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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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plus all the latest job vacancies and sports news



Rest and Be Thankful relief road ready



Transport Minister Keith Brown oversees the final stage of work to get the Old Military Road ready for traffic in the event of another landslide at the Rest and Be Thankful.

Argyll open for business

MOTORISTS using the A83 will no longer have to endure a 40-mile detour when a landslide closes the Rest and Be Thankful as the relief road becomes operational this week.

Transport Scotland has told *The Oban Times* work to upgrade the Old Military Road was to be complete 'as early as this week', whilst vehicle convoy test runs would get underway to ensure smooth running of the road.

The announcement by the Scottish Government has been described as a 'confidence boost' ahead of the tourism season.

Visiting the Glen Croe construction site last week, transport Minister Keith Brown said: 'Our focus remains to ensure that, as far as is practically possible, Argyll stays open for business. To this end, the team on the ground has worked seven days a week to overcome the significant engineering challenges needed to bring the Old Military Road up to the standard needed.'

'Emergency vehicles, hauliers, locals going about their business, and tourists will all feel the benefits this new road will bring should we find ourselves facing another landslip. In particular, hauliers and local traders will make time and fuel savings.'

Despite being five months over schedule, the opening of the road was welcomed by people in the tourism industry.

Mike Story of Argyll and the Isles Tourism said the most important thing was that the road would be open for March 1, the start of the tourism season.

'People have been complaining that the diversion route will still cause delays but, from a tourism point of view, the minute people go on a detour to other parts of Scotland there is a better than likely chance that they won't come back here,' Mr Story said. 'However if we have the relief road that follows the route they have been travelling on, then we have a much better chance of retaining that customer. That's why we need the relief road.'

Mr Story said the relief road would remove lengthy detours for tourists, adding: 'It will give people more confidence; it's definitely not the long-term solution but it is a confidence boost because it provides a real alternative.'

Argyll and Bute Council reduction in funding to Gaelic language is 'disgraceful', claims councillor

NEWS of a reduction in funding to Gaelic language schemes in Argyll and Bute was described as a cut to 'the life-support' of the language.

'Disgraceful' Last week's approved budget will see £120,000 a year cut to non-grant Gaelic funding - 17 per cent of the overall funding allocated within the education budget.

Shadow lead councillor for the language, Islay councillor Robin Currie, described the move as 'disgraceful'.

Criticising the SNP-alliance administration for the move, Mr Currie said: 'This is the birthplace of our national language, yet we're cutting £150,000 from the Gaelic specific grant. That's the life-support of Gaelic.'

Referring to a statement made by Argyll and Bute's SNP MSP in 2011, Mr Currie added: 'When a language is an expression of identity, a carrier of the past, a hope for our future and the greatest of cultural vehicles and is in the emergency ward, it would not

only be cruel, but wrong, to call for the life support machine to be switched off.'

'These are the words of Michael Russell - we should not be supporting these cuts to Gaelic.'

In its proposal, passed by majority vote on Thursday, the administration said the move would 'reduce the capacity for discretionary spend in Gaelic activities' but added mainstream costs would be funded from Gaelic grant funding.

The move would also 'severely' impact on training and career

development for staff.

The Oban Times Gaelic columnist and chairman of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Allan Campbell, said: 'I agree totally with what Robin has said.'

'Gaelic has been in the high dependency ward for some time and some would say it's even more perilous than that.'

'When a council like Argyll and Bute, which already has an extremely modest allocation for Gaelic in the first place, takes a decision like this it negates all the work done in previous years.'



Islay councillor Robin Currie.



Strachur woman Mrs Elise Nolan with Penny and Rory.

Strachur woman to judge Labradors at Crufts 2013

A STRACHUR woman will make history when she becomes the first person from Argyll to judge the prestigious Labrador dog classes at Crufts Dog Show.

Mrs Elise Nolan, a well-known breeder and exhibitor of Labradors, will be kept busy as Labradors are the largest entry in the show with 490 dogs and bitches entered.

Elise will be judging 227 dogs at the competition, to be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham next month.

Elise, along with husband Jim, has judged in more than 35 countries including Australia, Russia, USA, and South Africa.

Judges for Crufts are asked five years

in advance and until recently were not allowed to tell anyone until the list of judges for the whole show was published in the *Kennel Gazette*.

In 2006 Jim judged the Labrador Bitches classes with 300 entered, the record number of dogs in any breed.

Nowadays both Jim and Elise, who started breeding Labradors in 1964, enjoy their retirement in Strachur and have just two dogs, a mother and son, Penny and Rory, to look after.

Elise said: 'It is a great honour to be selected to judge at Crufts and very few kennels are lucky enough to have both partners acknowledged.'

Crufts is a four-day show and Labradors are on the Gundog Day on Saturday, March 9.

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Lorn Lines

A COOK-off, which will pit two chefs against each other, will be one of the main attractions at this year's Fairtrade Fortnight in Oban.

The fortnight, between February 25 and March 9, promotes the use of Fairtrade products and in turn supports the work of farmers in the developing world.

On March 5, The Olive Garden will host Ready, Steady, Cook: The Healthy and Fair Way. The event, in partnership with Healthy Options, will see two local chefs present a fun evening of healthy and Fairtrade cookery demonstrations.

The chefs will cook up delicious fare for guests Oban High School teacher Frank McKenna and councillor Louise Glen-Lee.

Oban and Lorn primary schools will also be involved in the fortnight and children from Taynuilt Primary School will take part in an art exhibition, making sculptures and collages from Fairtrade food and drink wrappers. Councillor Elaine Robertson will judge the competition.

Every year a local primary school is asked to write and design the Fairtrade newsletter and this year is the turn of Luining Primary School.

On Saturday March 9 Fairtrade volunteers will be visiting Tesco Oban and will be joined by politicians, schoolchildren and other visitors.



AN AUTHOR who was inspired to write a series of books after visiting Oban on her honeymoon has released the final novel in the collection.

The Seas Between Us is the sixth book in the Prime Time series by author Ruth Hay, who lives in London, Ontario.

The novels follow the story of Anna Mason, a Canadian woman who inherits a property outside Oban.

Ruth's books are available to borrow from Oban Library and she can be contacted on ruthhay@rogers.com if any readers wish to give feedback.



Oban Community Sensory Garden.

OBAN Community Sensory Garden is looking for volunteers to help keep the garden beautiful this spring and summer.

The garden, on the Corran Esplanade, needs people to pick up litter and generally tidy it. Gloves, tools and help can be provided.

Callum Morrison, chairman of the sensory garden, said: 'We're doing a good job but we could do with more people to help.'

'We need individuals and groups of volunteers who would be prepared to take a turn on a rota just once or twice a year.

'No skills are required. All that's needed is a little time to check the garden, pick up litter and keep the place tidy.'

The garden, which is accessible to everyone, has been developed and is looked after by a committee of local people from all walks of life.

For more information phone Claire on 01631 564954.



A CHILDREN'S champion for Oban, Lorn and the Isles was named at a recent meeting of the area committee.

Elaine Robertson, an Oban councillor, was unanimously voted into the role after being nominated by colleague Mary-Jean Devon.

Councillor Robertson said she was 'very happy to take the job' which will see her champion the rights of looked after and accommodated children and young people.

You can send all your news from the Oban and Lorn area to Euan Paterson Telephone 01631 568000 or email epaterson@obantimes.co.uk



Fight on to save Barra-Benbecula air link

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader claims MP's comments 'irresponsible'

A PETITION has been launched to save the Barra-Benbecula air service after Comhairle nan Eilean Siar voted to cut its £148,000 per annum subsidy.

Western Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil and MSP Alasdair Allan, along with SNP party colleagues Rae Mackenzie and Gordon Murray on Friday attended the launch of the petition to retain the full inter-Hebrides service.

The council voted to cut back the service to three days a week from April 1 as part of budget measures designed to save

£5.5million over the next two financial years.

The petition will be lodged with the Scottish Parliament's petitions committee with the aim of being discussed by the committee when it comes to Stornoway next month.

'Irresponsible' Meanwhile the leader of the Comhairle, Angus Campbell, has described the SNP's MP for the area as being 'irresponsible' after accusing the authority of 'pocketing' the cash.

Mr Campbell said: 'I am extremely disappointed at the

comments made by our MP in relation to the budget. The use of the term 'pocketing the money' shows a disrespect for the democratic process of local Government.'

'The matter of the air service to Barra cannot be taken in isolation but has to be part of the priorities expressed to us through the budget consultation process and considered against all the other areas of expenditure which have had to take their share of funding cuts.'

'Having had to make £5.5million of savings on top of

the £10million in the past two years meant we had to look at all areas, including home care, education and voluntary groups.'

'It is disappointing that our MP has not identified where he would prefer to take that money from which is precisely the task councillors had to do.'

'Vital service' Launching the petition, Mr MacNeil said: 'I would urge everyone who can to sign this petition which will shortly be available on line and in local shops throughout the Hebrides over the coming days.'

'This decision, if implemented, will severely undermine the current inter-island connections and will set back the transport connections that have been so important in connecting the North and South in the Hebrides over the past 40 years.'

Dr Allan added: 'Having used the service between Barra and Benbecula yesterday and between Benbecula and Stornoway today I know how vital this service is to linking the islands.'

'This petition from councillors Murray and Mackenzie is

illustration to the huge concern there is around this issue.'

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar say the service is mainly used for local authority, health board and tourism purposes. In 2011 a third of passengers were sightseers, 14 per cent were NHS employees and four per cent were council staff.

The existing subsidy per passenger for a one-way trip is £83. Three quarters of seats are flown empty. Passenger numbers on the Sound of Barra ferry are more than 20 times those on the air service.

BID4Oban put cash forward to support events

£28,000 incentive to attract more visitors to town

THE BUSINESS group BID4Oban has set aside £28,000 to help support events bringing more people into the town.

The events grants scheme will allocate the sum per annum for the next five years in an effort to increase the size, range and number of events in Oban.

'Key objective' Mike Rowell, BID4Oban event manager, said: 'By helping event organisers with their events, BID aims to increase the number of visitors to the town, especially in the out of season months.'

Applications are welcomed from any organisation that is legally constituted, non-profit making and is planning an event in Oban.

If an event is taking place in a number of locations the grant can assist an element that will benefit the BID area of Oban.

BID4Oban chairman John Forteth said: 'Supporting local events that bring business to the levy payers is a key objective of the BID business plan.'

'We are proud to be able to offer financial assistance to the many existing events and festivals in the town who want to grow and develop and to encourage new events to become established.'

There are two schemes, one aimed at events happening in-season - March 29 to September 30 - and the other at out-of-season events - October 1 2013 to April 1 2014.

BID has allocated £18,000 per annum over the first five years of the BID for promoting events out of season and £10,000 per annum for in-season events.

Anyone interested in making an application should contact Mike Rowell on mike@bid4oban.co.uk

Shinty clubs join forces for training in emergency life saving skills

MEMBERS OF Kingussie and Newtonmore shinty clubs joined forces to undergo training in emergency life support (ELS) and heart defibrillators.

Highland shinty development officer Russell Jones and Camanachd Association

coaching and performance manager Graham Cormack ran the session in Kingussie.

Both are in the 'Heartstart Camanachd' team set up to train club officials, coaches, players and supporters from all shinty clubs in life saving

skills. The defibrillators were supplied by Skye based charity Lucky2Bhere, which was founded by Skye Camanachd manager Ross Cowie after his recovery from a cardiac arrest in the Skye clubhouse six years ago. Only the lucky chance that

an ambulance was passing the road end when it received the 999 alert saved his life.

Ali Macleod from Kingussie and Newtonmore's Norman Macarthur co-ordinated local fundraising and donations to Lucky2Bhere. Twenty three members of the Badenoch shinty clubs received certificates at the end of the three-hour course.

Mr Jones said given the remote location of many shinty fields, it was 'so important' to have life saving skills at hand. And Kingussie first team manager Davie Anderson praised 'very informative, enjoyable and worthwhile' training. 'I hope I never need to use these skills in my community but should the worst happen I will be much better prepared to give help to whoever needs it,' he said.

Heartstart Skye team members Helen Gilpin, Andrew Fenniel and John Ellis, together with Dr Anderson and Dr Michie from the Kingussie surgery and Adam Fell and Donald Gilmour from the Scottish Ambulance Service supported Heartstart Camanachd on the day.

The defibrillators will be pitched at The Dell and The Eilan every match day and will be situated in outdoor cabinets in the villages at all other times, accessible to the whole community.



Heartstart Camanachd ran a successful training day at Kingussie.

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Sleat path public access dispute still unresolved

A PUBLIC access dispute over a path at Ord House in Sleat is still unresolved, according to a report going before Skye and Lochalsh Local Access Forum in Kyleakin tomorrow.

The new owner of the former B&B in Teague, which was sold in March 2011 for £928,125, has periodically attached notices saying 'Private Garden' to gates at either end of a short linking path within the 17-acre grounds.

Local access officer Donald Kennedy subsequently received complaints last

summer that the gates had been padlocked. The landowner advised Mr Kennedy he would not be removing them until he returned from a trip and his legal representative would reply. 'The gates at the time of writing are not locked. No letter from the landowner's legal representative has been forthcoming,' Mr Kennedy reports.

The access officer also reports a complaint from the public regarding a 'No Dogs on the Hill' sign in two locations on the road approaching the Neist Point footpath.

Land managers are currently considering appropriate signs supplied by Mr Kennedy.

Elsewhere on Skye, a 'walkers welcome' path from Orbst bay to Healabhal Bheag (Macleod's Table South) has been blocked by fallen trees and deer fencing.

A nearby kissing gate can only be accessed through boggy ground and Mr Kennedy will investigate a suitable access route to Healabhal Bheag with the landowners. The meeting in Kyleakin Village Hall is at 2pm.

Event organisers' conference at Kilmory

GROUPS that organise events and festivals in Argyll and Bute will attend a conference at Kilmory Castle on March 2 to help them plan and deliver successful events.

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership has devised a programme which will interest a wide range of groups, whether they organise small local gala days or large scale events which attract significant numbers of people into the area.

Provost Isobel Strong will welcome delegates and 'master of ceremonies' for the day will be Mull's James Hilder who has extensive experience in social enterprise and festival development.

Lead councillor for community and culture Louise Glen-Lee, said: 'Festivals and events make an important contribution to the economy and quality of life in Argyll and Bute and this is a great 'one-stop shop' for local voluntary groups to get expert advice and guidance.'

Head injury charity aims for new group in Oban

HEAD injury charity Headway is hoping to set up a new support group in Oban to run alongside services it runs across the Highlands.

Headway Highland's team of dedicated volunteers provides support for brain injury survivors, their families and carers.

Dr Louise Blackmore, a clinical neuro-psychologist at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, visited the town last week to give a talk on the importance of proper treatment and care for victims of head injuries and hopes a group can be formed to start work in Oban as soon as possible.

A spokesperson for Headway Highland said: 'We appreciate the value of our support groups which offer people the opportunity to talk with others who have similar experiences, meeting new people, all of whom can share the highs and the lows.'

'Our members benefit from a nurse-led helpline dedicated to brain injury as well as a confidential counselling service, using approved and accredited counsellors.'

To volunteer or for more information, contact Susanne Brown, development worker on 07767 416006.

Centre appoints training manager

A WORLD-leading commercial diver and ROV training hub in Fort William has appointed a training operations manager to further strengthen its links with the offshore industry.

James Ridgeway will be in charge of all aspects of training at the Underwater Centre, including ROV pilot technician training, as well as commercial air and saturation diver training. The arrival of ex-soldier Mr

Ridgeway, 39, formerly subsea training manager at the National Hyperbaric Centre in Aberdeen, is part of a renewed drive by the Loch Linnhe facility to meet industry demands for skilled personnel. The Leeds-born expert has an international air diving career spanning more than 18 years and has an Honours degree in Human Biology from Leeds University.

He said: 'By doing this degree

it gave me a lot of the information I needed to break into this area. The Underwater Centre is a long established training school and working here gives me the opportunity to bring together all the experience I have acquired over the years.'

Underwater Centre general manager Steve Ham said: 'James will be central to helping us increase our ability to respond to the needs of the industry.'

Fort Chamber of Commerce signs up 100th member

FORT William Chamber of Commerce has scored its first 'century' by signing up local butcher Ian Wynne and Son as its 100th member.

Relaunched, revamped and rejuvenated just over two years ago, the group has grown in strength and popularity, attracting the support of several local major employers and a wide range of local business people - more than quadrupling membership over the time. Tomark the achievement, chamber chairman Don Hind visited Wynne's High Street shop to hand over a certificate of membership. He said: 'I am delighted to welcome not only the 100th member, but also a well-known, long established family business to the chamber. Our aim is to represent all local businesses, big and

small by offering regular networking opportunities, advice and support, as well as playing an active role in the community to ensure the views of our members are heard in any decision making process.'

'The chamber has gone from strength to strength in a very short period and I would certainly like to see this growth to continue by attracting even more members.'

Stewart Duncan of Wynnes said: 'This is quite an unexpected honour. We have been considering joining for some time as it is important to stay in touch with business issues, especially with concerns facing the High Street.'

Businesses interested in joining the chamber can contact Margaret Boyd at secretary@lochaberchamber.co.uk.



Stewart Duncan, left, of Ian Wynne and Son, accepts a certificate of membership from Fort William Chamber of Commerce chairman Don Hind.

Horse meat scandal triggers added interest in local food show

THE ORGANISER of a trade show for food producers, caterers and retailers in the Highlands and Islands says next week's event will be one of the most important yet, in light of the horse meat scandal.

The West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow, to be held in Oban's Corran Halls on Wednesday and Thursday next week, will welcome 104 exhibitors keen to show the benefits of locally-sourced food.

John Fortheith, of tradeshow organiser Fortheith Foodservice, said: 'Historically, the tradeshow has brought together national brands and local brands and demonstrates how they complement each other.'

'This particular show is one of the best in the country, has won numerous awards and is now among the biggest food and drink shows in Scotland. 'We had a record 1,000 trade customers through the doors in 2011 and people come from as far as Inverness, Edinburgh and Dundee. The size of the event means local producers are showcasing products to both retailers and caterers and this is particularly important this year with the recent media coverage of the beef crisis.'

'Locally-sourced meats should be of interest to customers, as they will know the origins of the products and that they are high quality. With the recent food scares, origin and quality have become top of the agenda' As well as meat producers, there are a range of businesses in attendance at the biennial show, which has been running for 34 years. Local companies such as Argyll Eggs, Argyll Hill Lamb, Argyll Angus Beef, Argyll Pork, Argyll Wild Venison and Mull's Island Bakery will be exhibiting alongside multi-national companies such as Coca Cola, Diageo and Heinz. The established Drumadrochit-based Cobbs Bakery will be among newcomers to the Argyll area exhibiting at the event, which is anticipated to be the biggest West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow to date.

Mull BID meets with opposition

A VOCAL opposition has made its intentions to vote no to a Business Improvement District (BID) on the Isle of Mull known as the ballot continues.

While the result will not be available until after the ballot closes on March 21 the campaign against the plan is growing. But the steering group behind the BID insisted it had the 'best of intentions'.

Those against the proposal include Margaret Fenouillet of Brown's in Tobermory who said: 'I think you'd be as well throwing money in the bay as voting yes for BID. It is a complete and utter waste of time.'

'I don't think it will increase footfall to the island, as I asked how they planned to do this and the only two suggestions they came up with - a food festival and wildlife week - have already been done for free.'

James Heggie, another trader on Tobermory's Main Street, told The Oban Times: 'I don't think there is sufficient income generated by the rate payers on Mull to make this work. Running costs are almost half of the budget which I find to be disturbing.'

'I applaud trying to get more people to the island but I'm not sure this is the correct way to grow, the main problem is the ferry fares. We don't need a BID, we need a reduction in ferry fares.'

Richard Nealon, vice-chairman of the BID steering group, said the group had reached this stage through consultation but things weren't set out in detail to avoid 'tying down' the future board.

He said running costs would need to be looked at 'very carefully' but there would be funds available to 'properly promote' events on the island without duplicating the work of other organisations.

But Vivien Barlow, owner of Carnaburg Guest House in Tobermory, is happy with things as they are.

She said: 'I run my business as I wish. I ensure that I do the same turnover annually and then close for a winter break. I, like others, do not want to do any more business than I currently do. I strongly object to proposed and unwanted interference from outside.'

Matt Doyle, of Island Cabins in Tobermory, voted against the plan, calling it 'undemocratic'.

He said: 'I find it difficult to accept, on principle, why a cohort of yes businesses should impose a tax on other businesses voting no should the BID be successful at the ballot. There is a ground-swell of opinion against the proposal.'

Mr Nealon is urging people to check the website at www.mi-bid.co.uk or get in touch with a steering group member if they have any concerns or questions.

He added: 'If you're not moving forward you're moving backward. A thriving business needs to be continually updating and trying new things.'

'This is being done with the best of intentions. The structure isn't perfect but none of the flaws that are there are insurmountable. Talk to one of the steering group and find out more about it before casting your vote.'

More trains for Oban

THE NUMBER of daily trains between Oban and Glasgow will double next summer, following the submission of a 'compelling' case put to ScotRail.

