but he knocked the ball over the bar when it looked easier to score.

Saints had their tails up now and were putting the Burntisland rearguard under pressure but not for the first time in the game keeper Craig Downie denied the home side with a great save.

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The home side were playing some good one-touch football



Burntisland sweeper Sean Marshall brings Donald Campbell down in the box, leaving referee John Scott no option but to point to the penalty spot. Donald scored from the resultant penalty kick. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Saints were pushing forward at every opportunity and drew level in the 51st minute when they were awarded a free kick on the right hand side. Willie Gemmell fired over a great cross which was met by Alex Craik who outjumped the visiting defence to head the ball home 2-2 - game on.

The home side felt the match was there for the taking as the visitors seemed to tire as the second half wore on, but again they were finding the United keeper in tremendous form saving a point blank header from Craig MacEwan, a pile driver from Eddie Neilson and he smothered another chance from Donald Campbell.

The home side were playing some good one-touch football

and were unlucky not to have taken the lead in the 68th minute when a Willie Gemmell penalty-driver crashed off the bar and was scrambled clear.

However, the third goal that Saints were desperately looking for arrived two minutes later when Donald Campbell was sent clear and this time the Saints from man made no mistake, thumping a great left foot shot in off the keeper's left hand post to give the Oban side the lead for the first time in the match.

The home side had several other good opportunities to kill the game off, but again that man Downie between the sticks for United denied the Saints strike force with some excellent saves, the best was a save from Craig MacEwan with his legs.

With nothing to lose the visitors pushed more men forward in attempt to get an equaliser that would take the game back to Burntisland, but by this time the Oban team had introduced Marc MacCallum and Jamie Graham to strengthen the defensive unit and shut up shop.

Entertaining

The Oban side played out time and in the end ran out 3-2 winners in an entertaining Scottish Cup tie and a place in the last 32 of the competition.

Manager Iain Jackson was happy with the football his team played, but not with the goals his team lost. He said: 'We can't be giving away goals like the ones we did today, they were both individual errors.'

'However, credit to the lads

they knuckled down and fought back from 2-0 down. We played some good football on the day and fully deserve to be in the last 32 of the competition which started with nearly 700 teams.'

'The scoreline could, and should have been a lot better as we missed three or four great chances and their keeper had a string of brilliant saves.'

This Saturday Saints stay on Scottish Cup duty when they take on top Caledonian League side Cambusbarron Rovers in the 7th round of the competition.

The Stirling team knocked Saints out of the cup last season, so this is a great chance to gain a bit of revenge.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results:

Friendly - Dumbarston Riverside 1, Under 14s 7. On target for Saints were Jay Cooper (3), Arik MacKinnie (3) and Owen Neilson. Under 15s, and Under 16s had no games. Under 17s 0, Harmony Row 6.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Drumchapel United; Lenzie Colts v Under 16s.

Green Machine back in action

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne are back in West Division 3 action this Saturday and are looking for revenge against promotion-chasing Uddington at Glencruitten.

The visitors inflicted Oban's only defeat of the 2012/13 season so far when the Green Machine found itself on the wrong end of a 27-12 scoreline last October.

A win could potentially lift Oban Lorne to joint first place in the table with two games in hand against current leaders Loch Lomond, who have a tricky home game against third-placed Isle of Arran.

Oban Lorne versus Uddington will kick off at 3pm.

Oban Ladies will also be in action this Sunday at home to Kirkcaldy with a 1pm kick off.

More international honours for young Oban golfer



Scotland cap Robert MacIntyre hopes to take excellent national form onto the international stage. t07bob01

GOLF

what squad will be there on the day.

I'm really chuffed to be called up but I will be quite nervous during the competition.

'Whatever happens, it will be a good experience for me.'

Runner-up

Left-hander Robert was runner-up in the Scottish Boys Under-16s Stroke Play last year. Scotland team for the Boys Quadrangular 2013: George Burns (Williamwood); Ewen Ferguson (Bearsden); Robert MacIntyre (Glencruitten); Bradley Neil (Blairgowrie); Connor Syme (Dumfries & Galloway); Alan Waugh (Cowglen). Reserve: Calum Hill (Tantallon).

The 16 year old said: 'This is a big step up in competition for me, probably the biggest step I have had to make.'

'I know the French team will be strong, because they have two or three of the top juniors in Europe, but you never know

what will happen.'