As part of improvements to the service, ScotRail has also approached Argyll and Bute Council to suggest that 'school trains' for Oban pupils could run from next August.

From May 2014, the number of trains to and from Oban will double from three to six trains between Monday and Saturday.

Funded by ScotRail, a new early morning service from Oban will reach Glasgow before 9am, a new evening service will connect with the southbound Caledonian Sleeper at Crianlarich and an additional afternoon service has been included.

One of the extra northbound services will depart Glasgow Queen Street at 5.10am, reaching Oban before 9am.

The announcement on Tuesday came after discussions between ScotRail, HITRANS and Argyll and Bute Council and has been widely welcomed.

Steve Montgomery, managing director of ScotRail said its original plan was to run five services a day but discussions with HITRANS and the council revealed a 'compelling' case for six each day.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee said: 'This is great news for Oban and its surrounding population. It will allow people to take a full day in

Glasgow for work and hospital appointments and allows Oban to be inter-connected in a way it has never been before.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'Connectivity is so important as a lever in boosting the West Highland economy.'

'This improved transport link helps Oban become the first choice of destination for visitors and as we know the islands and surrounding area can also benefit from that.'

Oban South and the Isles councillor Roddy McCuish, the council's deputy leader, said: 'This opens up big opportunities for the area and I am sure it will encourage more people to visit this beautiful part of the world.'

Highlands and Islands MSPs Jamie McGrigor and Mike MacKenzie have welcomed the news, with the latter describing the additional journeys as, an excellent 'door of opportunity' for Oban.

Doug Carmichael, chairman of Friends of the West Highland Lines, said: 'In recent years we have met with ScotRail and Transport Scotland over this and last autumn we met with Keith Brown, Transport Minister, at Holyrood. We pulled no punches in explaining that Oban was the largest town in Scotland served by rail - but with only three trains a day.'

'We welcome this innovation and the town will now benefit from a rail service that it deserves.'



The number of trains to and from Oban will double from three to six.

Early options for new Oban High School build

THE PROPOSED new Oban High School building could be sited in one of four locations, *The Oban Times* understands.

Whilst not a definitive list of options, four possible sites could be identified from Argyll and Bute Council's local plan: Glenclurru, behind the rugby pitches; Millpark; the Dunbeg corridor and Glenshellach, behind the hospital.

Consultation with community However, Argyll and Bute Council is adamant there is no list of possible sites and is open minded as it seeks to consult with the community.

Councillor Louise Glen Lee, Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee chairwoman, said: 'I am looking for the community, parents and children to decide where the school should be.'

'It needs to be somewhere that suits everybody and there is nothing on the table until the community comes up with suggestions.'

'As an administration we are going to be working with community councils, community groups and young people to get the best solution.'

The Scottish Government announced funding was available for a new Oban High School last September, as part of its Scotland's Schools for the Future programme.

The council's executive director of community services, Cleland Sneddon, said: 'It is proposed that a master planning consultation will be conducted for the Oban area and within that the options for a new school will be consulted on.'

'The timescale and details of the consultation have still to be worked out and presented to council for approval.'

'A recommendation would only be made after this consultation.'

Flat plan for North Connel comes before council planning committee

A RECOMMENDATION to approve the construction of 24 flats on the site of the former Ossians Retirement Home was due to be discussed by councillors yesterday (Wednesday).

If Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee agrees the recommendation, a local hearing could be held in view of the 14 letters of opposition to the proposed plan by Melfort Care Ltd.

The planning application includes the demolition of the former care home, the upgrade of the road leading to the building, the construction of parking and turning areas and drainage improvements.

Consultee Ardchattan Community Council said a lack of detail in the plan made it 'difficult to assess the impacts which the proposal will have on the surrounding area and the wider community'.

It goes on to explain it had concerns about the public main and sewer capacity in the area and whether the road from North Connel to Bonawe was suitable for the increased traffic.

Lochaweside chef with no licence or insurance drove after drinking

A HEAD chef from a hotel on Lochaweside has been fined £580 after drink driving without a licence or insurance.

Alan Radcliffe, 28, of staff quarters, Portsonachan Hotel, Dalmally, pled guilty to the offences when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. The court heard police officers were dealing with an accident around 4am on Sunday morning when they saw a vehicle approaching them sounding its horn.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'The driver slowed the vehicle on seeing police and when he approached the officers they could immediately

smell alcohol.' Defence agent Gordon Seaton told the court Radcliffe had started work at the hotel as head chef a matter of weeks ago. As a result he had been living away from his fiancée.

He said: 'She arrived unexpectedly for a few days and there was an incident involving car keys where she sustained a fairly severe laceration to one of her fingers.'

'She was bleeding profusely and she asked to be taken to accident and emergency. He foolishly decided to take her to hospital.' Sheriff Jack Davidson also banned Radcliffe from obtaining a licence for one year.

Breath test man fined and banned

AN OBAN man who refused to cooperate with police over a breath test has been banned from driving for a year.

Hugh Ramsay, 40, of 11 Stalcair Crescent, Oban, was also fined £350 when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. He had previously admitted the offence.

Shop front cash deadline looming

BUSINESSES keen take advantage of the BID4Oban Business Frontage Scheme before the summer have until February 28 to get their applications in. Funding of up to £1,000 including VAT is available to help traders who feel their shop frontages need updating. The next round of funding will be in September.

Timetable
Glasgow - Oban departures (from May 2014)
05:10 New
08:20
10:37 New
12:21
16:37 New
18:21
Oban - Glasgow departures (from May 2014)
05:20 New
08:57
12:11
14:41 New
18:11
20:37 New

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Morvern Lines

ONE OF the most popular songs among Highlanders is 'Farewell to Fiunary' - but who was the author?

According to some sources it was written by the Rev Dr Norman Macleod (1783-1862) - better known in the Gaelic world as 'Caraid na Gaidheal' - the Highlander's Friend.

The story goes that it owes its origins to a competition between Dr Macleod and a Mrs MacGregor from the Parish of Campbeltown where Macleod was then minister.

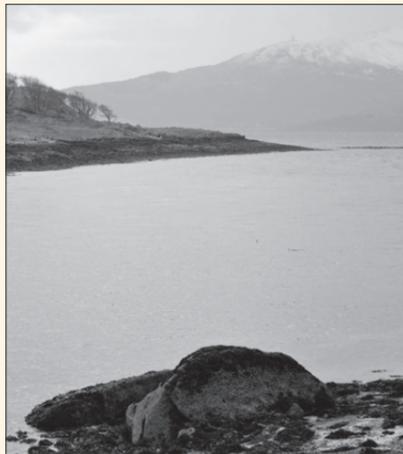
The lady, who was of a literary turn, was spending the evening with Macleod and his wife when they challenged one another as to which of them could write the best verses in the shortest time.

Dr Macleod retired and shortly afterwards returned with the now well-known tune and English words. He had just returned from a visit to his old home, Fiunary Manse, in Morvern and the verses gave expression to his affection and memories of the place.

However, information has come to light suggesting that Macleod may have appropriated the tune from a composition called 'Irrinn arinn u horo' written by an Alan Macdougall and the English words from either the Rev Daniel Kelly (1791-1843) minister of Campbeltown, once Dr Macleod's friend and colleague, or from another Gaelic song in general circulation long before in Mull and Morvern.

The present Gaelic version, which first appeared in print about 1871, was taken from a manuscript left by the late Archibald Sinclair, a printer and publisher in Glasgow. Sinclair was a great admirer of Dr Macleod and for sometime it was taken for granted that he was the author.

□□□



The entrance to Loch Aline with the Lewismen's Rock in the foreground and Bollorkle beyond.

THERE are two rocks close to the mouth of Loch Aline whose names commemorate loss of life.

The first, situated a few yards from the Ardtornish shore, is called 'Bollorkle' - shown in some charts as 'Boll Arcaim' - who, according to local legend, was a Norseman who was drowned here when his ship foundered.

In the days when the owners of the local estates had large steam yachts, this dangerous rock, which is covered at high water, was marked by a tall iron pole with a sphere on top.

Today, despite many more vessels passing in and out of Loch Aline including the Lochaline/Fishnish ferry and boats bound for the silica sand mine, there is nothing to indicate where it is other than onboard electronic aids which are not always reliable.

The second is a little way inside the entrance and nearer the north west shore. It is called the 'Lewismen's Rock' and is named after seven men from the Island of Lewis who were drowned here.

The date and circumstances of this tragic event are not now known, nor are there any headstones in the local graveyard to the victims - which suggest they may have been taken home for burial.

Iain Thornber.

Celebrity Coll crofter cooks up something a little different

NOT QUITE 'roadkill surprise' - but a recipe submitted by Isle of Coll crofter and former Scotland rugby international Rob Wainwright for a celebratory cook book isn't far off it.

Rob, who was capped 37 times for Scotland - 16 of them as captain - and once for the British Lions, was among farming folk from across Scotland asked to contribute their favourite family recipes to The National Farmers Union Scotland's (NFUS) Centenary Cook Book to celebrate its 100th year.

Contributors were asked to submit a recipe specifically using Scotch beef, lamb or specially selected pork. While Rob's tangy barbecued butterflied shoulders of lamb sounds intriguing on its own, the story of how it came about is just as interesting, with Rob and wife Romayne combining in dynamic style to craft the dish.

Rob, who lives at Claid with Romayne and his four children, said: 'We had a ewe hogg hit by the school bus in the winter a few years back when I was away from home.

'I am proud to say that Romayne, on being informed, scooted up the drive on the quad, collected the casualty and - island-style - soon had it cleaned and hanging in the game larder.

'We normally only really eat two to three year old widders, rather than lamb. So, given that this lamb would have a lighter flavour, we felt some added oomph was needed - and so our tangy barbecue butterflied shoulders of lamb were created.'

All profits from the sale of the books will go to the NFUS Centenary Trust which has been set up by way of a legacy of this milestone in the union's history.

In its first year, the centenary trust will have three main aims - to get as many children as possible to visit a farm in 2013; to educate farmers, employees and their children on health and safety in the countryside with a special emphasis on children's safety and to assist in bringing forward a meaningful apprentice programme supporting farmers and their employees.

The cookbook will also be available to buy at centenary events throughout 2013 and from NFUS Scotland.



Rob Wainwright's recipe for NFUS Scotland's new Centenary Cookbook is more organic than most recipes.

Tangy barbecue butterflied shoulders of lamb

Serves four.

Ingredients:
2 small boned shoulders of Scotch Lamb
8 anchovy fillets and the oil from the jar
20 capers
3 garlic cloves
15 pitted black olives
2tbsp of breadcrumbs
A good grind of black pepper

Method:

1 Coarsely chop all the ingredients, except the lamb, and mix it into a paste.
2 Take the two boned out shoulders, lay them flat, outer side down and embark on some judicious tapping with a rolling pin to even them out.
3 A little trimming may be required now and, after this, apply some of the paste to the inside surfaces and stick the mirror-imaged pieces of lamb.

4 Wrap them in cling film and freeze - we find this helps infuse the flavours into the lamb.

5 When fully defrosted and, if it's the barbecue season, pop it into a fish holder and, after a spell on each side over moderate coals, your meat should be red without burning on the outside.
6 Let it rest for 10 minutes before tucking in.
The result is sublime.

Oban school hostel staff praised

STAFF at an Oban school hostel have been congratulated for turning the facility around since problems were highlighted over recent years.

Glencruitten Hostel, which provides accommodation for school children, had received poor inspection reports up to 2008.

But recent reviews of the establishment have seen it ranked as excellent by both parents and residents, a recent meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee heard.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish told the meeting it was 'no secret' that the hostel had faced challenges up to 2008 but he was 'delighted with the change round'.

He added: 'I'm more than happy with the progress.'
Children from the islands of Mull, Iona, Colonsay, Coll and Lismore are the main users of the hostel due to their distance from Oban High School.

The meeting heard Peter Bain, head teacher of Oban High School, and council staff now visit parents on the islands to ensure all their concerns are being addressed.

Isle of Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon congratulated staff for turning the hostel around.

She said: 'There is a discipline in the hostel now and the children are achieving.'
'I'm delighted with what is happening at Glencruitten Hostel.'



Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon is delighted with what is happening at Glencruitten Hostel.

Man and children rescued from Loch Torridon

A MAN and two children were rescued by a local fishing boat early on Saturday afternoon after their dinghy capsized in Loch Torridon.

The *Irene K* took the trio to Diabaig jetty to await the arrival of the coastguard helicopter from Stornoway.

The winch man was lowered to assess their condition and waited with them until an ambulance arrived. The casualties were cold but after getting dried were otherwise none the worse for their ordeal.

Kyle lifeboat the *Spirit of Fred Olsen* recovered the upturned sailing boat and towed it back to Diabaig jetty.

Helmsman Jonny MacRae told *The Oban Times* the sailing party, who were staying in a holiday cottage in Diabaig, could have been caught out by the conditions. He said: 'It was fairly choppy. Loch Diabaig is quite sheltered but once you get out into the main loch it's a different story. The winchman said one of the children was slightly hypothermic. They were probably in the water for half an hour.'

New chairman for Gaelic arts group

A WELL-known Mod competitor has been named the new chairman of the Glasgow-based Gaelic arts organisation An Lòchran.

Donald MacLeod, who has been a member of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association for many years, said the Mod being in Paisley this year could help promote Gaelic arts and culture in the Glasgow area.

The Stornoway native is also on the committee of the Association of Gaelic Choirs and was on the committee of the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association. He said: 'In my opinion, there are fantastic opportunities for us to continue promoting and developing Gaelic arts and culture in Glasgow, such as the Royal National Mod in Paisley this year and the Commonwealth Games in 2014 and I look forward to working with the board of An Lòchran to help deliver these.'

Donald is Head Actuary at Scottish Friendly Assurance Society and sits on the Council of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. At the Royal National Mod in Dunoon last year, Donald, launched his *Awful Joke Book*, which is raising money for four Western Isles care homes and hospices.

Funding for tweed weavers

A PROJECT to provide spares for Harris Tweed weavers has been awarded funding by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The Association of Harris Tweed Weavers (AHTW) will manage and deliver a spares service for the 120 or so weavers currently working in the industry. AHTW chairman Morris Black said: 'There is a huge amount of technical knowledge and experience amongst the weavers themselves.'

'In fact many weavers have come forward to share information on suppliers they have found themselves over the years and we have also identified several weavers on island willing to manufacture for their peers.'

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'I'm delighted to see the weavers taking the initiative on this particular issue and I wish them well with the project.'

Acharacle deadline passes

NOMINATIONS closed yesterday afternoon (Wednesday) for people willing to stand for election to Acharacle Community Council.

The ballot was prompted after some members resigned, bringing the membership to below the level required by the constitution for the community council to function. Should nominations exceed the number of available places, an election will be held on March 21.

Mull mains water supply 'standstill' rumours denied

'This will be a large and complex project' claim Scottish Water

WORK to upgrade the capacity of the water network on the Isle of Mull is progressing, despite worries from the community it had come to a 'standstill'.

House building in areas of Mull has been halted because of insufficient capacity at Tobermory water treatment works.

The situation first came to light over two years ago after builders were denied connections by Scottish Water. Developers had been told in a letter that the work would be complete by 2013.

It is understood Laing O'Rourke has won the contract to carry out the upgrade work - reportedly worth £13 million - to help the system cope with the increased demand in Tobermory and Craignure.

The high cost is attributed to much of

the pipe being laid through solid rock. A Scottish Water spokesman said: 'We are working on the final preparations for the awarding of a contract for this project to a contractor.'

'This will be a large and complex project and, as such, it involves a lot of planning and management.'

'There is a lot of work, including environmental studies, going on in the background and we are making good progress and will be in a position to confirm details of the project in due course.'

Last year water tankers from the mainland were arriving daily but a Scottish Water spokesman confirmed there has been no tankering of water on the ferry since late summer and none from other areas of the island for 'several months'.

Lochaber landscapes in Glencoe video

ORIGINAL Lochaber landscapes by a Glencoe artist feature on a video for a new song released last Wednesday on the anniversary of the Glencoe Massacre.

Caroline Cooke's paintings appear on the video for 'Promises', which was composed by UK folk-chart favourites *Wilderness* in memory of the victims.

The video can be viewed at <http://youtube.com/W7PnUF7bZA>.
□ See 'Massacre remembered', page 7.

Police praise majority of bridge motorists

TWENTY-seven motorists were charged with speeding and two with using the HGV/bus lane without authority in the first week of roadworks on the Kessock Bridge, Northern Constabulary said on Friday.

However, head of road policing Inspector Neil Lumsden praised most drivers for planning their journeys in and out of Inverness in advance. He said: 'I would like to thank motorists for their patience whilst the bridge works continue and would encourage public transport use and car sharing where possible to reduce the risk of delays.'

The resurfacing works, which began last Monday, will be carried out in two phases from February to June 2013 and February to June 2014 to avoid peak tourist traffic in July and August.

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Staff await redundancy call as Argyll and Bute Council aims to cut £5.8 million from budget

430 full time equivalent salaries likely to be scrapped between April 2013 and 2020

Milk removed from paid-for school meals

80 per cent of pupils currently take milk as option

A WARNING has been fired to Argyll and Bute Council that its decision to take milk away from paid school meals will see children from poorer households singled out.

As part of the budget approved at Kilmory last week, from April 1 primary school pupils who pay for their lunches will only have a glass of water served with their food, with milk only available at an additional cost of 10p.

With 80 per cent of pupils currently taking milk as their option, the move will affect most households.

However, those pupils who do not pay for their lunches will still be offered milk for free, something Helensburgh Conservative councillor Gary Mulvaney said was 'cause for concern'.

Speaking during last week's full budget meeting, he said: 'We're basically flagging up children who are poor. That's a major concern.'

'Serious issues'
'Other kids now won't get milk because they won't want to buy it. There are serious issues here.'

Sharing his concerns is John Dickie, head of the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland, who was speaking after releasing figures showing 14 per cent of children living in Argyll and Bute are in poverty.

Mr Dickie said: 'We are concerned about any budget decision that is going to potentially stigmatise any children from lower income families in school.'

'We'd be looking for a budget decision to be made that protects all children. Anything that means children will be treated differently will reinforce any feeling as being different or left out. It undermines the feeling that school is a place for them and it can affect their education.'

Mary Jean Devon, lead councillor for children for families and children's champion said: 'Effectively nothing has happened for the pupils that get free dinners. The children that don't pay for their dinners already get free milk in the morning as well.'

'The budget for milk is £150,000 a year and there's not a great take up in the budget - a lot of children drink water or fruit juice.'

'The only difference now is some children have to pay 10p for a carton of milk.'

'We maybe need to find a way so children who receive these meals remain anonymous.'

Withdrawal from council tax freeze scheme would see eight per cent rise for householders

HOUSEHOLDS in Argyll and Bute could have faced an eight per cent hike in council tax if the council withdrew from the Scottish Government's agreed freeze.

The authority can access £39million in grant funds in exchange for maintaining the current freeze, but critics of the scheme say residents would prefer to pay more council tax than see services eroded. Bruce West, Argyll and Bute Council's head of strategic finance, told last week's budget meeting that: 'It would take an eight per cent increase in council tax to stand still on overall funding.' The council tax freeze was introduced by the Scottish Government in 2007 but critics say it forces councils into difficult positions and costs jobs.

Drastic drop in book stock

LIBRARIES have suffered a 32 per cent cut to their book stock budget as councillors moved to slash their fund by £24,000.

The council said the move would impact on service 'at a time when Argyll and Bute libraries are less accessible than most authorities as a result of lesser opening hours caused by low staff costs'.



New Argyll and Bute Council leader James Robb, Helensburgh.

Only 41 people use council's online budget simulator

JUST 41 people logged on to Argyll and Bute Council's online budget simulator during its consultation period - although 1,200 people participated in the whole process.

The council has also been criticised for not taking the views into consideration when the results only were presented to the full council at last week's meeting.

Contrary to the council's decisions, the area most people would increase spending would be roads, while 28 of the 41 online participants opted to reduce funding for community learning and development.

Waste management would have been untouched according to the online results.

Meanwhile more than half of those who joined citizen survey panels deemed administration budgets at the council were ripe for cutbacks. Panel members earmarked cultural services (36 per cent) museums (30 per cent) planning applications and planning policy (28 per cent) and building standards and applications (23 per cent) set for cut backs.

COUNCIL employees across Argyll and Bute are bracing themselves for possible redundancy after the budget dubbed the 'Valentine's Day Massacre' was passed last week.

Nearly 100 posts are set to go from the local authority in the 2013/14 financial year, with 65 full time equivalent jobs to be axed under new council leader James Robb's deep-cut budget which sees £5.8million trimmed away per annum over the next seven years.

Going forward, the plan could see a total of 670 jobs affected, with 430 full time equivalent salaries likely to be scrapped between April and 2020. It is not yet known which departments all the redundancies will be taken from, although roads and Streetscene will bear the brunt of the initial jobs cut.

Unpopular cuts to adult care, roads, leisure services and school meal budgets will also lead to increased charges and lower quality services across the county.

The SNP/Argyll First/independent alliance - dubbed by some the Fragile Alliance - suffered a few dents in passing its budget, with Kintyre administration member Donald Kelly the only councillor to abstain in the majority 19/16 vote.

Rejected
In doing so, the council rejected an alternative budget proposed by the opposition on the day, with leader Dick Walsh saying the ruling alliance had miscalculated the funding gap. Proposing savings of £3.929million per year, Mr Walsh told members 'there is a choice'.

However, the council did not adjourn to consider the alternative budget and Helensburgh councillor Vivian Dance accused one member of the administration of 'appearing to be asleep' when it was submitted.

Despite the opposition's warnings that the alliance budget was 'cruel and

unnecessary', James Robb insisted the right approach had been adopted.

Speaking after the meeting, he said: 'The choice was simple - a budget months in development, subject to weeks of scrutiny and consultation and based on an independent financial model which has been public since October or a last minute alternative budget based on a still secret financial model developed by a politician.'

'Not a difficult choice for those who

have the long term interests of Argyll and Bute at heart.'

The administration took more knocks when deciding on the future of Dunoon care home Struan Lodge, with plans for a conditional closure passed by 17 votes to 16. Mr Kelly once again abstained from voting, as did SNP members Michael Breslin and Gordon Blair. Bute independent Len Scoullar also refused to cast his vote.



Opposition leader Dick Walsh said 'there is a choice'.



Lochaber and District Canine Society representatives Morag Mackell, Vicki-Ann Tomkins and Kayleigh Buchanan show off their trophies at the Kennel Club's London HQ.

Tails wagging as dog club wins top award

TAILS are wagging at Lochaber and District Canine Society (LDCS) after it took top honours at the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) Awards in London.

Against tough competition from clubs across the UK, the Fort William-based club was judged overall winner and best in the General Canine Association category.

The club was presented with a shield and crystal trophies at a special prizegiving ceremony at the Kennel Club's London headquarters.

The awards recognise the efforts of organisations nationwide which have invested time and energy into helping to train dogs and educating their owners on the importance of responsible dog ownership. Lochaber and District Canine Society ticked all those boxes

through working closely with dog wardens and hosting micro-chipping nights throughout the year.

It is also heavily involved with the community, promoting the Open for Dogs Scheme, as well as the Green Dog Walkers Scheme.

LDCS committee member Lynne Young told *The Oban Times*: 'This was our first time entering and we have come out as the best club in the UK in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme. We are all absolutely delighted. We have really swept the boards.'

Kennel Club chairman Steve Dean said: 'The winners have all done marvellous work in promoting responsible dog ownership in their local community and all deserve a huge vote of thanks.'

LDCS meets on Tuesday evenings in the Nevis Centre.

Hockey to breath new life into Oban pitch

THE OLD blaise sports pitch in Oban is set to be regenerated for groups in the town thanks to the efforts of the local hockey club.

Tara Pollock, chairwoman of Oban Hockey Club, told a recent meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee the group hoped to get funding to turn the disused area into a 1G pitch suitable for hockey. She said Scottish Hockey did not recognise 3G, such as the playing surface at Oban High School, as an appropriate field for hockey.

As a result Oban Hockey Club has to use Lochgilphead as their home turf

but Tara said it was 'really difficult to get games there' and that it lacked the social side at the end of the day. She said: 'Hopefully this will help all the clubs in the town, footballers struggle to get on the 3G pitch and freeing up time would help them too.'

This was commended by councillor Roddy McCuish, who said he liked the 'Oban approach' the group was taking.

Councillor Elaine Robertson added: 'As a former member of the hockey club, I would be absolutely delighted to see it and totally support what you are trying to do.'

Kilmelford driver admits careless driving charge

A KILMELFORD motorist has been fined £200 and had four penalty points placed on his licence after a woman had to swerve her car into a lay-by to avoid colliding with him.

Colin Gibson, 56, of 45 The Glebe, Kilmelford, pled guilty to careless driving when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court the woman was travelling with three other people in her car and 'upon reaching the brow of a hill she was confronted with the accused's vehicle approaching her on her side of the road'.

He added: 'She had to pull into a lay-by

and brake sharply otherwise a collision may have occurred.'

Defending, Edward Thornton said Gibson was travelling behind a campervan down a hill towards Oban. He decided to overtake as the road was clear.

Mr Thornton said: 'It seemed a safe manoeuvre but he then realised he was not proceeding as quickly as he anticipated.'

'He slowed down and had pulled back in behind the campervan but the oncoming car had pulled into a lay-by. It may well be that a collision would not have occurred in any event.'

Fort William PDSA volunteer appeal

VETERINARY charity PDSA is appealing for local animal lovers to volunteer at its Fort William store to help raise vital funds for sick and injured

pets. Shop manager Caroline Campbell said: 'No previous retail experience is needed as full training is provided.' Contact Caroline on 01397 703935.

History society unveils resting place of local doctor

COMUNN Eachdraidh Shlèite (Sleat Local History Society) has uncovered the resting place of a local doctor killed in a tragic car accident almost a century ago - thanks to Arran gravediggers.

The communn had approached island newspaper *The Arran Banner* for help in researching Dr Walter Hastings, after the role the much-loved GP played in the community came to light during a five-day exhibition on the history of Isleornsay last month.

The *Banner* ran a story that the communn was researching Dr Hastings - and last week North Ayrshire Council gravediggers came into the

office to say they had found his grave in Kilbride old cemetery in Lamlash. Not only that, but they had cleaned the ancient headstone and pointed out where the good doctor was laid to rest. Council cemetery records confirm he was indeed laid to rest there on December 26 1919.

Comunn Eachdraidh Shlèite committee member Neil MacGillivray, by coincidence also a doctor, had already established that Dr Hastings was born in Lamlash 1870, the son of a local miller and grain merchant. He practised as a GP in Sleat for almost 20 years from 1900, latterly also becoming medical officer for Broadford and Sirath.

But in December 1919 Dr Hastings was killed in a car accident on the Armadale road near Knock Free Church. His passengers, however, nurse MacInnes and 14-year-old Charles MacPherson, were thrown clear and survived.

Dr Hastings' body was brought home to Arran for burial and in the *British Medical Journal* of January 10 1920 he merited a notable obituary.

Dr MacGillivray, who has compiled first hand accounts of Dr Hastings' work among his Skye patients, was delighted with the discovery.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's another piece in the jigsaw but I

would just love to have a photo of him. The more I can find out the happier I will be.'

'I can remember old people talking about Dr Hastings. One old chap recalled him operating on a woman in Tarskavaig. He told me: 'I don't know what he took out of her but she was a new woman after that!'

The Isleornsay exhibition has been transferred to Portree and will open in Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre on March 2. Dr MacGillivray said. Anyone with information or photos of Dr Hastings can contact the communn at info@sleatlocalhistorysociety.org.uk or phone Dr MacGillivray on 01471 833437.

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LOCHAWA

NINE members of Lochawe SWRI joined with the Dalmally institute on January 23 for an excellent Burns Supper in Dalmally Community Hall.

The Dalmally ladies provided a traditional meal – Scotch broth, haggis, neeps and tatties, with alternatives for vegetarians.

The desserts were varied and extremely tasty and everyone has a lovely meeting.

The February meeting of Lochawe SWRI took place on February 6. One member, Veeta Williams, gave an interesting talk and slideshow on her native Latvia. Different areas of Latvia have their own traditional costumes, all very colourful and beautifully made.

The countryside is lovely, architecture interesting and now being upgraded after years under Russian and German control during WWII.

Latvia became independent once more about 20 years ago. P McLeod thanked Veeta for an absorbing talk and slideshow.

Competition: A Valentine's card, judged by new members: Gold – P McLeod and M MacKenzie.

The next meeting will take place on March 6 in Lochawe Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors most welcome.

APPIN

THE ANNUAL quiz night at Appin SWRI was held on February 21 in Appin Village Hall.

As usual, teams of four racked their brains to answer questions on a wide range of topics. At a half time break, those present tried their luck at a tombola stall.

While the final scores were being checked, the raffle was drawn and Margaret Massey thanked president Doreen Evans for compiling and hosting the quiz. The winners were Sheila Lawrie, Marianne Steeman, Richard Bourne and Clive Fox, ahead of runners-up Mary Gregory, Anna Gregory Beard, Ann White and Geoff White.

On February 7, 30 SWRI members enjoyed an excellent meal at the Hawthorn Restaurant, Benderloch.

PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON and District Community Council met in Plockton Hall on January 29.

Just as the meeting started the electricity failed in the village because of the severe gale, but the meeting continued with the help of torches. The lights came on just as the meeting finished.

Items discussed included: Burnside area safety issue - Graham Sharp, chairman of Plockton Primary School parents council, informed the community council he has produced a safer routes to school travel plan, the main priorities being the provision of two sets of speed bumps, costing £8,000 on either side of the approach to the railway bridge, and streetlighting at the bridge at an estimated cost of £6,000. The community endorsed these

proposals and thanked Graham.

Station Road - Mary Scanlon MSP had approached Network Rail on behalf of the community council and was told the road was sold in 1968 to Highland Council, whose responsibility it is to cost and carry out works. The community council felt because of the shocking state of the road, Network Rail should be contacting HC to carry out the necessary work and have written again to Network Rail.

Peggy Moore bequest to the village - a seat with commemorative plaque has been bought in memory of Peggy and is situated in front of her house in Bank Street.

Roads - Potholes on Harbour Street, Innes Street and the road past Duirinish Lodge are in urgent need of patching. The Duirinish road sign, which was removed two years ago, has still not been replaced.

Village maintenance - the community expressed its thanks to the anonymous donor of £500 towards the employment of a village officer.

Fish farm at Airigh-drishga - the applicants have appealed the council's decision to refuse the application.

Railway fencing - crofters have complained that the fencing from Kyle to Duncraig is in need of repair.

Next meeting is on March 11.

THE WRI met in Achmore Hall on February 7 and enjoyed a talk by Plockton's retired chemist Geoff Webster entitled 'Tales of a West Coast Pharmacist'.

WEATHER at Plockton - during January there was 5.5 inches of rain at Plockton with 12 dry days. Warmest day was 12°C and coldest -1.4°C.

PLOCKTON under-17 football team beat Lochalsh over 40s 8-3 on February 8.

Playing for the over 40s was Ewen Cameron, Plockton, who was 60 last month!

A SALE at the open door cafe in the Kyle Lighthouse Centre, organised by Johanna Maclean, Plockton, raised £370 for Blythswood Care.

PLOCKTON Horticultural and Handicrafts Society held a pot luck supper and quiz in Plockton Hall on February 8 which was enjoyed by more than 40 people.

CM MacRae.

GLEN NEVIS

THE FRIENDS of Nevis (FoN) are looking for volunteers to help with their annual tidy up of the old curling ponds area in Glen Nevis on Saturday March 16.

Work in the newly-landscaped area, which the Friends alone maintain, will involve clearing up any debris or bits of branches that have blown down in winter storms.

If dry and spring-like weather prevails weed-killing on paths and gravel areas may also go ahead, but if it's wintry the party will concentrate on

TAYNUILT



Local residents help Graham's Grocers manager Ian Campbell fill the Coffee Packaging Brigade collection box.

Grocer leads the way on recycling

A GROCERS in the village of Taynuilt has become one of the first locations to join a new nationwide recycling scheme set up by Kenco and TerraCycle.

Graham's Grocers signed up to the Coffee Packaging Brigade, which aims to save coffee packaging waste from landfill.

The coffee packaging waste will be recycled into generic plastic products such as park benches, watering cans and waste bins. A collection box

for local people to drop off all brands of coffee packaging is now situated at the shop on Main Street and any funds raised as a result will go towards supporting Oban Hospice.

TerraCycle and Kenco appealed for people across the UK to find suitable locations in their communities that were willing to house a collection box.

Caroline MacInnes, who runs the recycling efforts for Taynuilt Nursery, arranged for Graham's Grocers to house a collection box for the Taynuilt community.

Mrs MacInnes said: 'It is great that we have been able to house a collection box at Graham's Grocers to enable the people of Taynuilt and the surrounding areas to be one of the first communities in the UK to be able to recycle their coffee packaging.'

CALLANDER

CALLANDER Youth Project is embarking on a mammoth project to raise £72,000 to help re-slate its new home's roof.

Still settling in to The Bridge, the group has been granted match funding to repair its crumbling roof, so the project has launched its new Sponsor a Slate campaign to pay for the 14,400 slates required.

A number of fundraising events will be put on throughout the year and a special text hotcode has been set up to help them achieve their goal.

Project trust manager Chris Martin said: 'As a supporter, you can help by donating £5 to sponsor a slate. Each time you walk past our building you can take pride in the fact you physically helped us secure the roof by purchasing a slate.'

'We will keep our website up-to-date with our targets and what we have raised and will have a physical model in reception to show you how we are getting on.'

You can donate to the project by going to justgiving.com/callander-youth-project. Alternatively, you can donate £5 by texting CPTY13 £5 to 70070 or drop in to the centre, where donations of all sizes are accepted.

damaged in December. The secretary was asked to write to the Post Office outlining the community council's concerns and asking for a speedy resolution of both of them.

unlocking water-courses and drainage and litter picking if there is time.

Volunteers can come for just a few hours rather than the full day and will need waterproof work boots or wellies, a waterproof jacket and over trousers and warm clothes/hat/gloves.

Registration by March 8 is essential for the event. Call 07770 648330 or email infoAT-friendsofnevis.co.uk to do so. The work day is from 9.30am to 4pm approximately and will be followed by the Friends' annual celebration dinner and ceilidh at the Pinermartin café, Nevis Range, Torlundy, on Saturday March 16 at 7pm.

The informal event will feature dancing to the Brocken Spectre Ceilidh band, a meal, raffle and the presentation of FoN volunteer of the year award. For ticket information call the office on 01397 701088.

DORNIE

A CAR boot and table sale will be held in Dornie Hall on Saturday from 1pm in aid of Plockton High School senior pupils' trip to Poland.

SPEAN BRIDGE

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has expressed concern at the closure of the Roy Bridge Sub Post Office following the illness of the sub-postmaster.

Concerns were also raised about the lack of a replacement post box for Inveroy for the one

WESTER ROSS

A VETERANS' reunion and talks by special guest speakers will be among the highlights in a Second World War-themed week of events in Wester Ross in May.

Organisers, the Aultbea-based Russian Convoy Museum Project, will stage the WWII and Arctic Week at Loch Ewe from May 6-11.

The Royal Navy Benevolent Trust and Seafarers UK are kindly sponsoring the event. Veterans and their carers are being offered a free three-night stay in Gairloch and help with travel costs.

The inaugural event last year proved a huge success and made national headlines. More information at www.russianartconvoymuseum.co.uk.

SKYE

THE ISLE OF Skye-based International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) is travelling to Java early next month for a week-long training workshop it has organised on the four species of Asian otter.

Indonesian government officials, forestry workers and students from India, Sri Lanka and Borneo will be trained by local scientists and IOSF personnel in survey techniques, conservation and identification. All four Asian otter species are either endangered or decreasing, threatened by habitat loss and hunting for furs.

And in one particularly worrying recent development, 11 otter cubs were discovered in a suitcase at Bangkok airport – the first known example of a trade in live otters.

Dr Paul Yoxon of Broadford-based IOSF said the workshop was 'a very important first step' in conserving the mammals throughout south-east Asia.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'So much more can be done to conserve these animals by training local students, rangers and local government officials into recognising how important otters are to the health of the local environment and to implement legal protection.'

GLENGARRY

GLENGARRY Community Hall will host sessions on deaf awareness and an introduction to sign language on Friday and Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

The free workshops are being funded by Highland Council.

HIGHLAND

Council is to be asked to install two speed indication devices in an attempt to slow down traffic on Albert Road.

The flashing light display is calibrated to 30mph and advises motorists of their speed.

The community council views the lights as 'a first step' and is prepared to consider more drastic action – including bidding to make the entire village a 20mph zone.

Councillor Murphy said such a step was possible but would require a road traffic order and extensive community consultation – and objections would mean the TEC services committee would have to decide the issue.

'That may take quite a long time,' he said.

BALLACHULISH senior citizens can look forward to their first Christmas party in three years. Local woman Cona MacNicol will take on the party arrangements, the meeting heard.

HIGHLAND Green Energy is putting in planning permission to Highland Council for a small hydro scheme at Glenachulish, community council member Kevin Smith told the meeting.

The scheme is going ahead only because capacity on the grid became available after a wind developer scrapped its plans, Mr Smith said.

Ballachulish Community Company has plans for its own mini-hydro project at Laroch.

MEMBERS agreed to invite Lochaber Women's Aid to a future meeting after the Fort William-based group asked to come along to give a short presentation on the work they do.

THE COMMUNITY council welcomed news that new efforts were being made to plan and build the Caol link road to bypass Fort William and relieve summer congestion.

Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'You are talking about a project that will probably cost around £25m-£35m. But they are doing the west link in Inverness for very much the same reasons.'

BALLACHULISH Community Council is to revamp its website to include new pages, a blog and Facebook.

Members agreed the move after hearing a local company would charge £75 to delete the old pages and £125 for the new site, plus VAT.

HIGHLAND Council geotechnical experts have warned local people not to remove any more slate from the East Quarry because sections of it are unsafe. In a report, the council said 'high risk' stabilisation work was required and had to be done 'without delay', the meeting heard.

Generous village wins national recognition for forces support

PORTNAHAVEN

THE VILLAGE of Portnahaven, on Islay, has been praised by an Armed Forces charity after sending hundreds of parcels and messages of support to troops in Afghanistan.

The tiny settlement – population 120 – has been responsible for sending more than 300 packages in the past year, a figure that has not gone unrecognised by the Armed Forces Support Group.

The charity has sent a thank you letter to the village's postmaster Alistair Redman who sends the welfare parcels from residents onto the charity.

Alistair said: 'We must have sent more than 300 parcels over the course of a year.'

'That may sound like a lot but this is a very generous community and people here have lost relatives in conflicts. I have friends who are in active service and whether or not you agree with the conflict in Afghanistan, these men and women are extremely brave people.'

Alistair has also received letters directly from soldiers, who are grateful for their welfare packages.

The postmaster explained: 'I get letters and even phone calls of thanks from Camp Bastion. One of these calls was from a soldier who had both legs blown



Alistair Redman.

off. He had been through this ordeal, yet he took the time to thank me for £10 worth of confectionery!'

The welfare packages contain various items, including sweets, magazines and tobacco but every one of them contains Wyvex Media's map of Islay.

'I like them to know where the package has come from,' explained Alistair. 'A few of them have already said they are planning a holiday to the island.'

Portnahaven regularly fundraises for the Rhinns Hall, the RNLI, The Sailors' Society, Help for Heroes, Macmillan Cancer Support and, most recently, the Ciara Caskie Allan Appeal.



SPRING must be in the air in west Ardnamurchan – judging by the behaviour of two bad-tempered rams at Kilchoan.

Local man Jon Haylett witnessed a Blackface with quite impressive horns laying into his heavier Cheviot rival, who soon got the better of his shaggy opponent.

Mr Haylett said the scrapping sheep reminded him of 'two old men who had had a bit of

KILCHOAN

an argument in the pub then decided to go outside to sort it out.'

He added: 'Local residents don't have to watch David Attenborough on the TV describing male giraffes fighting in Namibia - all the excitement happens right here, in Kilchoan's fields.'

Photograph by Jon Haylett.



The dun exposed after clearfelling at Cannich.

PREVIOUSLY unrecorded Iron Age homesteads, known as a galleried dun, have been uncovered near Cannich in Strathglass.

The find on a hillside at Comar Wood came to light during Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) clearfelling work. About 21ms in diameter and defined by a massive dry stone wall, the dun has several stretches of wall courses visible and also features a defensive outwork.

FCS archaeologist Matt Ritchie said: 'The dun would just have been seen as a pile of stones by the men who planted it.'

'Luckily they didn't try to plough the site first – that would

CANNICH

have caused untold damage. 'It's an exciting find. These homesteads were a very visible status symbol so belonged to a family of some power or standing. The dun served to defend the occupants and their grain stores and livestock but they also demonstrated land ownership - and what better place to site your stronghold than high on a hill where you can see for miles.'

The Commission will commission an archaeological measured survey of the site and has proposed it be recognised as a monument of national importance and scheduled by Historic Scotland.

NORTH LORN

THE CHILDREN of Lismore Primary School held a Europe Week from February 4 to 8, the climax of which was, courtesy of Lismore Lumiere, the film of the Victor Hugo story of 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'.

With popcorn snacks, surround sound and the big screen in the hall, this was a real cinema experience for island children.

During the week they did lots of research learning about all aspects of the countries of Europe and each day's snacks were from a different country for which the children had to say please and thank you in the appropriate language.

They tasted pain au chocolat from France, Polish biscuits, Swiss chocolate, grissini from Italy and cheese from Holland, pain au chocolat being the favourite.

The culmination of the week was a day when the children came to school in a costume from another country. A Swiss shepherdess, a Spanish matador, a Dutch footballer, an Irish dancer and a moustached French garlic seller all turned up as well as a couple of kilted Scotsmen.

KILMORE

role of the Community Charity Shop, based in the 'White Building' on the North Pier. The shop, which is managed and run entirely by volunteers, raises thousands of pounds each year for good causes in the community. The vote of thanks for a most interesting and informative talk was given by Rhoda Thomas.