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Runner-up

Chris takes North of Scotland title

Two golds and a silver for Lochaber Phoenix boxers in Aberdeen

REPORT BY

STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER Phoenix pocket dynamo Chris Bradley boxed superbly to take the North of Scotland Schoolboys Open Championship 46kg title last



Pocket dynamo: Chris Bradley is the new North of Scotland 46kg champion 20_f07boxing01

Youngsters start back after break

MINI RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club coaches are getting organised for the return of their young players following their eight-week winter break.

Mini rugby starts back at Banavie on Saturday from 10am to 11.30am and the club is inviting boys and girls from P3 to S2 to give the game a try. All coaches at the club are SRU trained and disclosure checked.

Club membership secretary Pauline Donaldson said: 'The club welcomes all parents who want to stay and wait for their children. The clubhouse is open where they can watch their child progress their rugby skills by waiting on the sidelines.'

'More installed as early favourites'

SHINTY

REIGNING champions Newtonmore have been installed as early favourites to win the Orion Group Premiership in 2013.

Fort William are third favourites on 5/1 to win the league, according to bookmakers in the town, while Lochaber are joint fourth at 10/1.

Kinlochshiel and newly promoted Oban Camanachd currently have the longest odds of winning at 33/1.

Saturday at Aberdeen – despite moving up a weight.

His opponent was the reigning Scottish and British champion in the division, Byron ABC's David Dalziel – who had beaten 16-year-old Bradley previously.

In a bout fought at a blistering pace Chris had edged ahead by the third only to be caught by a bomb of a right hand and left hook, which physically lifted him off his feet.

But the Fort William lad, the Scottish and British champ at 38kg, showed incredible resilience to come firing back immediately with combinations to take the initiative, deservedly earning the judges' verdict.

And Lochaber was celebrating again soon after when 15-year-old James Aitchison outpointed Aberdeen's Eddie Copland in his final.

After a tactical two rounds the fight was too close to call but Aitchison came into his own in the last to show why he is unbeaten this season and precision right crosses ensured

BOXING

another title was coming back to the west.

Lochaber's third finalist was 13-year-old Robbie Hall, who was up against Kinloch ABC's Conor McKenzie.

The boys had fought twice before, sharing a win apiece – and predictions of an even contest turned out to be spot on.

After two tight rounds, who had the greater stamina would prove crucial and Hall's solid combinations proved just enough to edge the verdict 10-8.

Lochaber Phoenix ABC official Steve Docherty was delighted with two golds and a silver.

He told the Oban Times: 'All three boys boxed well with Robbie gaining great experience in his first ever championship.'

'Chris proved once again the quality we know he has with probably his best ever win and James is maybe the most improved young boxer in Scotland this season with incredible powers of concentration.'



Gordy MacKinnon foiled by Skye keeper Michael Nicolson in the first half - 20_f07fort02

Magnificent seven for Fort William against Skye

Fort need to pick up the pieces after defeat at Rothes

FORT WILLIAM

FORT WILLIAM will endeavour to pick up the pieces against Inverurie Locos at Claggan Park on Saturday after losing 5-0 at Rothes last time out.

Now manager Danny Conlon has the task of preparing for Locos and must do without keeper Bell, whose is on loan from Saturday's opponents. Striker Davie Forbes could also be missing through work commitments.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'We are still in shock about Saturday's result – it does not give a true picture of the game.'

'All the players said at training last night (Monday) they had a really bad weekend. Now we have to try to get the heads back up.'

Lochaber rugby boys back in action

RUGBY

LOCHABER RFC kick off again to Ross Sutherland on Saturday after a break for Scotland's internationals against England and Italy.

RBS Caledonia League Div 2 North has been split and with Lochaber now sitting in the bottom half the club aims to finish strongly and head the rankings. The first home game will be on March 2.

Leisure defeat rivals Achintore

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER Leisure edged clear at the top of the Ali Young Indoor Premier League after defeating rivals Achintore FC 2-0 in the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

The Goon Squad consolidated their third place with a 6-2 win over Portowey, while Ballachulish were held to a 0-0 draw by Caol FC.

All Blacks moved up to sixth with a fine 3-0 win over HWEnergy No Stars and Old Codgers defeated bottom club AA Young by the same score.