Mr MacQueen then judged the competition for this month which was Home made marmalade. First was Mairi Morrison and second Anne Tully.



Accordion player Ross MacPherson was part of the entertainment at the recent Burns supper at the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary. The free event was laid on by the sanctuary as a thank you to the local community for its support and was an opportunity to raise money for the Merlin's Magic Wand charity. 15_08burns01

THE TOPIC for Kilmore and District's SWRI meeting on February 13 was the work of the MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, with guest speakers Linda Fraser and Graham MacQueen.

Mr MacQueen started the evening off talking about his early childhood on the island of Seil and the strong sense of community this gave him. He then went on to tell us of his time in the Merchant Navy and in particular of the part that he played in the rescue of 346 Vietnamese boat people in 1978, whilst serving as Chief Officer on the training ship *Wellpark*.

Mrs Fraser then described the

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WESTER ROSS
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SKYE
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GLENGARRY
GLENGARRY Community Hall will host sessions on deaf awareness and an introduction to sign language on Friday and Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

Jura community store plan moves closer

PLANS to operate Jura Stores as a community venture took another step forward this week as the newly-formed Jura Stores Community Interest Company began advertising for a shop manager.

In an island ballot last November, 77 per cent of the population voted to buy the local shop for the market value of £95,000.

But although funding is still to be concluded, the company is pressing on with filling the post.

Sarah Compton-Bishop, of Jura Development Trust, who has been leading the community buyout said: 'Because this is such a fast-paced project we have started the search for a manager.'

'It will have to be someone really special because this is not just a shop, it is a community project.'

The closing date for applications to the post is March 9.

Taynuilt man admits frightening girlfriend

A TAYNUILT man left his girlfriend frightened after shouting and swearing at her while she was holding their 19 month old son.

Phillip Colewell, 27, of Lonan Cottage, Glen Lonan, Taynuilt, pled guilty to the offence when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Sheriff Jack Davidson deferred sentence on Colewell until March 5 for the preparation of reports as he said the case is causing him 'some disquiet'.

March is busy month for Glasgow-based conductor

A BUSY start to the month of March is in store for former Campbeltown man Kenny Thomson, conductor of the Glasgow Gaelic (GG) Musical Association.

On March 1 Kenny will chair the Glasgow Islay Association's Annual Gathering in Partick Burgh Hall.

The following week is the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association's annual concert, which will simultaneously mark the choir's 120th anniversary and Kenny's 30th anniversary as conductor. The annual concert will be held in the Cottier's Theatre in Glasgow's west end on March 8.

Change to draft ferries plan divides Isle of Islay

Final plan came as a 'shock' claims Islay and Jura Fair Ferries Forum member

'We are pleased with the outcome,' says South Islay Development

A CHANGE to Transport Scotland's draft ferries plan threatens to divide an island, as disagreements surface over the allocation of sailings to Islay's two ports.

The government's Draft Ferries Plan had indicated more services would be run to Port Askaig, in the north of the island, but the final plan on December 19 last year, reversed that recommendation, stating the majority of services would continue to come into Port Ellen, at the south end of Islay.

Transport Scotland explained the Draft Ferries Plan had received 236 responses on top of a petition organised by South Islay Development (SID), which gained signatures and online support from 1,019 people calling for the services to Port Ellen to be retained.

The change of strategy has angered residents in the north half of the island, leading to the formation of a new pressure group, Islay and Jura Fair Ferries Forum (IJFFF).

Forum member Marion Spiers, of Port Askaig Hotel, said: 'When the draft ferries plan was published it seemed to reflect the considerable input we had provided during consultation.'



North of Islay residents had hoped more services would be run to Port Askaig.

'U-turn'

'But there seems to have been a complete U-turn and those of us who supported more sailings to Port Askaig were maybe slightly naive to think the recommendation would be carried forward.'

'I have spoken to 50 haulage, retail and tourism businesses on Jura and in north, west and mid Islay and there is a lot of strong feeling that this imbalance of services should be addressed.'

Another IJFFF member Paul Graham, Bruichladdich, said the final ferries plan was a 'shock', given the recommendation from the draft plan.

He said: 'There's no way the imbalance should come to Port Askaig; Port Ellen has three distilleries and a maltings to support, but it should be

at least 50/50.' A spokeswoman for the SID board said: 'We stand by our actions and responses to the ferries review and are pleased with the outcome.'

Threat

'As a community-led organisation, the threat to existing transport links

was one that had to be taken very seriously.'

'There was a strong indication that damage to the local economy would be sustained if sailings were lost [from Port Ellen], compounded by the direct experience of living with no ferry service while Port Ellen pier was

being developed. The consultation allowed everyone to put their views forward, whether in support of the proposal or not.'

Transport Scotland said it would continue to listen to any and all views expressed about the conclusions reached in its final plan.

Injured hill walker airlifted from Lochearnhead

AN INJURED hill walker was rescued from Ben Vorlich near Lochearnhead on Monday after police received the briefest of 999 emergency calls.

At 1.40pm, police received a faint call from the 50-year-old injured man from Perth but all that could be made out was that he was on Ben Vorlich with a suspected broken leg.

A rescue helicopter was scrambled from Prestwick and Killin Mountain Rescue Team called out, however another walker found the man and contacted police on 999 at 2.30pm. Meanwhile, police had located the likely position of the injured walker's parked car which assisted the helicopter to search a specific area.

The helicopter located the casualty and flew him to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

Hotel wins award

AN OBAN hotel has been named among the best in its category by booking website LateRooms.com.

The Queens Hotel was named the best in Scotland in the beach hotel category and ninth overall in the website's annual awards.

Hotel owner Raymond Hyams said he was 'shocked' to have won the award. He said: 'This is based on guest reviews, so we obviously did pretty well to win.'

The awards take into account hotels from all over the world when choosing the winners.

Driver charged after Taynuilt crash

A MAN has been charged with careless driving after colliding with a stationary car on the A85 near Taynuilt on Monday at 12.25pm.

A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Quiz night in Oban

THE COMMITTEE of Oban's Cancer Research branch will host a quiz night at the Royal Hotel, Oban, this Friday night at 7.30pm.

Teams of two to five people are invited to compete with an entry fee of £3 per person. There will also be a raffle on the night.

Verbal abuse charge

A 27-year-old man is to appear at Oban Sheriff Court on an undertaking next month after being accused of verbally abusing a 21-year-old woman.

The alleged incident happened at a pub in Oban last Saturday at 11.30pm.

Dinnerware from £5

Candles from £5.95

Original Kitchens, 8 Albany Terrace, Oban, Argyll

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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.

The showroom features Crown Imperial which prides itself in offering value for money across their entire range of stunning quality fitted furniture. You too can add a touch of luxury to your Kitchen, bedroom or living area.

To compliment this range Neptune is a stunning collection of bespoke kitchens and interiors that are built to the highest quality using traditional materials. This range incorporates bedroom, living, garden and bathroom furniture so you can complete your look which makes Neptune furniture a welcome addition to any home.

The concept behind Original Kitchens is to create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere where customers are welcome to browse the showroom at their leisure. With our many years of experience we are uniquely placed to offer project management of your individual kitchen development, existing kitchen refurbishments, home extensions or new build home.

Please feel free to call in and visit us at 8 Albany Terrace. We look forward to welcoming old and new customers alike.

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Fort William woman victim of sexual attack in Thailand

A WOMAN from the Fort William area was the victim of a horrific sexual attack by a gang of men in Thailand in the early hours of Saturday morning. The 20-year-old university student was reportedly dragged off the street and gang raped by four men after becoming separated from her boyfriend after a night out in the city of Nakhon Si Thammarat in the south of the country. Thai police are still

looking for the men who carried out the attack. Locals phoned the police who found the woman lying on a balcony of a block of flats, and she was taken to hospital for treatment to her injuries. The woman, who has not been named, is thought to have been in the area for around two weeks during a break from her studies and had applied for a job at a local primary school as an English teacher.



HMS Argyll leaves Plymouth on its seven-month deployment across the Atlantic.

HMS Argyll sets sail across Atlantic

THE ROYAL Navy frigate HMS Argyll left Plymouth on Monday on its latest deployment, conducting counter-narcotics operations across the Atlantic. Families and friends bid farewell in Devonport dockyard, on Devil's Point and the Hoe with the traditional flags and good luck banners to wave off their loved ones on the ship's departure this afternoon. Pipers from the City of Plymouth Pipe Band embarked on the ship and played onboard for the passage down the Hamoaze and the Sound.

HMS Argyll is due to undertake a range of tasks across the Atlantic in support of British interests worldwide on its seven-month deployment. Its tasking will be on counter-narcotics effort in the West Africa region, as well as providing reassurance to UK territories and partners worldwide. On completion of her tasking in the Atlantic, the ship will undertake a number of high profile regional engagement visits in the Caribbean before returning to its base-port of Devonport home later this year.

Residents demand action on icy steps

RESIDENTS have demanded action from Highland Council over ice-bound steps and pavements in their Fort William housing scheme.

Local man Vincent Duncan fell on ice coming down the steps from his Argyll Terrace home four weeks ago, bruising a bone in his back.

Two doctor appointments later he is still in pain and has been told the injury will take six to eight weeks to heal.

On Tuesday morning, up to two inches of sheet ice was again covering the steps and pavement below.

Mr Duncan, better known locally as Rusty, said old folks and children going to school were particularly at risk from serious injury.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This all started when they built the new flats on Heathercroft [higher up Cow Hill].

'I have been phoning the council for months. The water has been running down the hill for a year. When the frost comes people can't use the steps, yet there's nothing been done about it.

'There's an 84-year woman next door and when her daughter comes to take her out she can't use the stairs.'

The elderly lady's home carer,

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Jennifer Bell, had to grab both handrails coming down the steps after her morning visit.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I think it's ridiculous. It has been reported time and time again and we're still waiting.

'There is no way an 84-year-old lady can use the steps when they are like this. She can't get out today.'

Mr Duncan, 64, said a council workman had dug out a small channel next to the steps to carry water away, but in freezing weather conditions surfaces still became treacherous.

According to Mr Duncan, the council assured him tenders for work to correct the drainage problems were put out before Christmas but he has seen no activity since.

He said: 'A man from environmental health was here last week. He said it was surface water and would look into it.

'All they need to do is to lay a pipe next to the bannister and dig it into the concrete at the bottom.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'We are aware of the issue.'



Rusty Duncan can make little impression on thick ice covering the steps up to Argyll Terrace.



Home carer Jennifer Bell gingerly makes her way down the steps.

Tributes to Skye nursery assistant

TRIBUTES have been paid to the Skye primary school nursery assistant killed while spectating at the Snowman Rally on Saturday.

Joy Robson died after she was struck by a Honda Civic car during the event's first stage through Lochletter Woods, Balnain, west of Loch Ness.

Mrs Robson, aged 50, who leaves four children, had worked for five years at Mcdiarmid Primary School, Skeabost Bridge, seven miles from her home in Portree.

She was in charge of a nursery of 11 pupils and helped organise activities for the other 51 pupils at the school.

Pupils and staff remembered her at a special assembly on Monday morning.

In a letter to parents and carers, head teacher Susan Lumley said: 'It is with great sadness that we inform you of the devastating death of Joy Robson.

'She was a super nursery assistant and the children, parents and staff will all miss her bubbly personality around the school. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.'

An eight-year-old boy was injured in the horrific incident, in which the car careered off the track into spectators. Mrs Robson and the boy were left trapped underneath until other spectators lifted the car free. Driver Graeme Schoneville and co-driver Michael Hendry were unhurt.

The rally was immediately abandoned and competitors, including several from Skye and Mull, made their way home without starting.

In a statement, rally organisers the Highland Car Club said: 'The club extends its sympathies to the families of those involved.'

D-Day approaches for Skye community's ambitious project

D-DAY is approaching for a south Skye group's ambitious plan for a sustainable retail, social and tourist hub to act as a focal point for community life.

Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative has already secured planning permission from Highland Council for the £1.6 million centre on Camuscross common grazings above the A851 between Armadale and Broadford.

But without major 'Stage 2' funding from the Big Lottery, it is unlikely the project

will see the light of day. CDI has already been granted one extension to complete their detailed application for Lottery cash - thought to be around £1million, the maximum allowed.

Now the go-ahead community group, assisted by a project officer, is busy working on the final wording of the bid, which must be submitted by mid-March.

CDI director Susan Walker was in no doubt as to the consequences if the application was unsuccessful.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We have already done the business planning, the designs are finished and the planning came through in October. But if we don't get the money from the Lottery we may as well forget it.'

The hub will feature a village shop, a café-bakery and a 'gathering space' for meetings and functions with a capacity of 110 seated and 175 standing. Also included in the blueprint are showers, toilets, an office, a foyer for tourism and local

heritage displays and parking for 50 cars. A business development manager, financial administrator, shop manager and a chef will staff the centre if and when it becomes a reality. Business projections show the hub would turn over £511,000 a year by year three, supporting seven full-time equivalent jobs and injecting an estimated £157,000 into the local economy annually. By year five, according to CDI's estimates, the hub would see 34,000 additional visitors stop and spend time in Sleat.

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Massacre remembered

Tributes paid to victims of 1692 Glencoe slaughter of MacDonalds

A BLIZZARD engulfed survivors of the Glencoe Massacre on February 13 1692 – and conditions were little different last Wednesday for the annual commemoration of the notorious deed.

Driving sleet pelted 50 hardy souls huddled round the Celtic cross at Upper Carnoch for the memorial ceremony as higher up the glen heavy snow swept across the mountains.

Minutes earlier, Ballachulish piper John MacCallum led the traditional short procession up from the old River Coe bridge after an 11am requiem service in St Mary's Episcopal Church, conducted by Rev Adrian Fallows.

Rev Fallows, the Rector of St Mary's, also led proceedings

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

at Upper Carnoch as wreaths were laid in memory of the 38 MacDonalds killed by order of the Crown.

Forrest Lee Piver from Wilmington, North Carolina, the High Commissioner of Clan Donald USA, Ros MacDonald of the Glencoe Heritage Trust, National Trust for Scotland Glencoe manager Scott McCombie and Stephen McKeown, general manager of Clan Donald Isle of Skye, all laid floral tributes.

John MacFarlane of Taynait gave a Gaelic account of the massacre and read Psalm 121, also in Gaelic.

The company sang the 23rd

Psalm and The Corries' 'The Massacre of Glencoe' before a lament on the pipes, a two-minute silence and prayers brought proceedings to a close.

Ros MacDonald of Glencoe Heritage Trust said those making the trip included contingents from Wales, the USA, Skye and Grantown-on-Spey – but acknowledged the snow had cut attendance.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It was probably much worse for the people fleeing the massacre because they would not have had modern coverings or clothes.'

'But the day went very well, considering the atrocious weather.'

'Although the ceremony was cut short, people really enjoyed it.'



Piper John MacCallum leads the procession up to Upper Carnoch. 20_f08glencoe07



Scott McCombie, Glencoe manager, lays a wreath on behalf of the National Trust for Scotland. 20_f08glencoe04



The Rev Adrian Fallows, left, leads the ceremony. Clan Donald Isle of Skye general manager Stephen McKeown, right, was among those laying wreaths. 20_f08glencoe02



John MacFarlane reads Psalm 121 in Gaelic. 20_f08glencoe03



The two-minute silence to remember the 38 MacDonald victims. 20_f08glencoe05



The Celtic cross monument and memorial plaque donated by The Clan Donald Lands Trust on Skye. 20_f08glencoe06

Mull Lines

SIGNS to warn of otters crossing the road are to be erected in black spots where the creatures are being killed on the Isle of Mull.

Experts have been consulted on the matter and they are confident the signs will mean a 'significant reduction' in road kill.

Jane Stevens told Mull Community Council that funds were currently being sought for six signs. She said: 'I hope it will reduce deaths and give a visual message to visitors that we value our wildlife.'

RESIDENTS on the Isle of Mull arranging any events this year are being urged to let police know their plans in advance.

Sergeant Mark Stephen told a recent meeting of Mull Community Council that he would like as much notice as possible from anyone organising community or charity events so he could plan for officers to be on duty.

He said: 'There were events last year where there was only one officer on duty but if I'd known about it I could have made two available. This isn't something we charge for – it is just to help with our planning.'

Anyone organising events is asked to contact Sergeant Stephen at Tobermory Police Office on 01688 302016.

WORK on a radio station for Mull and Iona is progressing well, with hopes to start broadcasting in October.

Sound of Mull Radio received a broadcasting licence last July but the group needs to raise funds for equipment before it can get on air.

Adrian Fitness, from the station, said funding applications were progressing, adding: 'We have put a wish list together with what we would like to start up with and that is going to cost about £72,000.'

The money will pay for transmitters for Glengorm and Fionnphort – subject to agreement with Argyll Estates – and equipment for the studio which will be based in An Roth, Craignure.

Adrian added: 'We are aiming to be on air in October but this isn't confirmed as it depends on how funding progresses.'

'When we start broadcasting it will be very diverse, playing most genres of music. We have had people in touch who are keen to write radio plays and want to do wildlife programmes.'

'We are looking to benefit both locals and visitors and what we hope to do is help engage the local businesses with tourists.'

Sound of Mull Radio will be holding its AGM on March 28 at 8pm in An Roth, Craignure. Anyone interested is welcome to go along.

CONCERNS over dog fouling on the Isle of Mull can be addressed by local residents, a meeting of the island's community council heard.

Sergeant Mark Stephen told the meeting that legislation covering dog fouling was among the best as it meant only one witness was necessary to prosecute the crime.

He said if a member of the public witnessed a person not picking up after their dog they had a right to ask them to do so, adding: 'If you ask them to pick it up and they refuse that is sufficient for us to report them to the Procurator Fiscal or for the council to deal with it.'

Contact reporter Faith Orr with all your news from the Isle of Mull.
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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

ARGYLL is once again fully open for business – and that is a message that will be music to many people's ears.

After long delays in getting a reliable relief road for the A83 the announcement that it is finally ready comes in the same week we hear train services from Oban to Glasgow are to increase to six a day and the vital airfield on the Isle of Mull is to reopen in time for Easter.

In a time when accessibility has never been so important in attracting tourists and their hard earned cash these steps must be applauded.

Of course, it is not just visitors that will benefit from the changes but locals too, with train services doubling as of May next year these extra trains will not just serve summer visitors, the year long changes will help keep open vital links throughout the winter.

Islanders will benefit too, with access to emergency evacuations now guaranteed in the long term with the re-opening of the Glenforsa airfield.

And Kintyre residents will be breathing a sigh of relief in hearing their vital road has a solid back-up plan.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Islay Association Annual Concert and Dance

THE ANNUAL concert and dance will this year be held on different evenings, the concert being held in Partick Burgh Hall on Friday March 1 at 7.30pm with the dance in Strathclyde University Union the following evening from 9pm.

Singers at the concert will be youngsters Kirsten Laurie and Ruaridh MacKinnon, both from Islay, and Mod Gold Medalists Eilidh Davies and Paul MacCallum. Young Brighde Morrison will play accordion selections and piping for the evening will be in the capable hands of Lyndsay MacArthur and Sandy Maclellan.

Kenneth Thomson will chair the concert.

Music at the dance will be provided by the Reely Jiggered Ceilidh Band.

Tickets for each of the events cost £10 and are available from the usual outlets or from Janette MacArthur, telephone 0141 812 5150.

Gaelic drama at the Tron

SPONSORED by Glaschu Beo, an evening of Gaelic drama will be presented in the Tron Theatre on Wednesday February 27 at 8pm.

The 'Beast of Holm', a play written and presented to much critical acclaim by Mairi Morrison at the Edinburgh Festival, will be the focus of the evening concentrating on how the community in Lewis responded to the tragic Iolair disaster at the end of the First World War.

Non Gaelic speakers are welcome.

Celtic Media Festival

THE FESTIVAL will take place in Swansea from April 24 to 26 and the organisation has now announced the nominations for awards in the 20 categories. These can be viewed at www.celticmediafestival.co.uk.

Recital in memory of Donald Macpherson

THE SCOTTISH Piper's Association will hold a recital in memory of Donald Macpherson, who died last year after lifetime membership of the Association, in the College of Piping on Saturday April 13.

Tickets are available from the college and I shall provide details of the participants nearer the date.

Clydebank and District Highlander's Association

FRANCES Dunlop chaired and sang at the well-attended February ceilidh in Napier Hall while the other artists were Sheena Walker, Robert Robertson, who sang and played the accordion, the group Rocksalt from Stirling, piper Robert Wood and accompanist Kirsteen Grant.

On Saturday March 2, the association will hold a ceilidh supper in the Napier Hall from 7.30pm to 11.30pm when the music for dancing will be

played by Iain MacDonald's Ceilidh Band. In previous years this event has been a dinner dance so it is hoped the new format will be a success.

Tickets, £15, are available by telephoning 01389 879748 or tel 01389 850278.

Comunn An Taobh-an-lar

THERE was a good attendance at the closing ceilidh in Milngavie when the singers were Eilidh Munro, Catherine Tinney, Norman MacKinnon and Bill McMillan.

Graham Richardson was the piper, Robert MacColl played accordion selections and Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist.

The ceilidh was chaired by Peter MacDonald.

Paisley Highlander's Association

AFTER an excellent meal, more than 90 people enjoyed an evening of enjoyable entertainment at the Burns' Night of the Paisley Highlanders.

John Carmichael played for the dancing, Frances Dunlop sang both Gaelic and songs by the Bard and Ian McCosh recited Tam o'Shanter.

During the proceedings a presentation was made to Archie Duncan, who retired as the association accordionist in May 2012, and to his wife Helena.

Glasgow Local Mod

A SPECIAL meeting will be held in An Leanaig, 22 Mansfield Street, on Tuesday March 5 to elect a new committee to run the Mod which takes place in June and which attracts more than 300 competitors each year.

A good attendance is requested.

Stirling Local Mod

THE SYLLABUS for Stirling Local Mod, to be held on May 17 and 18, is available from Rachel Deans, telephone 07970 639240.

Entries must be submitted by March 31.

Diary dates

Friday February 22: Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs Concert, Bearsden Burgh Hall, 7.30pm. Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am.

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

Friday March 1: Glasgow Islay Association Annual Concert - see above

Saturday March 2: Glasgow Islay Association Annual Dance - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh/Supper Dance - see above.

Sunday March 3: Pride of Scotland, Mitchell Library Auditorium, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

ROBERT Robertson will be playing in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with Trail West playing there on Friday. In the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

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



Taynuilt Primary School - 1976

This week's flashback photograph features Taynuilt Primary School's primary six and seven pupils from 1976. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
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www.obantimes.co.uk

Vote 'no' to Mull BIDs plan

Sir, I could spend hours putting pen to paper to explain why Mull BIDs is a bad idea but will keep it short and only touch on a few of the many faults I see.

Mull is a beautiful and natural place. To change it with signs explaining the obvious is money wasted. To turn Mull into a commercial destination is going to destroy it in the long run and is very short sighted.

People come to Mull because it is Mull and I, for one, like it the way it is.

People move to Mull because it's a beautiful and safe place to live. But they don't stay long before they try to change it into the hell they have left behind.

I have read through the glossy brochure and have seen the banners telling me this is a good idea, but all I can see is people making jobs for themselves at the expense of local businesses.

Before long the BID tax will go up to cover additional staff and advertisements. There will be nothing you will be able to do to stop it unless you vote 'no' now.

Local businesses on Mull have high standards and I am surprised people have taken criticism that they need a BID scheme to make them better.

Don't turn Mull into a commercial destination and vote 'no' and save Mull from this so-called improvement.

Please read and understand the brochure. It makes for interesting reading, especially the compulsory investment levy. For the majority this is never going to be an investment.

The figures they have quoted makes for interesting reading

and I will leave you to decipher these so as not to sway you unlike the fancy wording the brochure offers.

Also, what do the people who don't have businesses on Mull think about this idea? The locals should be asked what they think. I bet they will answer we like Mull the way it is. If you don't, then go away. Vote 'no'.

Name and address supplied.

Use money to provide jobs

Sir, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) originated as an urban project raising money from local businesses to improve business incomes by creating clean and safe environments for shoppers.

Where it has been successful, business rates have been increased forcing smaller businesses out because they could no longer afford to trade in the area. Do we want that to happen on Mull?

Why risk everything when the outcome is likely to be so damaging?

Some of us believe the money would be better spent providing much-needed employment rather than on signs, viewpoints and toilets.

These services are the responsibility of existing bodies, such as the council.

Many people come to Mull for its unique environment and to immerse themselves in its natural beauty, away from their busy urban lives.

Mull is a tranquil retreat, not a mainstream tourist destination and the island's infrastructure could not sustain a large influx of people. Our roads need major repair and upgrading if they are to carry more traffic.

Act now to save fish stocks

Sir, Readers who saw last week's *Fish Fight* TV programme on Channel 4 will surely have been astonished that such unsustainable fisheries as scallop dredging still exist.

Whilst the programme broadcast underwater footage off the Isle of Man, showing where the seabed had been systematically dredged, destroying the creatures that live there, similar film footage could be taken off Arran, Mull and any number of other stretches of the Scottish coastline. Shamefully, scallop dredging - widely regarded as the most unsustainable fishery in European waters, because of its seabed impacts - remains largely unchecked by the Holyrood Government, even though it employs a small fraction of Scotland's fishermen.

As *Fish Fight* emphasised, scallop dredging owes its continued existence in part to its invisibility. It is out of sight, so it is out of mind. Just imagine the national outcry if wild, ancient and publicly owned woodland was ploughed up in pursuit of a few truffles. It is welcome to see that Scotland's largest scallop dredgers, MacDuff Shellfish, have joined calls to control dredging in inshore waters to allow the recovery of devastated fish stocks. Sadly this attitude is not yet shared by all of Scotland's dredgers.

The simple and effective answer to the problem is to listen to the fishermen who know about husbandry and establish separate zones for sustainable fishing methods such as creeling and diving - neither of which drag heavy destructive gear through the vital seabed fish nurseries. Such zones would allow a recovery of commercial fish stocks and the environment. This will create sustainable creeling and diving jobs now and lead to more fishing jobs in the future, because there will again be enough actual fish as well as shellfish to catch commercially.

Other parts of Britain, such as the Isle of Man and Wales, have now created dredging free zones. Scotland cannot afford to be left behind. So Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust is promoting a project in the Firth of Clyde that aims to restore the ecosystem by creating separate zones for sustainable fisheries like creeling, angling and diving. This will end the scraping of the seabed and result in the fish again being able to support a sustainable, economically viable mixed fishery for everyone's benefit rather than just for the short term gains of the few.

Charles Millar, Director, Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust, 15 Eildon Street, Edinburgh.

Horrified at scale of council cuts

Sir, I am horrified at the scale of the cuts the SNP has made in the Argyll and Bute Council budget.

These cuts are not necessary. No other council in Scotland is cutting on this scale. The only reason I can think of for these cuts is to build up a 'war chest' for the SNP to use to cut the Council Tax just before the next election.

The SNP, led by Helensburgh Councillor James Robb, is sacking hundreds of workers and slashing the budgets for care of the elderly, roads maintenance and keeping our towns and villages tidy. They're even taking milk away from school children. Instead of 'Margaret Thatcher - Milk Snatcher', the new protest cry will be 'Milk Robb-er'.

These cuts are unnecessary as the opposition budget showed. The council officials warned the SNP that its budget will see about £12 million spent on redundancy payments. This money could be better spent on council services.

The officials also warned the SNP that its cuts to homework for the elderly will see elderly people 'living in deteriorating conditions which may then result in future emergency action at higher cost'.

This SNP budget is horrific. I appeal to them to think again.

Alan Reid MP, 95 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

CHA DO mheall e ach na dh'earb às! Dè an luach a tha sinne a' cur air earbsa agus creideas gum bheilear a' libhrigeadh dhuinn na thathas a' gealltainn?

Mar phàirt den earbsa sin, nuair a chì sinn soidhne a tha ag ràdh Ionad Cùraim Slàinte, tha sinn a' sùileachadh gur e deagh chùram a gheibhear taobh a-staigh leithid de dh'àite. Fiu 's ged nach bitheadh gum tur mothachail air cho fortanach 's a tha sinn às an t-seirbheis slàinte a th' againn anns an dùthaich seo, tha mòran a' faireachadh gum bheil iad air còraichean seirbheis a chosnadh tro na phàigeadh ann an cisean de gach seòrsa thar nam bliadhnaichean.

Do bhrìgh ire na h-earbsa sin, 's e crìochnachadh uabhasach a th' ann dhuinn a bhith a' faicinn 's a' cluinntinn aithrisean iargalta mu dhroch dhìol air euslaicinn ann an ospadail agus ionadan-cùraim de gach seòrsa.

Ged a dh'fheumar a bhith an dòchas gur e glè bheag nach eil a' coileanadh an dleastanas mar bu choir, aig an aon àm tha a h-uile sgeulachd den t-seòrsa a' dèanamh cron mòr air clù na seirbheis gu nàiseanta agus air a' chreideas a th' aig a' mhòr-shluagh innte.

Ged a tha na meadhanan a' toirt seirbheis le bhith a' foillseachadh na tha a' tachairt, tha iad aig an aon àm buailteach eagal a dhùsgadh agus fàgaidh sin an leasachadh air an t-suidheachadh, agus an earbsa, nas duilghe.

Tha feòil eich sàbhailte gu leòr a h-àite, ach greamhail dha daoine a tha measail air eich, ach nach annasach nach eil trioblaid sam bith againn ag ithe beathach cruith neo caora air an robh sinn 's dòcha a cheart cho measail! Ach 's e rud gu tur eadar-dhealaichte a th' ann nuair a tha luchd-ceannach air am mealladh agus feòil eich ga reic riutha fo bhileag a tha ag ràdh gur e feòil mairt a th' ann.

An earbsa a tha sinn uile a' cur ann an seirbheis libhrigidh bidh air a spreadhadh agus gu nàdarra, ceistean mòra air daoine mu fhìrinn nam bileagan air caochladh phasgan bìdh eile ann am bùthan.

Bheir e greis mun teid aig gnìomhachas a' bhìdh air creideas an t-sluaigh a bhùinnig air ais, ach mar a tha seanfhacl eile ag ràdh, 's fheàrr deagh earbsa na droch fhoighidinn!

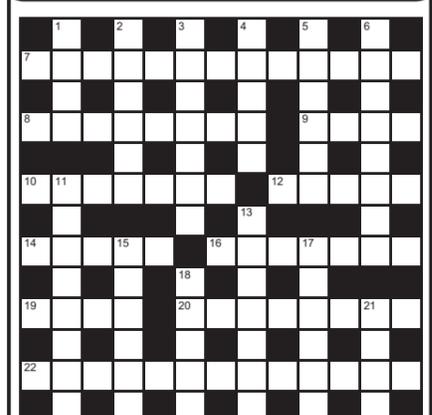
OVER the past few weeks many will have considered how much we take for granted in our busy lives and particularly the trust we have in the integrity of public and private service delivery.

For the majority, health care services imply the best care and when food industry giants advertise quality produce, we generally believe them. Although instances of failure in standards of health services are relatively few, the evidence uncovered has damaged public confidence.

We may feel that we have some option when it comes to our food shopping, but for the vast majority there is only one health service and we must be sure it continues to care.

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Told to be erect for the debit payment (8,5)
 - 8 Not necessarily a union of choice (4,4)
 - 9 Crazy bird (7)
 - 10 Binge (7)
 - 12 Speech in music (5)
 - 14 Father of your parents nephew (5)
 - 16 Frog's offspring (7)
 - 19 Soldering need (4)
 - 20 Uncertainty (8)
 - 22 Making many (4-9)
- Down**
- 1 Above (4)
 - 2 Nonsensical (6)
 - 3 The place to be on when travelling stateside (7)
 - 4 Obviously surprised (5)
 - 5 Inconsequential (6)
 - 6 Monument (8)
 - 11 Grape plant growth (4-4)
 - 13 Land by the road (7)
 - 15 Most negligent (6)
 - 17 Spout (6)
 - 18 Appropriate (5)
 - 21 Of sound mind (4)

We are now inviting questions for Chief Inspector Brian Auld, Area Commander for Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Submit your questions via The Oban Times' website or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

YOUR SAY

Last week's solution

D	I	R	E	C	H	E	R	U	B	I	C
E	E	E	L	E	E	L	E	E	L	E	E
P	U	L	L	O	U	T	C	R	E	R	E
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T	E	C	H	N	I	C	A	L	I	T	Y
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Son of Colonsay became acclaimed medical master

A SON of the Isle of Colonsay, the child of a farm worker, the youngest of 11 and one of the greatest medical men ever born.

Ruaraidh McNeill, later known as Roger McNeill, the son of Angus McNeill, was born in the south west corner of Colonsay in 1853. He became the first medical officer of health for Argyll and was spurred into his chosen career at an early age.

Roger's mother, Margaret McNeill (nee Smith), died when he was just six years old. There was no doctor on the island to save her life. Her death would influence Roger for the rest of his life.

To understand the importance of McNeill's work to the Highlands and islands of Scotland you must first understand the state of affairs at the time.

In 1850, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh conducted a survey, the Coldstream Inquiry, 'to determine the proportion which the [medical] practitioners bear to the whole [Highland and island] population and to ascertain whether there be much complaint on the part of the people of the difficulty in getting medical aid'.

The results identified only 133 medical men serving 370,000 people over the 14,000 square miles. Like the island of Colonsay, more than half of the parishes had no resident doctor.

McNeill left Colonsay to go to Edinburgh University in 1872 at the age of 19. He studied anatomy under William Turner, physiology under John Gray McKendrick and systematic surgery under James Spence.

The *Oban Times* proudly declared in April 1874 that he was the 'prizeman in surgery (junior division)' and took 'second-place honours in physiology'.

The following year he advanced to study clinical surgery under Spence's colleague and the medical school's most renowned figure, Joseph Lister. McNeill's time studying under him (1874-75, summer 1875, 1876-77) were also Lister's last years at Edinburgh.

The *Oban Times* announced more good news in September 1877: 'We are glad to learn that Mr Roger McNeill, son of Angus McNeill, farmer here [Colonsay], passed his final examination for Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh.'

After leaving university McNeill moved to England and worked as a GP in Levenshulme near Manchester but persistent chest problems forced him to quit the practice and become a ship's surgeon with the British India Steam Navigation Company.

On October 7, 1881 McNeill was elected president of the newly formed Caledonian Medical Society, set up to form a bond between medical workers related to the Highlands of Scotland.

This election followed a successful couple of years taking charge of floating hospitals during a smallpox epidemic and winning a first class honours degree and gold medal for his thesis based on his work with smallpox.

In 1883 McNeill was appointed resident medical officer at Gesto Hospital on the Isle of Skye where harsh weather, poor fishing and bad harvests had turned the island into a battleground.

McNeill felt overwhelmed: 'I went as a total stranger to the isle of mist and endeavoured to do my duty to all to the best of my ability.'

Over the next few years McNeill's work was to be the basis of many papers and reports that were central to shaping Scotland's healthcare. These included the Napier Commission and Gesto Report.

During this time McNeill tirelessly highlighted the mortality rates of women during childbirth in the Highlands and islands of

'Up to the last he was zealous and active in his appointed work, he was painstakingly accurate and conscientious in carrying out his public duties. He will be remembered as a pioneer and as an example to those who follow in his foot-steps.'

Scotland and the varying standards of health on different islands.

He believed 'the causes which bring about the difference in mortality are more or less remediable, and might be brought under control'.

McNeill decided he wanted more formal qualification in the emerging field of public health. He had studied medical jurisprudence as a student at Edinburgh in 1876, witnessed the legendary efforts of that city's first medical officer of health, Dr Henry Duncan Littlejohn, served during London's smallpox epidemic, and published papers about Highland mortality.

He prepared for the examination with his friend, colleague, and fellow member of the Caledonian Medical Society, William McNaughton. Cambridge University awarded each of them its Diploma of Public Health in 1889.

This was an opportune time for a qualified doctor with ambitions in public health. Up until this point, choosing public health as a career meant acting as a 'medical policeman' with little remuneration and less security than a general practitioner.

In 1890 Argyll County Council advertised for its first county medical officer. The successful applicant would 'be the medical officer of health for each of the county districts and be allowed to act as medical officer of health or consulting medical officer of health for any of the county burghs.'

The *Oban Times* announced the council's choice with his many credentials, accomplishments and honours: 'Dr McNeill is also author of several able papers in medical subjects - papers of conspicuous merit,' according to Sir Joseph Lister.

Not always popular with the public, Roger McNeill was ceaseless in his efforts to improve the health of the people of Argyll.

In May 1896, he issued the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of the

County and Districts. It was a compendium of vital statistics, schools, nurses, hospitals, disinfection, new houses, and 'progress and improvements wanted'.

In three successive editorials, *The Oban Times* applauded the report. The editor at the time knew that McNeill's work was often ignored by the public: 'The medical officer sets himself a hard task when he tries to convince the heterogeneous authority to which he is primarily responsible, it is amazing, after due allowances for permissible difficulties, how many of the simple reforms he may suggest and urge are so persistently ignored and shelved.'

McNeill never lost sight of the challenges in the rural districts of Argyll where the struggle to get a resident doctor often became a struggle to keep one. These challenges were clearly evident in Colonsay.

The first doctor arrived in Colonsay in January 1897, the second left 'with much regret' in April 1901. A female doctor began in June of that year under a contract which could be terminated at two months' notice by either party.

She was followed by a succession of four female doctors until 1909, when the Parish Council recorded their 'regret that because of the small salary they are able to offer, medical officers do not stay on an average more than a couple of years.'

When a doctor requested a three week holiday in April 1910, it was approved 'on condition that she will continue to be medical officer in the parish for a year.' She almost met the obligation, but resigned in February 1911.

Roger McNeill wanted, and needed, more of the Scottish medical community to see the Highlands and islands of Scotland where the numbers of doctors, nurses and teachers were low.

At the 1909 meeting of the Caledonian Medical Society, he proposed that the 1910



Dr Roger McNeill (1853-1924)

meeting be held in Fort William.

Members arrived at the Cameron Campbell Library in the town on September 23, 1910. The society had cast a wide net of official and special invitations.

One went to Sir John Dewar, MP for Inverness, who nurtured an abiding concern over medical services in the Highlands and islands - he sent an apology for his absence.

working weeks.

Today 'the full report, with its verbatim evidence is still a remarkable document.' There were sections on the poverty of the crofters, their insanitary dwellings, survival of superstition, parish councils being overburdened, the smallness of doctors incomes, the percentage of uncertified deaths, the effect of the insurance act and the inadequacy of existing subsidies.

Recommendations widely reported in the press included the need for trained nurses, hospitals, the provision of medicine, dental treatment, and a suggested scale of fees.

The report reflects the research, publications and efforts of Roger McNeill from the 1880s onward.

With uncharacteristic speed and consensus, Parliament passed the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Act on August 15, 1913. Included were provisions for nursing and a substantial annual grant.

Sir John Dewar would chair the Highlands and Islands Medical Service (HIMS) Board and Sir Donald MacAlister agreed to serve with two doctors from the committee.

While they set to work, Roger McNeill returned home to face drama on a local scale. In September, the Royal Navy 'invaded' Colonsay where the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, stood atop Beinn Orasa on the neighbouring island of Oronsay to watch gunnery practice and rehearse for war.

In November, McNeill failed to convince the Colonsay blacksmith to let him treat his eight-year-old son for tuberculosis, even though any costs were covered by the National Health Insurance Act. The blacksmith's wife died of phthisis pulmonalis three months later.

Before, during, and after the Great War, McNeill continued to produce annual reports for the County Council and serve as honorary consultant medical officer to Argyll's Sanatorium.

When McNeill died in 1924, *The Oban*

Times captured his essence: 'Up to the last he was zealous and active in his appointed work, he was painstakingly accurate and conscientious in carrying out his public duties. He will be remembered as a pioneer and as an example to those who follow in his foot-steps.'

Roger McNeill was a forerunner in the study of public health and medical services for Scotland's crofters. He was a resident medical officer in the Hebrides' first hospital, the first president of the Caledonian Medical Society, and the first medical officer of health for the county of Argyll.

In a genuine understatement, the British Medical Journal merely remembers him among 'the group of men who undertook the task of instituting a public health service in certain rural areas of Scotland which before that time had been practically without sanitation'.

Roger McNeill did not live to see the progress made by the HIMS and its board, and the impact his work had on public health: a resident nurse assisted the evacuation of faraway St Kilda; a consultant surgeon was appointed in Stornoway; a laboratory was built and specialists came to Inverness.

Despite the Great Depression after the war, an air ambulance service from the Hebrides to Glasgow began in 1936. In 1937, the Cathcart Report proposed a 'national health service' for all of Scotland based upon the success of the Highlands and islands scheme.

An ultimate, and unintended, consequence spelled the end of the HIMS in 1948. Britain's post-war National Health Service owed much of its conception to Scotland's Highlands and islands. Thankfully, 'the principle that health care is a basic human right, regardless of income, class, or geography, had been conceded in the Dewar Report.'

The Oban Times would like to thank Professor John W Sheets, of the University of Central Missouri, for his assistance with this feature.



The Dewar Committee of 1912.

McNeill delivered little good news in his annual report for 1911. The county of Argyll barely managed with 54 doctors for the 69,603 people, or one doctor per 1,289 inhabitants.

With most of the population crofting or fishing, their hard work and remote cottages fostered a self-reliance almost resistant to change. Throughout the Highlands and islands 'many are not yet convinced that the prevention of poverty, ill-health, and disease, or the lengthening of human life, are matters over which man has really any control.'

McNeill still believed that more doctors, with adequate salary, reasonable territory, state support, and more authority, could and would enforce policies toward a better standard of the public's health.

In 1912 The Dewar Committee was established to determine the best way of providing a medical service in the Highlands and islands.

The Dewar Committee held public meetings in Inverness, the home of Sir John Dewar, and at Oban, Dr Roger McNeill's base.

As Argyll's medical officer of health, he orchestrated a series of witnesses who outlined the unacceptable levels of crofters' health and medical services in the county, and beyond.