Graeme has top individual game

TEN PIN BOWLING

TOP individual games this week came from Graeme Robertson of Splitheads with 192 scratch, 247 handicap. Brian Stewart (Council) chipped in with a 171. Graeme Robertson also had the top two-game series with 314 scratch, 424 handicap.

Top team games of the week were 573 scratch from Alleycats and 790 handicap from Council. The best scratch two-game team series was 1138 from Alleycats whilst the best handicap two-game series was 1524 from Splitheads.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 166, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 154 and Rossanna Wareing (Ardtoe/Nevis Radio) & Colin Pinkett (Council) sharing third on 147.

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West Highland Wheelers line up for the Winter Series race at Inchree.

Wheelers visit trails above Inchree

CYLING

of perspiring pursuers.

Fiona Beattie took the ladies race from Hannah Barnes to take a clear lead in the series.

Meanwhile, Roger Gibbons was walking his dog before the start, noticed the signage and decided to nip home for his bike – just showing that Wheellers welcome all hardy souls!

Gary MacDonald, the Kinlochleven trials bike rider, continued his fine form on engineless wheels to cross the finish line in fourth.

Thanks go to the Dent family for a very well run event. Next round is at Duror on Sunday 24th February.

Spean slope off with the title

SPEAN Bridge Primary School has won the Nevis Range qualifier for the 2013 Scottish Alpine Series, organised by Snowsport Scotland.

Finlay Cameron, Alasdair Poll, Jochem Baak and Ben Fulford claimed first place in the entry-level primary school category.

Spean's success came a day before Glencoe Mountain Ski Centre hosted the third qualifier, the West of Scotland schools race.

A sunny day with a moderate westerly breeze greeted the 70 racers to a course of 20 mixed slalom and grans slalom gates, set down a run known as Happy Valley.

Snow conditions were firm and some great skiing was on show from both primary and secondary pupils.

Oban High School A and B teams secured silver and bronze in the secondary category and the Nether Lochaber group of primaries claimed silver in the primary sections.

The winning schools were: Primary, entry level - Morrisons/Dalmally/St Fillans Cooperative; Primary, experienced racers - Bearsden Primary; Secondary, entry level - McLaren High School, Stirling; Secondary, experienced racers - Bearsden Academy B Team. With the Glencoe, Glenhee and Nevis series qualifiers

now complete there remains only one more qualifying race at The Lecht on 21st February when schools can qualify for the

SKIING

finals to be held at Cairngorm on March 15.



Nevis Range winners Spean Bridge: left to right, Finlay Cameron, Alasdair Poll, Jochem Baak and Ben Fulford f07ski2no

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, February 14, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	02.16	0.7	08.04
Fri	02.51	0.9	08.37
Sat	03.28	1.2	09.12
Sun	04.09	1.5	09.50
Mon	04.59	1.8	10.42
Tues	06.03	2.0	12.42
Wed	06.57	2.8	07.37
			21.13
			21.54
			22.50
			22.90
			20.09
			3.7
			3.5
			3.3
			3.1
			2.9
			1.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

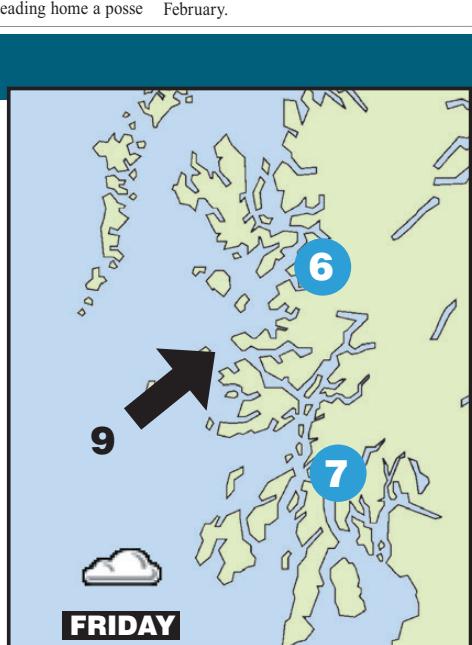
Ardriishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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Thursday	Light rain
	Winds moderate, west south westerly
	Temperatures 5C to 7C
Friday	Cloudy
	Winds light, west south westerly
	Temperatures 4C to 7C.
Weekend	Light rain
Outlook	Winds moderate south easterly
	Temperatures 6C to 7C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist
Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate
Moderate
Moderate