In order to portray the life and death situations in the Highlands and Islands, Roger McNeill shared a very personal memory about childbirths: 'I know myself of two such cases which occurred in the island of Colonsay, before a resident doctor was provided, where two married women died before a doctor could be got from Islay - leaving two young families of seven and five, ranging in age from birth upwards, uncared for.'

McNeill called for wages to be raised to attract GPs to the area and the provision of motor boats, cars and cycles so doctors and nurses could travel to patients.

The Dewar Committee had examined over 200 witnesses in more than 20 sessions, at more than 15 sites, over approximately six



Gesto Hospital in Skye where McNeill spent his early career

Not always popular with the public, Roger McNeill was ceaseless in his efforts to improve the health of the people of Argyll

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Flu bug closes hospital ward

A MEDICAL ward at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness was closed to new admissions on Monday after patients came down with flu.

Visitors are being asked not to attend the hospital while staff deal with the outbreak in Ward 5A. Ten patients were confirmed as having the virus.

Consultant microbiologist Dr Adam Brown said it was likely flu had been brought into Raigmore from outside.

He said: 'As well as restricting visiting to the affected ward we are also asking people not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had flu until at least seven days after the onset of symptoms. By doing this we will be able to limit the spread as much as possible.'

'Hospital staff will of course be very happy to talk to visitors on the phone so they can get updates on how their relatives are.'

NHS Highland flu immunisation co-ordinator Dr Ken Oates said it was not too late for people in 'at risk' groups to get a flu jab.

Guarded welcome to emergency vessel deal

A DEAL between the UK Government and the oil industry to provide a back-up vessel during maritime emergencies has met with a guarded welcome in the Western Isles.

BP-chartered ship the *Grampian Frontier*, currently stationed in the Schiehallion field west of Shetland, now joins the Kirkwall-based *Herakles* in providing support in the event of a major shipping incident.

Western Isles Council leader Angus Campbell welcomed the move – but said western waters were still 'vulnerable'.

An earlier plan, he said, envisaged moving the *Herakles* further south to ensure adequate cover for the west and the Minches as far south as Mingulay.

He said: 'I will be seeking a meeting of the Scottish ETV Working Group to examine the issues around deployment arrangements.'

The *Herakles* is the only dedicated emergency tug patrolling UK waters.



The striking sculpture is welcoming visitors to Fort William during this weekend's mountain festival.

20_f08mountain01

Bernera people to vote on community buyout

RESIDENTS of a windswept 7,000-acre island off Lewis' Atlantic coast are to vote on buying the island on which they live.

Former Bernera owner Count Robin Mirrlees died last year and his family are offering the community first refusal.

Various figures are being quoted locally, with most commentators suggesting the asking price could be as low as £70,000-£80,000. That figure, if accurate, is a bargain in anybody's terms – but islanders are well aware a buyout would mean future responsibility for regenerating Great Bernera would be theirs alone.

Great Bernera Community Development Group will invite

the 230-strong community to a meeting in Bernera Community Centre to decide the issue in the next three weeks.

Committee member Fiona Graham said time was of the essence as the first refusal offer had a deadline of April 1.

She said: 'It's going to be very interesting to see what the community wants. For the amount of money you may imagine we should just go for it – but how Bernera is going to cope afterwards, I don't know.'

'I am undecided whether I am for or against it. But then again, if we don't do it, who is going to come in and buy it?'

Ms Graham, who moved from Greecock to Croir on Bernera

10 years ago, added: 'If people decide they are interested in buying it, we will be registering an interest in purchasing the island. The ball is now very much in our court.'

Count Robin bequeathed Bernera to his grandson Cyran under the terms of his will. Patrick de la Lanne, Count Robin's only child and executor of his estate, is offering islanders the chance to own their land. If the offer is turned down, Bernera will be sold on the open market.

The French-born, Oxford-educated count died aged 87 in the Blar Buidhe nursing home in Stornoway last June. His son Patrick is mayor of Delmenhorst in northern Germany.

Festival 'giant' set to stay in Lochaber

THE GROUP behind an eye-catching new sculpture in Fort William have said they hope it will become a permanent feature of the Lochaber scenery.

'Ben Mhor' – a 14-foot tall structure made mainly from recycled bike parts – was commissioned to celebrate the Fort William Mountain Festival.

Created by Ballachulish man Ewan Lawrie, the imposing figure sits on the Old Town Pier by the A82 bypass, and a positive response from locals has encouraged the festival organisers to try and find it a permanent home.

Festival chairman Mike Pescod told *The Oban Times*: 'If I get my way I think it will stay forever. It's not going to be dismantled at the end of the festival, it will be going somewhere.'

The steel statue formed the centrepiece of a torch lit procession from Nevis Range to Fort William last night (Wednesday) to launch the festival, which runs until Sunday.

The celebration of Lochaber hills will take place against a background of nine deaths in Scottish mountains since the start of the year.

Four walkers were killed in an avalanche in Glencoe at the end of January, and last week three people died in similar

circumstances near Aviemore. At the start of February a man fell to his death while walking near Jacob's Ladder in the Cairngorms, while a climber died on Ben Nevis last month.

Mr Pescod said: 'Nobody wants anyone to get hurt but unfortunately it does happen. But when people know what they are doing it is still safer than driving or playing a game of rugby.'

A number of safety workshops, including avalanche awareness, will be held during the festival.

Meanwhile, Fort William woman Myrtle Simpson has been awarded the Scottish Award for Excellence in

Mountain Culture by festival organisers. Ms Simpson, a climber, skier, canoeist and former chairwoman of the Scottish National Ski Council, played a key role in setting up ski centres at Nevis Range, Glencoe and the Cairngorms. Ian Sykes MBE, who won the award in 2011, said Ms Simpson was 'an inspiration'. He said: 'I can't imagine anyone more deserving for this award. There are very few men or women who have done as much in the mountains as Myrtle; and a true ambassador for women climbers.'

Ms Simpson will be presented with her award in the Nevis Centre on Saturday evening.

Al-Anon group to meet in South Uist

HELP IS at hand for families and friends of heavy drinkers in South Uist after Al-Anon, a sister organisation to Alcoholics Anonymous, announced weekly meetings on the island.

Anyone whose life has been affected by someone else's drinking is welcome to attend the meetings, which begin next Monday at 8pm in the annexe of St Mary's Church in Borinish.

The local Al-Anon co-organiser, who asked not to be identified, said guarding attendees' anonymity in a place where everyone knows everyone was paramount. She told *The Oban Times*: 'There is as great a need for this here as there is in most other places. We welcome anyone whose life has been made unmanageable by alcohol. It's imperative that what's said in that room stays in that room, and we will be stating that at every meeting. It's vital that the room is a safe place, where people are free to share their experience and gain strength from one another.'

She added: 'Al-Anon is about helping the people around the drinker to cope, to realise that there is a way to regain control over your own life.'

'Speaking for myself, I felt that there was no support for me – nowhere to turn. I felt very much alone.'

For directions to the meeting or more information, call 07731 875744 or 07879 898278.

German students start work on Knoydart hydro scheme

AN INTERNATIONAL group of students from Germany has started a five-week placement working on a remote Lochaber community hydro scheme.

Students from Flensburg University's energy and environment masters programme will be lending a hand at Knoydart's hydro electricity scheme as part of their studies.

The university has been sending students to remote Scottish communities for 11 years after a link was forged by Lochaber man John Hutchison, with Knoydart being their destination for the third time. The project is supported by the charity Community Energy Scotland.

The delegation of 14 students from Flensburg – a town near the German/Danish border – hail from 11 different countries and three continents.

They were greeted by Lochaber Provost Allan Henderson in Fort William on Monday morning, where he presented course

leader Dr Wulf Boie with a bottle of whisky and a hip flask as a welcoming gift.

Provost Henderson said: 'Having you working together as a group on projects like this is important for the area, and it will certainly help the Highlands.'

'Knoydart has a growing vibrant population always seeking new sustainable green energy options and will be enriched by this diverse cultural group of students.'

Dr Boie added: 'This is a great

experience for the students, they always really, really enjoy it.'

'The fact that the Knoydart community is not connected to the mainland grid and manages their own isolated hydropower scheme, with all advantages and challenges related to it, makes it a very interesting place for our students.'

One of the students, Katrina Baris from the Philippines, said: 'I hope that our group will be able to contribute something to the community.'



Provost Allan Henderson and Dr Wulf Boie exchange gifts in Fort William before the students set off for Knoydart. 20_f08german01

SNH considers hedgehog-trapping programme switch

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage could switch a hedgehog-trapping programme from Benbecula to North Uist.

SNH board members last week heard concerns the animals are making a comeback on the island and could again threaten ground nesting bird sites.

Around £1.5 million has been spent over the past 10 years trying to rid the Uists of the pests through the Uist Wader Project. But no firm evidence exists that the project has helped wading

bird populations recover. The conservation body also agreed to spend more on research into what predators, including gulls, were taking eggs and young chicks.

David MacLennan, SNH unit manager for the Outer Hebrides, said: 'We will monitor the response of waders to predation and other factors over the next two years.'

Hedgehogs are not native to the Hebrides and were introduced in the 1970s in an attempt to control garden pests.



KPL directors Simon Russell, right, and Alasdair Ferguson, second right with First Minister Alex Salmond at last month's announcement of the memorandum of understanding with HIE.

Kishorn Port unveils major expansion plans

KISHORN Port Ltd (KPL) unveiled major expansion proposals at a public open day in Lochcarron Village Hall yesterday (Wednesday).

The ambitious masterplan allows for full-scale manufacture of concrete bases for offshore wind turbines, reclamation of the foreshore to create more industrial space and full services for the growing offshore wind, wave and tidal energy market.

The company – a joint venture between Leiths (Scotland) Ltd and Ferguson Transport (Spean Bridge)

Ltd – is currently working up the masterplan with Highland Council in advance of submitting a formal planning application. In what KPL director and Ferguson Transport boss Alasdair Ferguson describes as 'the best case scenario', up to 2,500 jobs could be created on site, along with accommodation for 1,500 staff, storage, warehousing, berthing and workshops – potentially transforming the Wester Ross economy. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have at least two developers looking at manufacturing concrete bases

on site. Kishorn is one of the finest sites in the whole of Europe for concrete manufacturing.'

He added: 'We are looking at further consultation events in the area, with possibly one at Plockton. As part of the planning process we will tease out any local issues we need to take on board as we prepare to lodge our major application.'

The move follows last month's announcement of KPL as one of four Highland companies capable of exploiting a potential £100 million

energy bonanza from offshore renewable projects. Under a groundbreaking deal, KPL signed a memorandum of understanding with backers Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which is supporting KPL's manufacturing bid. The agency is contributing up to £106,500 towards planning and marine engineering consultancy fees.

Kishorn is identified in the Scottish Government National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (N-RIP) as a potential manufacturing and distribution hub for the offshore renewables industry.

The original Kishorn yard and dry dock was developed as a manufacturing and fabrication yard for oil platforms in the 1970s. At its height more than 5,000 people worked on the 44-hectare site.

The KPL tie-up combines Leiths' quarrying, concrete and construction materials know-how with Ferguson's skills in port operations, shipping, stevedoring and transport.

Combined, the parent companies employ more than 600 staff and have an annual turnover in excess of £70 million.

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Times *life*

Valentines ceilidh comes up roses

ROSES and serenades made way for burgers and burling at the Oban Winter Festival Committee's first fundraising event of the year.

The Valentine's Ceilidh last Saturday was a landmark event - the first time Oban Distillery had been used for a public ceilidh. The unique venue of number six storeroom doesn't sound like the most romantic, but the festival committee put their creative talents to good use, setting up lights and decorations, and it proved a big hit with ceilidh-goers. There were not so many love songs and romantic gestures, as toe-tapping tunes, courtesy of Tíre's Trail West. Come the end of the night, the festival committee had raised around £300 for this year's event between November 22 - December 1 and the town discovered a hidden gem of a venue.



Oban's Alison Kennedy, left, and Jenny Livingstone with Ailleachd Vernon from Dunoon, centre. 15_108valentine01



SAMS students, from left: Rebecca Giesler, Adam Bates, Penny Donohue, Kieran Curran and Vicki Foster. 15_108valentine08



Oban's Ailsa MacLachlan, left, and Claire De Sadeleer with Kevin Bruce, Aberdeen. 15_108valentine02



Glasgow couple Nicola Johnston and Marc Currie. 15_108valentine13



Bar staff, from left: Sam Smith, Elaine Smith, Lauranne Gibson and Martyn MacAra. 15_108valentine09



From left: Shaun Watson, Sheila Watson, Lesley Crawford, Fiona MacPhee, Denise Crowe and Donald MacKay. 15_108valentine14



Enjoying a dram are Oban's Louis Barrow, left, and Steven Finlayson with Connel's Ian Adcroft, centre. 15_108valentine03



Glasgow's Charles MacNeil and Donna Hurles. 15_108valentine11



This group of locals enjoyed the ceilidh atmosphere. 15_108valentine06



Kilmore couple Ronnie and Isobel MacDonald. 15_108valentine12

Claire Smalley, front row, second from left, whose birthday was on Valentine's Day, celebrates with friends at the ceilidh. 15_108valentine10

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Twenty years ago

Thursday February 25, 1993

Exhibition time for Mull pupils



Also pictured is head teacher Mrs Christine Anderson. 108twenty02

AN EXHIBITION of work by school pupils on Mull and Iona, on the themes of discovery and exploration, is to be staged. 'Mull and Iona and

The Secrets of the World' will be in the limelight at Salen Primary School. Primary five, six and seven pupils

of Dervaig School, Mull, show off some of the material they got together to demonstrate life in Scotland in the seventeenth century.

Egg-centric 'Puggy' eats 20 eggs for a bet



Record or no record, it looked like hard work and that's no yoke! 108twenty05

DONALD 'Puggy' McCuish proved he was no chicken the other night, when he consumed no less than 20 eggs in 40 minutes for a bet.

So once the money was lay-ed down, Puggy got cracking! Customers and staff at Oban's Argyll Hotel had never seen anything like it, and most reckon Donald could get his name into the records books if he'd ouef a mind to.

Police sergeant Neil plans a museum of the town at war



Neil Owen, with a compass and sextant from wartime aircraft, just part of the collection he hopes will start an Oban at War museum. 108twenty03

OBAN police sergeant Neil Owen has been collecting wartime photographs and memorabilia with the aim of setting up a museum of the town at war.

The setting is planned to be as an old air-raid shelter in the grounds of the Dunggallan house Hotel, off Gallanach Road, Oban, which was the HQ for the RAF based in the town.

Work still has to be done to bring the shelter itself up to a good enough standard to house the museum, but Neil, who has been stationed in Oban

since July 1991, has gathered together an impressive number of photographs, instruments, letters and memories.

He also has a video, shot in 1942, of the work of RAF Coastal Command in and around Bowmore and featuring many of the men who were stationed at Oban.

He said: 'It's remarkable the way it's coming together. I have a long standing interest in the RAF of the time, and much to my astonishment I found there is nothing to mark they were here.'

The Oban Times reaches the parts that other papers don't - and that's official!

The paper is renowned in newspaper circles as covering the largest geographical area of any weekly in Britain.

Now we ask the question, is Donald Macdonald's copy delivered to the most remote spot in Britain?

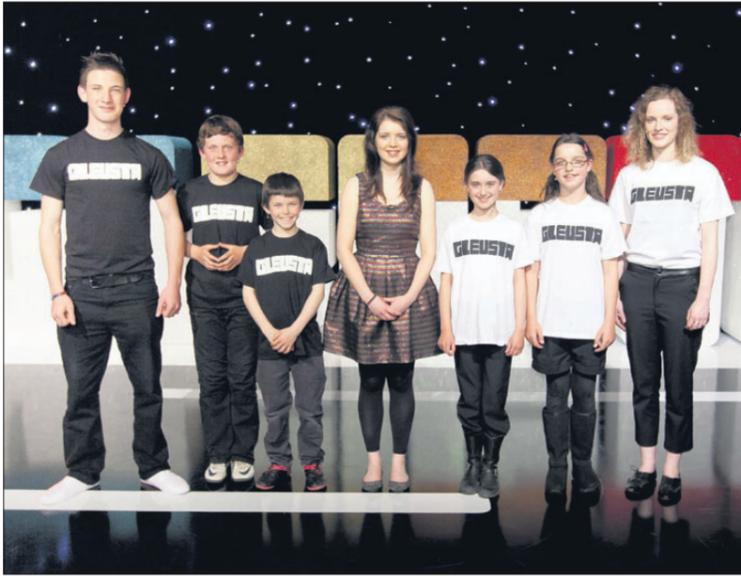
Donald's copy of the Highlanders' Bible arrives at his home in Tarbet, North Morar, via Bruce Watt's Loch Nevis mail boat from Mallaig every week.

Tarbet is inaccessible by road, being situated many miles over hills from Morar and Donald relies on Bruce's boat to deliver all his essentials in life, including The Oban Times. Before the mail boat reaches Tarbet it calls at Knoydart - known as Britain's 'last wilderness' and then it makes a further 35 minute sea journey to reach Donald's home.

Donald said: 'We have always been used to the paper ever since I remember.'



Parents and friends celebrated the 21st birthday of the Tainuill Playgroup at a St Valentine's dance. 108twenty04



Fort William quiz team on BBC Alba

Fort William RC and Broadford primary schools will go head-to-head on BBC Alba this Tuesday evening. Teams of two from each school took part in the Gleusta quiz show, which will be shown at 6.35pm. Fort team Keir Gibson and Lachie Shaw, with guest Crisdean MacDonald of Torrinn, line up with Broadford's Muirne MacMillan Sine and Claire MacLeod, with their guest Shona Masson of Portree.



The star-studded line-up at last weekend's Tainuill Winter Ceilidh. 15_08ceillidh01

Award-winning line-up at Tainuill ceilidh

THERE was a star-studded line up at last week's Tainuill Winter Ceilidh with a host of award-winning performers taking the stage.

Oban Pipe Band stalwart Ian Hurst kicked off the proceedings with a rousing selection of tunes and later played the pipes for world champion dancer Eilidh MacInnes who gave an amazing display of Highland dancing.

Oban's sharp-witted accordionist Hector McFadyen

was in fine form as was Jake MacKay from Inveraray who gave an excellent performance on his mouth organ, accompanied by Hector.

The appreciative audience was treated to some wonderful Gaelic singing from soloists Morag MacNeil, Ceitidh Smith, Mod silver pendant winner, and James Graham Mod gold medallist.

Fear an taighe for the evening was Cameron Fletcher who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

Gaelic TV on short-list at Celtic Media Festival

Gaelic TV channel BBC ALBA could be among the honours at the Celtic Media Festival in Swansea on April 24 to 26 after having six programmes shortlisted for awards across five categories.

They are:

□ Factual Entertainment - 'Balaich Bhatarsaigh' (Beware The Vatersay Boys) produced by Helena Gallagher & Nick Low of Demus-HG Productions;

□ Factual Single - 'Iseabail' (Ishbel MacAskill) produced by Jim Webster and directed by Tony Kearney of Solus Productions Ltd;

□ Sport - 'Trusadh: Hiort Agus Clann-Nighinn nan Curach' (St Kilda and the Kayak Girls) produced by Ann Morrison and Seumas Mac an t-Sagairt of MacTV;

□ Trusadh: 'Camanachd Leòdhais - Dubh agus Gorm' (Lewis Camanachd - Black and Blue) produced by Ann Morrison and Seumas Mac an t-Sagairt of MacTV;

□ Arts - 'Sàr-sgeòil' (Classic Tales) - 'Sunset Song' with Gaelic presenter Cathy MacDonald, produced by Faye MacLean and Julie McCrone of Caledonia TV Productions Ltd; □ Dha Gordon A-Mhàin' (Just for Gordon) a documentary on traditional musician Gordon Duncan, produced by Ann Morrison of MacTV.

More than 430 nominations were



Cathy MacDonald in Sunset Song 'Sàr-sgeòil' (Classic Tales).

received for more than 20 categories at the awards, at which the Celtic broadcasting and media world celebrate the languages and cultures of the Celtic countries on screen and in broadcasting.

Donald Campbell, chief executive of BBC ALBA's partners MG ALBA, congratulated the producers. He said: 'It's great to see recognition for their talents and for the channel's service offering across a range of award categories. BBC ALBA has achieved many successes over the past five years since it came on air. Our programming has been attractive to both Gaelic and non-Gaelic audiences and the channel partnership

prides itself in commissioning high quality productions from many independent production companies from within Scotland. We would like to thank all who devise and create our programmes and we very much look forward to the awards ceremony in Swansea.'

Elsewhere, BBC Radio nan Gàidheal has been nominated in the Radio Station of the Year category and received two nominations in the Radio Documentary award.

The station is also short-listed for the Radio Sport award, while popular presenter Seonag Monk has been nominated in the Radio Presenter/Personality category.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig students to perform in 40th anniversary celebration tour

STUDENTS from the BA (Hons) Gaelic and Traditional Music degree programme at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) UHI are to perform a series of concerts next month as part of the Skye Gaelic college's 40th anniversary celebrations.

The students, who will be joined by guest musicians with links to SMO, start their tour at Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula on March 8 before heading to Barra for a concert and dance with Daìmh, a band formed at the college more than 10 years ago.

The following day the group travel to South Uist for a lunchtime concert and workshops with local children in Stoneybridge Hall, before concluding the Uist leg of the tour with an evening concert and dance in Talla an Iochair with Daìmh.

The tour moves to the Ceilidh Place in Ullapool on March 15, when the students take the stage with famed Gaelic singer and longest-serving member of the college staff Christine Primrose.

The next concert at SMO on March 21 will see the students perform with Allan

MacDonald before they head to Tiree on March 29 for a show with SMO musician in residence Mary Ann Kennedy. Eilidh MacFadyen, a second-year student on the programme, said: 'We all have connections with one or more of the places we're touring, including three students from South Uist and myself from Tiree.'

'We wanted to make our communities more aware of the music programme but to also help raise funds for local charities through donations and raffles held at the concerts. The charities the students have chosen to support are Cobhair Bharraigh, Father Colin in Ecuador, Young Carers Skye and Lochalsh and Cùram Thioradh.

Programme leader, well-known Canadian piper Dr Decker Forrest, now resident in Sleat, said: 'After the hugely successful Celtic Connections performances in Glasgow in January, we were keen to continue to highlight the fantastic tradition of musical excellence at the college and to raise further awareness of the music happening here every day.'

Third in our series of the Ardtornish Quintet



Jackie Kay: Scottish Book Trust writer-in-residence at Ardtornish

ARDTORNISH DARK Part one

Even in the dark, on the road back from Lochaline, Scanning the road for wild cats and young deer, Passing places signs illuminated by your own headlights, Generations of pines huddled close in the dark,

Even in the dark - the cattle grid clearing its throat, The single-track road and the stag's sudden stop: You brake, the stag turns back halfway up the hill - Throws a long stare, a thank you, into the dark,

Even in the dark, the profound, no-nonsense dark, You pass the green and the blue bins, your sign For turning right, down the track to Ardtornish Estate, And it's late when you close your curtains in the dark,

Even in the dark, my friend, the river Rannoch rushing In the deep over the moss and the rocks and the years, Down beat, up beat and under the small bridges, You find, to your surprise, you've lost all you fear.

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

Mallaig to host Royal Society of Edinburgh talk

THE LATEST in the series of Royal Society of Edinburgh talks in Lochaber will be held in Mallaig High School next Tuesday, February 26, at 7pm.

Donald Meek FRSE, FRHist will speak on 'From Canals to Linkspans: The Development of West Highland Shipping and Sea Ports 1812-2012'.

The creation of the Caledonian and Crinan Canals helped to revolutionise sea-borne transport in the West Highlands in the early 19th century. The first commercial sea-going

steamship, Henry Bell's Comet of 1812, reached Fort William a couple of months after her maiden voyage and by the 1820s steamships were travelling northwards from Glasgow to Inverness and onwards to Skye and Lewis.

The lecture, which commemorates Bell's Comet and its consequences for the West Highlands, will also discuss the shipping companies which served the West Highlands and Hebrides, chief among them that of David MacBrayne Ltd. The talk is open to everyone and free to attend.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Jack Reacher	Thurs 21st, 17:45
	Master and Commander	Thurs 21st, 14:00, 20:30
	Pixar Shorts Volume 1	Sat 23rd, 13:00, 14:30
	Django Unchained	Fri 22nd, 20:00 • Sat 23rd, 19:00 • Sun 24th, 19:00 Mon 25th, 20:00 • Tues 26th, 20:00 • Wed 27th, 20:00 Thurs 28th, 20:00
	The Iron Giant	Sun 24th, 14:00
	Hitchcock	Fri 22nd, 17:45 • Sat 23rd, 16:30 • Sun 24th Feb, 16:00 Mon 25th, 17:45 • Tue 26th, 17:45 • Wed 27th, 17:45 Thurs 28th, 17:45
	Jack Reacher (12A)	animation from a computer boy named Hogarth Hughes who makes friends with an innocent alien giant robot that came from outer space. Special price: Adult £5 Child or Retired £4
	Hitchcock (12A)	In 1959, Alfred Hitchcock and his wife, Alma, are at the top of their creative game as filmmakers amid disquieting insinuations about it being time to retire. To recapture his youth's artistic daring, Alfred decides his next film will adapt the lurid horror novel, Psycho, over everyone's misgivings. Unfortunately, as Alfred self-finances and labours intent to make him his deputy on this film, Alma finally loses patience with his roving eye and controlling habits.
	Pixar Shorts Volume 2	Former dentist, Dr. King Schultz, buys the freedom of a slave, Django, and trains him with the intent to make him his deputy on this film, Alma finally loses patience with his roving eye and controlling habits.
	The Iron Giant (U)	This is the story of a nine-year-old

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★★★★ The Guardian

★★★★ The Financial Times

★★★★ Scottish Daily Express

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The Corran Halls, Oban

Tel: 01631 567 333

Reserved seating

Book online at scottishopera.org.uk

DARA O'BRIAN CRAIC DEALER LIVE 2012

Years of the most dependably entertaining stand-up comics in the land

Win a signed copy of Dara O'Brian's new DVD

THE WORLD famous Oban Times footage of 'Obang' features on Dara O'Brian's new DVD and he has given us some signed copies as a thank you.

To be in with a chance of winning one of the copies of Craic Dealer, featuring the incredible fireworks display, just answer the following question and complete your details.

When did Obang take place?

2010
2011
2012

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Telephone.....
Email.....

1 Please post your entries to Faith Orr, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
1 Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 4th March, 2013
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

NETHERLORN PIPING SOCIETY
Recital by **TALENTED LOCAL PIPERS**
On Thursday 28th February 2013
In the Argylshire Gathering Halls
At 7.30pm
ENTRY: Adults £3; Children Free

OBAN & LORN LIONS CLUB
Table - Top Sale
This Saturday 23rd February 4.00pm - 5pm
Great Western Hotel - Oban
To book space Tel/Text 07917 665103

O.L.D.S. Club
Oban & Lorn District Seniors Club
Ceilidh
Everyone welcome
Wednesday 27th February 2013
7.30pm until 9.30pm
At Lynn Court
Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches & Cakes
Admission free!!

Auction Night
Oban Rugby Club
Friday February 22
At 7.30 in aid of Park Primary
Outdoor week
Donation at door
All welcome

Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain
Barra Ceilidh
Artists
James Rosie, Iain MacLean,
Mary Catherine MacNeil
Morag MacNeil
Roddy Campbell
Murdo MacDonald
Masonic Hall
Saturday, 2nd March at 7.30 p.m.

CRIANLARICH VILLAGE HALL
Friday 1st March Auction 6pm
Viewing 5pm
All donations and bric-a-brac welcome.
Please drop off items at the hall from Wednesday, 27th February.
To arrange collection please call Charlotte Bryce on 01838 300214.
All proceeds to the Crianlarich Village Hall Funds

To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD
Telephone: 01631 568000

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DARA O'BRIAN CRAIC DEALER LIVE 2012

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PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02780/PP	Erection of storage shed	Lynn Of Lorn Nursing Home Cum-Dun-Righ Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1QW	Sub Post Office Ledaig
13/00129/PP	Siting of two static caravans for staff use (retrospective)	Glenforsa Hotel Glenforsa Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6W	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
13/00199/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land West Of Cnoc A'Mhulinn Portsonachan Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
13/00226/PP	Erection of two detached dwellinghouses and formation of new vehicular access	Baliscate House Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6DA	Tobermory Area Office
13/00256/PP	Erection ofcroft house	Land South West Of Lub Riach Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PY	Tobermory Area Office
13/00257/PP	Demolition of existing extensions and erection of replacement extensions	An Cnoc Balephuil Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UE	Tiree Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00273/PP	Erection of Bonded Warehouse (Class 6) and installation of septic tank	Land North Of Avonogie Abattoir Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00277/PP	Erection of boatshed and installation of heat pump	3 Shore Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TR	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
13/00302/LIB	Repair works to gable elevation	1 Shore Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TR	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
13/00304/LIB	Installation of heat pump	3 Shore Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TR	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://planning.scotland.gov.uk>. The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilhead PA31 8SY. A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

COUNCIL TAX 2013/2014

As required by Section 96 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, notice is hereby given that the Council Tax has been set by Argyll and Bute Council in terms of Section 93 of that Act and the amounts payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band are as follows:-

Valuation Band	Property Values	Council Tax £
A	Up to £27,000	785.33
B	£27,001 to £35,000	916.22
C	£35,001 to £45,000	1047.11
D	£45,001 to £58,000	1178.00
E	£58,001 to £80,000	1439.78
F	£80,001 to £106,000	1701.56
G	£106,001 to £212,000	1963.33
H	Over £212,000	2356.00

SALLY LOUDON, Chief Executive, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8RT February 2013

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a council surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on Friday 15th March 2013 from 3.00pm - 5.00pm.
Councillor McCuish can also be contacted by e-mail - roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Glen-Lee will be holding drop in surgeries during the month of MARCH as follows:- Monday afternoons in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 4.00pm - 5.00pm on the following dates: Monday 4th March, Monday 11th March, Monday 18th March, Monday 25th March
Councillor Glen-Lee can also be contacted by phone - Tel: 01631 567 955 or by email - louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD CROFT OCCUPANCY INITIATIVE

The Crofting Commission is proposing to terminate the tenancy of Mr Robert A MacKenzie at Croft 2 Lorgbaw, Kilchoman, Islay as an absentee crofter under the terms of section 22 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 21 days of the date of this newspaper.

Case Number: 1.22.25266

Crofting Commission
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness
IV3 8NW
duties@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

The AGM of the committee of Oban and District Branch of Macmillan Cancer Support Group will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Lorn and Islands District Hospital at 7.30 pm on the 19 March 2013.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number
Mr A Gillies
6 Bunacaimb, Arisaig & Moidart
0.044 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.42262

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.
Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number
Mr D A Mackenzie
2 Bunavullin, Morvern
0.142 ha - Site for a dwelling house
0.142 ha - Site for a dwellinghouse
4.86.37457, 4.86.37458
Conditions:
(1) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse.
(2) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of the proposed development completion.
(3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Regional airports enjoy rise in passenger numbers

However, numbers fall at Inverness, Campbeltown, Dundee, Islay and Tiree

Energy related activity fuels significant increase in business traffic and helicopter movements

SCOTLAND'S regional airports have enjoyed a significant rise in overall passenger numbers at the beginning of 2013, with the Isle of Barra joining Wick, Orkney and Shetland in showing sharp increases.

Latest figures from airport group HIAL show that its 11 airports handled 84,981 passengers last month, an increase of 9.1 per cent on January 2012. Much of the growth came from HIAL's most northerly airports, Sumburgh and Wick - John O'Groats were the fastest growing airports, with passenger numbers up by 7,304 and 2,003 respectively as a result of growth in energy related fixed wing and helicopter traffic.

in our most northerly airports where increased energy activity is fuelling a significant increase in business traffic and helicopter movements. 'Elsewhere in the group, growth was more modest, partly a reflection on winter schedule changes. 'Nevertheless, the overall trend shows that growth is continuing, which is obviously encouraging given the still fragile nature of the economy.

The company, which employs more than 500 people, operates a network of 11 airports across Scotland including provision of Scottish Air Ambulance and Search and Rescue services. They are Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Dundee, Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree and Wick John O'Groats.

At Kirkwall, passenger numbers grew by 1,498 as a result of increased demand for services to Sumburgh and the mainland.

The Isle of Barra, Benbecula and Stornoway airports also recorded an increase in passenger numbers.

However, passenger numbers fell at Inverness, Campbeltown, Dundee, Islay and Tiree, largely as a result of schedule changes and fewer aircraft movements.

From the group headquarters in Inverness, Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'These figures represent a good start to 2013, not least

"The overall trend shows that growth is continuing, which is encouraging given the fragile nature of the economy."

managing director Inglis Lyon



January passenger figures:

BARRA	574	(+2.1%)
BENBECULA	2,456	(+0.1%)
CAMPBELTOWN	656	(-19.1%)
DUNDEE	2,186	(-47.4%)
INVERNESS	35,213	(-3.2%)
ISLAY	1,465	(-19.9%)
KIRKWALL	10,965	(+15.8%)
STORNOWAY	8,909	(+0.3%)
SUMBURGH	17,860	(+69.2%)
TIREE	573	(-13.2%)
WICK	4,124	(+94.4%)

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION LEDCHARRIE HYDRO SCHEME

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Mr Henry Paterson for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with the Ledcharrie Hydro scheme, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1 m in height	Ledcharrie Burn	NN 50894 26106
Abstraction of 42249.6 m3 per day of water	Ledcharrie Burn	NN 50894 26106
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1 m in height	Coire Charrie	NN 51362 26765
Abstraction of 6091.2 m3 per day of water	Coire Charrie	NN 51362 26765
Return of abstracted water approximately 1.8km away from abstraction points	Ledcharrie Burn	NN 5058 2784

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Road, Perth PH1 1RX telephone 01738 627989. Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: [www.sepa.org.uk/water/water regulation/advertised applications.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water%20regulation/advertised%20applications.aspx)

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/U1107772:

Registry Department, SEPA, 5 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PP

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

www.highland.gov.uk

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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/00412/FUL	1 Hillside, Salen Acharacle	Change of use from holiday accommodation to residential & erection of extension
13/00419/FUL	Allt Mor Cottage North Ballachulish Onich, Fort William	Extension to House
13/00447/FUL	Land 30M East of The Siding, Old Railway Goods Yard, Ballachulish	Erection of House
13/00494/FUL	Land North West of 27 Anahelt Strontian	Erection of house - Plot 3 (renewal of permission 09/00250/FULLO)
13/00513/FUL	Corran Bunkhouse Onich, Fort William	Extension to existing bunkhouse

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CARRICK FARM, LOCHGOILHEAD, ARGYLL Proposal for the Establishment of a Mixed Forest



An application has been made to Perth and Argyll Conservancy of Forestry Commission Scotland under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 for tree planting and associated works on Carrick Farm, some 6 kilometres to the south of Lochgilhead.

Copies of the Environmental Statement will be available for public viewing for a period of 28 days at the UPM Tilhill office, Ballineanach Sawmill, Strachur, Cairndow, Argyll, PA27 8DW (Tel: 01369 860 334) during working hours (normally 9.00am to 5.00pm but please check over holiday period) or out of office hours by prior appointment. Alternatively copies can be viewed at Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG (Tel: 01389 722600).

Within the total farm area of 1526 hectares, 555.9 hectares (or 36.4% of the gross area) is proposed for woodland development to add to 63 hectares of existing broadleaves with open ground amounting to 907.1 hectares being retained. The proposed planting date is winter 2013-2014.

Any comments on the scheme should be submitted in writing to Forestry Commission Scotland, Perth and Argyll Conservancy, Algo Business Centre, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0NJ within the 28 day consultation period which closes on 21 March 2013.

The Forestry Commissioners may decide either to grant consent subject to the standard conditions required by Regulation 18 of the EIA Regulations, or subject to such further conditions as they see fit or refuse consent.

Copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased and are available at a cost of £200 hard copy or £20 CD from UPM Tilhill, 1 Duckburn Park, Stirling Road, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0EW (Tel: 01786 821666).

UPM TILHILL



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Fishing industry leads way with innovative design of prawn trawls

'Fishermen delivering effective fish stock conservation'

THE SCOTTISH fishing industry is developing new and innovative designs of prawn trawls that significantly reduce discards of whitefish such as cod.

The designs represent a new approach to fisheries management where fishermen fed up with unworkable European regulations have taken matters into their own hands to deliver effective conservation.

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, the new designs of prawn trawl have achieved reductions of more than 60 per cent of cod caught when compared to a standard trawl, with one of the designs having the ability to reduce the cod by-catch by 87 per cent.

Trials conducted by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation have also shown that the new trawls can achieve a 67 per cent reduction in haddock and 64 per cent fall in whiting, as well as achieving the required reductions in the cod catch.

Two of the approved designs are now being utilised by the Scottish prawn fleet - the 'Flip-Flap' trawl developed by Gamrie Bay Prawn Trawls in Gardenstown, and the Faithlie 'Cod Avoidance Panel' net developed by Faithlie Trawl of Fraserburgh. These two designs are similar in that they incorporate variations of internal panels to direct fish towards escape holes at the top of the net.

Several other trawl designs are in the process of being trialled and approved by Marine Scotland Science. These incorporate a variety of technical features, including a reduction in the area of netting at the top of the net and the use of square mesh panels in the trawl to allow small fish to escape. The whitefish which remain in the net are covered by the boat's fish quota for the mixed fishery, keeping discards down to a minimum.

The initial spur for the development of these trawls was a means of allowing increased fishing days for the fleet. Under the EC's long term management plan for cod, the Scottish fleet has been caught in a stranglehold of automatic annual reductions in the number of days it can put to sea, which was doing little towards conserving the cod stock whilst at the same time placing an intolerable economic burden on the fleet. In a deal brokered by the Scottish and UK Governments, boats that use these new nets are able to 'win' back extra fishing days.

Skipper James Reid of the fishing vessel *Horizon* said: 'The Scottish fishing industry hit the ground running in developing these new trawl attachments. The aim is to deliver an over 60 per cent reduction in the cod catch whilst retaining prawns, and this has been achieved. But it is still very much work in progress as far as refining the designs is concerned as we need to get the balance right of not losing too many other marketable fish species for which we have legitimate quota for.'



One new net design has the ability to reduce the cod by-catch by 87 per cent.

'There are also some issues that still need to be overcome from debris that can get caught in the inclined panels during fishing. But given the short timescale available in developing these trawls, the Scottish fishing industry has really risen to the challenge.'

Skipper Sandy West of the fishing vessel *Virtuous* is working closely with Fraserburgh based netmaker Scotnet in developing another design option known as the 'Scotnet Internal Cod Flap'. The design is currently undergoing assessment and it is anticipated it will gain official approval soon.

Sandy West said: 'At considerable expense, the Scottish fishing industry has gone the extra mile to develop and implement these new trawl designs. In my own case, I have been involved for more than 20 months in

developing a design that meets the requirements of our boat and the type of fishing grounds we operate in. We are happy with the progress and are gaining knowledge for the future all the time.'

Bertie Armstrong, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, says: 'This is very much a case of fishermen taking matters into their own hands and delivering effective fish stock conservation.'

'The governing regulation for cod recovery has long been widely recognised by scientists, fisheries managers and the industry as being fatally flawed and these trawl designs show what can be achieved if fisheries management is placed under regional stakeholder control.'

'In the future the industry will continue to take a lead role in the development of selective gears for both the whitefish and prawn fleets.'

The Scottish fishing industry is also intent on exploring other options to reduce discards - and is already participating in a management scheme involving real-time area closures to avoid aggregations of spawning fish. According to independent scientific body ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) the majority of assessed fish stocks in the north-east Atlantic are now recovering. For more see Fishupdate.com

Tanker driver strike could lead to queues at the pumps

MOTORISTS could face long queues at fuel filling stations this weekend after tanker drivers at Scotland's only oil refinery in Grangemouth decided to take industrial action from tomorrow (Friday) morning in a dispute over cuts to pensions and earnings.

Mainly BP forecourts across Scotland and the North East of England will be affected. Union officials from Unite notified BP that discontinuous strike action would start from 4am this Friday, ending at 8am on Monday.

A continuous ban on overtime will also start from Monday.

In a ballot of tanker drivers, 90 per cent voted for strike action to defend their pension rights and in protest at the loss a company share-match for 2012 as a result of the imminent aviation contract transfer from existing employer BP Oil UK to DH.

Isle of Mull firm awarded salmon company contract

'A long-term contract like this enables us to develop the business.'

TWO JOBS will be created by an Isle of Mull based company after it won a 12-month contract from The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC).

Inverlussa Marine Services has signed deal with SSC to supply a work vessel to support site service work on fish farms across the west coast of Scotland.

The 21-metre vessel, Margaret Sinclair, will be crewed by a team of four on a rotational basis, starting in April.

The crew will help with a range of activities including net changes,

feed deliveries as well as the care of salmon.

'Big boost'

Ben Wilson, who runs Inverlussa with his father Douglas, said: 'This is a big boost and reinforces our position as one of the leading operators in Scotland.'

'A long-term contract like this enables us to develop the business and gives us the confidence to commit further to the aquaculture industry.'

'We've been able to recruit two new members of the team, taking our staff count to 23, all of whom are

from the local area.'

Stewart McLelland, chief executive of SSC, said: 'This investment is a key component of our business strategy as we continue to improve efficiencies across the business.'

'The charter will support a range of activities across our west coast sites, promoting best practice.'

'Inverlussa Marine is an important supplier and we are pleased that on this occasion we can use a local supplier in order to keep the economic benefits of its business within the local community.'

RECRUITMENT

Payroll & Pensions Administrator

Fixed Term Appointment - 2 years
Part Time - 22.2 hrs per week
£19,721 - £22,701 per annum pro rata

SAMS is seeking to appoint an experienced, pro-active Payroll and Pensions Administrator to join the Financial Support Services team. The successful candidate must display excellent interpersonal skills, a positive attitude and be a team player.

Duties will include processing starters and leavers in conjunction with the HR team, accurate preparation and processing of net payments, dealing with payroll and pension queries and liaising with outside agencies e.g. HMRC, pension providers.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Payroll & Pensions Administrator (Job Ref. D33/12.PL), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday 8th March 2013

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community

Jura Community Store SHOP MANAGER

Jura Stores Community Interest Company is looking for a friendly, engaging manager with retail experience to run the island's only shop and Post Office. The successful candidate will lead and motivate staff and be expected to provide excellent customer service; engaging with residents to develop this exciting business. Eligibility to hold a personal alcohol licence is essential as is an appreciation of life in a small, isolated, rural community. Full time, £24,000pa. Closing Date: 9th March. To apply email juracommunitystore@gmail.com or write to Jura Stores CIC, Service Point, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, PA60 7XG.

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.

YARD HAND / SLIPWAY OPERATIVE

We are looking for a motivated enthusiastic person to join our yard and slipway team. Please send your C.V and covering letter to: Louise Mackay, Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PX Or e-mail: louise@dunstaffnagemarina.com

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Due to vessel fleet expansion, we are currently looking for the following crew for our coastal bulk vessel based on the west coast of Scotland:

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Marine Manager/DPA: An experienced ex-master or chief mate preferably with shore-based management experience to act as Designated Person Ashore with responsibility for managing the SMS on the company's self-discharge bulk coastal vessel and workboats. Good IT and organisational skills essential. Documentation of compliance for hazardous goods preferred. Based at Kishorn/Corpach. Travelling will be expected.

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Applications should be sent to Jacqueline MacLeod Email: Jacqueline@fergusontransport.co.uk Post: Integrated Freight Facility, Annat, Corpach, PH33 7NN

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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, Mr Ian MacLagan 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@phonecoop.coop or from the Presbytery website: www.argyllpresbytery.org.uk

Closing date for applications is 28th February 2013.

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Apply in writing to: David Bonnar, Bonnar Sand & Gravel Co Ltd, Clachan Quarry, Cairndow PA26 8BH

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Seasonal Part Time Position. Required Mid March to mid August. Fixed term. 20 hrs p.w.

For job description and application form, please telephone 01546 886614, or write to the Property Manager, The National Trust for Scotland, Crarae Garden, Minard, Inveraray, Argyll. PA32 8YA

Roughcasters required for Campbeltown & Dunoon areas.

Apply to Stewart & Shields Ltd on 01436 672356

Seasonal Chef Required

The Oyster Bar Easdale require a full-time, seasonal Chef, March to October. Applicants must be fully qualified with 3 years experience, have good organisational skills and an ability to work on their own, a current hygiene certificate is required. Wage negotiable according to experience and qualification. Further details available by contacting Paul or Sheila on 01852 300261.

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Direct from National Plant Hire Co: '07 Benford Terex 6t dumper, Terex 120 roller, various rammers & t/r plates. **Direct from National Power Co:** '02 Hitachi ex 60-s, '05 Timberwolf tn190pm chipper, '98 Clydesdale reel trailer, 2x Terex lighting towers, lighting gen. **Direct Repossessions:** Leyland & MCV bus/coaches, transit van, transit van '54, Peugeot partner '03, 2x steel containers, 1x lorry 7.5t man, plus many other entries.
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Many shoppers are turning to trusted local butchers amidst confusion over what is on sale

Local butchers busy as horse scandal bites

'More people are asking about the origins of their meat'

BUTCHERS in the west Highlands have reported an increase in sales following the revelations over the horse meat scandal.

'Reassurance'
As each day passes, more and more beef products are being found to contain horsemeat and many shoppers are turning to their trusted butcher amidst the confusion.

Alister Jackson, of Jackson Bros, Oban, was so busy a week last Saturday he sold out of stock by 3.30pm.
Alister said: 'The throughput of the shop is a lot higher and we have noticed a rise in sales across the board.'
'We buy straight from the farmer, giving us

full traceability, and that is the reassurance people want.'

Iain Darling of Wynne the Butcher in Oban said: 'Sales have been up, especially in burgers and mince - basically anything that has been mentioned in the media.'

'More people are asking about the origins of their meat.'
Fort William butcher Ian Wynne and Son has also noticed a boost in business as the scandal rumbles on.

Owner Thomas Wynne told *The Oban Times*: 'I think people are aware that the problem is more or less confined to large retailers so yes, I think we have benefited in that respect.'

'We have noticed an increase in sales, particularly for mince and other similar cheaper items. I think people are very aware of what the situation is.'

Across on the Isle of Skye, Portree Butchers manager Chris Landers felt island customers have been largely unmoved by the horse meat row - so far.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would not say we have seen a noticeable increase in sales. We have not seen a lot of new faces coming through the door, but then again it depends on how long this goes on.'

'A lot of folk are laughing about it and others are being a bit more serious.'

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Balevullin Limousin bullocks sell to 304p per kilo in Tیره

UNITED Auctions held their annual early Spring sale of 354 cattle at Tیره Auction Mart last Saturday when an excellent show of quality cattle was presented to a good turnout of regular mainland buyers.

Bullocks sold to average 229.3 pence per kilo or £843.65 per head and heifers sold to average 211.5 pence per kilo or £648.46.

Bullocks sold to a top of £1,155 for a pen of Charolais crosses from Heylipol Farm and to 304pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from 6 Balevullin.

Heylipol Farm also led the top prices per head for heifers, also Charolais crosses, selling at £1,115 whilst Hillcrest led the prices per kilo in this section with Limousin crosses at 248pence.

OTM cattle sold to £1,200 from Druimasaidh whilst cast bulls sold to £1,300 from 6 Barrapoll.

Breeding Cattle sold to £1,260 from 3 Balevullin.

Overall sale values were up by five-pence per kilo on last year's strong trade.

Again, a feature of this sale was the annual consignment of 86 Charolais, Limousin and Aberdeen Angus cross bullocks and heifers which averaged £989.77 per head or 231.2 pence per kilo from A J MacLean, Heylipol Farm.

Blackface breeders stockjudging is success

THE NORTH Argyll Branch of the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association held its annual stockjudging competition at Dalmlaird Market last Friday when 156 competitors made the event a great success.

The winners were as follows:
Individual and North Eastern Farmers Trophy
1 Jimmy Wright;
2 Katie Fairlie;
3 Peter McDiarmid and George MacPherson

Team event
1 Lindsay Wright, Jimmy Wright and Sam Jacobs;
2 John MacPherson, Alex MacPherson and Grant MacPherson

3 Robert Campbell, Peter McDiarmid and Neil Aitchison.
Young Farmers' Class and Suie Lodge Cup
1 Jimmy Wright;
2 Grant MacPherson;
3 Fulton Ronald

Ladies and Young's Animal Health Shield
1 Katie Fairlie;
2 Joanne MacKenzie;
3 Lindsay Wright

Under 14s
1 Caitlin Crawford;
2 Brodie Crawford;
3 Lewis MacKenzie

Tup hogg - homebred class and Bill Black Shield
1 Messrs. Jackson, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead; 2 A Campbell, Drimsynie; 3 Lorna MacPherson, Balliemeanoch

Open tup hogg class
1 Messrs McLarty, Little Port; 2 Castles Estate; 3 Messrs. MacPherson, Balliemeanoch

Champion Sheep won by D MacVicar, Lephinchapel
Winner of the draw J. Cameron



Hoping for a good hand at the whist drive are, from left: Chrissie Malone, Ellen MacCorquodale, Kirsty MacCormick, Jessie MacKenzie, John MacCormick and Davina Plank. 15_108whist01

Appin whist drive boosts funds for annual North Lorn ploughing challenge

THE NORTH Lorn ploughing match this year is £350 better off thanks to a whist drive in Appin Village Hall last Friday.

The well-attended fundraiser saw people travel from as far as Fort William to help make up the 13 tables and card master Allan MacKenzie made sure the evening went smoothly.

Sue Campbell presented the raffle prizes and Ann Stewart, from Oban, presented the whist prizes.

Results: Ladies - 1 Helen Fraser, Fort William; 2 Isabel Groult, Connel; consolation prize - Moira Thomson, Port Appin; travelling prize - Sarah Campbell, Fort William.
Gents - 1 Gregor MacCormick,

Appin; 2 Alison MacCorquodale, Appin; consolation prize - Margaret Ross, Appin; travelling prize - Colin Maloney, Port Appin.

This year's ploughing match will take place on March 23, weather permitting, at Ardachy Farm, North Connel, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs J Troughton.

Market reports

TIRE United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £1125 3a Coalis £1115, £1075(3) Heylipol Farm £1065 3a Coalis £1035(2) and £1005(3) Heylipol Farm £995(2) 3a Coalis £810(2) Hillcrest.
ShorthornX: £935 Middleton Farm. British BlueX: £905 Sackhill £875 Ruaiq
CharolaisX: £1155(3), £1145, £1140(4), £1095(4), £1085(3), £1065(3) Heylipol Farm £1045 Salum £1025 Ardmay £1005(3) and £1000(2) Heylipol Farm £985 Salum £975 Heylipol Farm £935(2) Ardmay £905 Salum.
LimousinX: £1145, £1105(2), £1055(4), £1035(5) Heylipol Farm £1025 Salum £1000(2) Heylipol Farm £985 3 Kenovay £925(3) Heylipol Farm £925 Ardmay £925(3) 3 Kenovay £885 Clachan and 3 Kenovay £875 15 Crossapoll £865 Salum £805 Hillcrest. SalerX: £845 Middleton Farm. SimmentalX: £1025 and £1015 3 Kenovay £1000(2) Druimasaidh £985(2) 3 Kenovay £925 Ruaiq £875 Lochphuil £845 3 Kenovay £815 Ruaiq £805 Lochphuil.

Heifers
CharolaisX: £1115, £995(7), £975(2) Heylipol Farm £965 Ardmay £905(4) Heylipol Farm £905 Ardmay £855(4), £845(9) Heylipol Farm £835 Ardmay.
LimousinX: £905 Heylipol Farm £895 Salum £885, £875 and £845(2) Heylipol Farm £815 2 Kenovay. SalerX: £800 Middleton Farm.
Breeding cattle
In-calf heifers
£1260, £1100 and £1060 3 Balevullin.
In-calf cows
£900 Sackhill
OTM cows
£875 and £865 Croish £865 9 Barrapoll £830 Hillcrest £800 Parkhouse. Cast bulls - £1300 13 Crossapoll OTM Heifers - £1200 Druimasaidh.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 264p(2), 256p(3) and 238p(3) Heylipol Farm 230p(2) Hillcrest 226p(2) and 224p 3a Coalis 218p Heylipol Farm 216p 3a Coalis 211p Hillcrest.
ShorthornX: 215p(5) and 208p(3) Middleton Farm.
British BlueX: 266p Sackhill 247p

Ruaiq 235p Benview.
CharolaisX: 269p(3), 259p(3), 257p, 256p(2) and 254p Heylipol Farm 247p Ardmay 245p Heylipol Farm 242p Salum 238p(6), 236p(4), 232p(3) Heylipol Farm 222p Salum 215p(2) and 213p Ardmay 212p 7 Balinoe 209p Salum.
HerefordX: 230p(2) and 211p(2) 8 Barrapoll.
LimousinX: 304p and 289p 6 Balevullin 272p Ruaiq 271p Hillcrest 269p Mainroad 264p(2) 3 Kenovay 261p Heylipol Farm 260p Salum 252p Heylipol Farm 243p(3) Ruaiq 242p 15 Crossapoll 240p(2) Heylipol Farm 240p 6 Balevullin 239p Ruaiq 234p(3) Hillcrest 232p Heylipol Farm(3) and Ruaiq(3) 231p Heylipol Farm(6) and Salum 228p Heylipol Farm, Hillcrest and Salum 227p 3 Kenovay 226p Ardmay and 3 Kenovay 224p Hough Heylipol Farm(3) and 3 Kenovay 220p Clachan 214p and 208p Hough 206p 10 Balephuil 202p(2) Skipinnis 200p(2) Ruaiq.
SalerX: 242p, 229p and 228p Lochphuil 223p(2) 4 East Baugh 217p Lochphuil 215p(3) Middleton Farm

214p 13 Moss.
SimmentalX: 251p(2) Druimasaidh 247p Lochphuil 246p 17 Balevullin and Lochphuil 234p and 232p 3 Kenovay 229p Lochphuil 224p(2) 3 Kenovay 217p and 211p 17 Balevullin 208p 5 Balemartin and Ruaiq 205p 17 Balevullin 203p and 201p - Ruaiq.
Heifers
British BlueX: 213p(3) and 210p Benview.
CharolaisX: 240p and 231p Ardmay 226p(7) Heylipol Farm 225p Ardmay 222p(4), 217p(9), 207p(2), 205p(4) and 203p Heylipol Farm.
LimousinX: 248p(2) Hillcrest 247p 6 Balevullin 242p(4) Salum 239p Mainroad 226p 6 Balevullin 224p(3) and 222p Heylipol Farm 222p Salum 221p(5) Ruaiq 215p Heylipol Farm 214p(2) and 208p Ruaiq 205p Heylipol Farm and Ruaiq(2) 204p(3) Heylipol Farm.
SalerX: 216p, 213p, 209p, 205p and 200p Lochphuil.
ShorthornX: 235p 15 Crossapoll. SimmentalX: 230p 17 Balevullin 218p Lochphuil 207p 17 Balevullin 201p(2) Druimasaidh.



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Finance subject to status. At participating dealers on vehicles registered by 31st March 2013. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment) to own the vehicle; (ii) part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available; or (iii) return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the conditions of the vehicle. Deposit shown is higher than the minimum required. A lower deposit will increase the monthly payment. Terms and conditions apply. 18a or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Volvo Car Credit 0141 1525. The service offer is applicable to vehicles ordered before 31st March 2013. Services must be carried out at a Volvo Authorised Repairer. Retail offer only. Excludes fleet operators and business users. See volvocars.co.uk for full terms and conditions.

BEFORE you choose that brand new car you should take stock of your motoring lifestyle.

Decide how big a car you really need, 'need' being the operative. There is no point at all running a large, capacious and usually fuel thirsty vehicle if you have no need for anything larger than a small hatchback. This business of catering for the once-a-year family holiday, every day of the year, is folly. By buying a small, economical car you will save far more than the cost of perhaps hiring a larger vehicle for that vacation. So think hard before you decide.

If you do a great deal of motoring every week, whether the mileage is covered on long trips or intensive town driving, you might be wise to consider a diesel. You should also consider the cost of running any vehicle before you buy it. One main cost of course is the road fund licence. There is now a graduated vehicle excise duty system in operation for new vehicles. Your local car dealer or the DVLA can give you more information on this.

Other running costs include insurance, fuel, lubrication, cleaning, tyres, routine maintenance and repairs. Work out how much you



can afford to spend on motoring each week, include the cost of buying the car if you are not going to pay cash and opt for a system of monthly or weekly payments. If you are working to a tight budget you will need to look not only at a vehicle that costs a reasonable amount, but also at one that does the most miles to the gallon, has the longest service intervals and carries the lowest insurance rating.

Also shop around when it comes to insuring your new car. Comprehensive cover is obligatory if you are buying through a finance company, but even for a cash purchase it is often a foolhardy economy to consider anything less than fully comprehensive cover. Premiums vary from insurance company to insurance company, so the first quote you get may not be the best for your particular circumstances.

So what is available? Well we shall not go into makes and models, most people are aware of the various manufacturers, they need no introduction. And these days with the general level of competition in the motor trade, they all offer excellent deals, good guarantees and high quality engineering and design in all their products.

Your choices lie basically in the type of vehicle you decide to buy.

A small three or five door hatch may be the ideal answer to your motoring needs. Neat, easy to park, cheap to run and nippy, are all on offer from hatchbacks. Beware though,

some are more nippy than others, and if you buy what an insurance company considers a 'hot hatch', your premiums can cost you a bomb.

A standard saloon will give you space for four or five and a commodious boot, if you are something of a traditionalist, this is the style for you. An estate on the other hand gives you the convenience of a hatchback and the accommodation of a saloon, with stacks of cargo space to fill to your heart's desire. Beware though, some estates can be a bit heavy on the juice.

Perhaps you fancy an off-road 4x4 vehicle? On the whole these are more expensive to buy and generally consume more fuel than your average family saloon, especially when four-wheel-drive is in operation. They do however, give you considerable flexibility though with some, the luggage space is less than generous if you carry a full complement of passengers.

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2007 CITROEN BERLINGO 600 LX 43,000 miles, white	£3,250 + VAT
2007 CITROEN BERLINGO 600 HDI, 63,000 miles, white	£2,800 + VAT
2006 CITROEN BERLINGO 600 HDI, 82,000 miles, white	£2,450 + VAT
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For those who like a fast turn of speed a coupé or open-top sports job could be the answer, but beware those insurance premiums if you are under 30 and lack a good no claims bonus. A compromise here could be a convertible or cabriolet. This gives you the hatch or saloon body with the fresh air injection of the open-top sports car. Beware again though, insurance companies are not universal in their attitudes to these. And on the comfort side, the soft tops can be less than easy to erect, there may be some wind noise and there may also be draughts in winter, so make sure you have a very good road test before making that final decision.

If none of these attracts you, you might wish to consider a multi person vehicle. These can look quite spectacular, have a great deal of flexibility where the seating arrangements are concerned, and some can carry up to eight people. They generally consume more fuel than a conventional vehicle, but with that extra pas-

senger carrying capacity it can work out cheaper 'per-head', and most are heavenly in the comfort department.

On the other hand, the all American pick-up has invaded our shores. This is basically an open backed vehicle with sides and tail-board, and driver's cab at the front with seating for up to four, depending on its size. These are rough, tough vehicles that are a lot of fun to drive. It's difficult though, to see what use that open back is to the average family motorist who might be better advised to consider a small van or panel van instead.

So there you have it. You pay your money and you take your choice.

But before you do, do shop around again for terms. There are some spectacular deals on the go just now ranging from generous trade-in allowances and no interest finance, to cash back arrangements. If you are going to pay all that money for your new vehicle, you might as

well do so on the very best of terms!

Fuel Good driving from Lochaber Environmental Group

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) are offering FREE fuel efficient driver training courses on the 28th, 29th and 30th of March 2013. The training, which on average reduces fuel bills by a massive 15% (or two months worth of fuel), will take place in Fort William but if there is enough demand another location can be added. The course, which would normally cost £45, is being subsidised by the Energy Savings Trust (EST) and then for a limited period only being offered for FREE through the Lochaber Initiative on Fuel & Energy (LIFE) project.

There are only eight sessions available each day so interested parties are recommended to sign up without delay. For two weeks before and after the course you

are asked to keep a record of your mileage and fuel consumption. Then on the day you will have a one-to-one session (approx 50 minutes) with an approved fuel efficient driving instructor. During this time you will gain practical advice on fuel efficient driving techniques and have your new found skills tested.

Transport was responsible for 19% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions in 2010. This is a 2% rise on the 1990 baseline figures which the Scottish Government aims to reduce by 42% by 2020, and by 80% by 2050. Anyone who lives in Lochaber knows that driving is often a necessity- but if we can all reduce our own emissions it really will make a difference to our carbon footprint and our pockets! For more information have a look on the LEG website www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk/ or give Kendra a ring in the office to book your place 01397 700090.

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10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, DCI, 5dr, Beige, 9,400 miles.....	£9,550
10 Peugeot 207 Sport, 1.6 Auto, 5dr, silver, 13,650 miles.....	£8,450
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10 VW Polo SE60 5 door, Grey, 14,000 miles.....	£7,750
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<p style="text-align: center;">MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR</p> <p style="font-size: small;">2003, 10 months MOT, Tax Aug 13, 178,000 miles, new re-conditioned engine 75,000 miles ago, alloys, good mud terrain tyres, detachable back cab, £3,000.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 07762 639166</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£2200</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WANTED</p> <p>All types of light commercial vans, pickups, etc. We also buy rough or high mileage, non-runners considered. Also all types of 4x4 vehicles, land rover, Toyota, etc...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone : 01250 884306 or mobile: 07885 203020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUZUKI JIMNY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 years old, 34,877 miles, convertible, MOT until June.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 01586 552345</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£4500 o.n.o.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE, 1.6 SALOON, 2005</p> <p style="font-size: small;">50,000 miles, Grey, Taxed till 13/07/13, MOT till 31/07/13, New full size spare tyre, black leather interior, electric windows with childlocks, ES.H., Central Locking with 2 remote control keys, 0-62mph 11.8 seconds, up to 50.4mpg, child locks and seat brackets, CD Player, Group H tax £160 per year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 01546 600476</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£3300 o.n.o.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOLIDAY HOME FOR SALE.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Very good condition, 2 bedroom, 6 berth, must be taken off site.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 01631 740 313</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£3000 o.n.o.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">FORD TRANSIT TIPPER</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Diesel 53 Plate, MOT Feb 2014 Taxed Nov 2014 71,700 Miles.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone: 01852 200308 (after 6pm)</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£3500</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RENAULT SCENIC</p> <p style="font-size: small;">07 plate, 1 year MOT, dark grey, 36,500 miles.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone: 01586 551161</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£4400 o.n.o.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RENAULT MASTER VAN</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Mot & Tax 4 months, 64,000 miles, 2005 plate Immaculate condition plus all extras</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 01770 870546</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£4000 o.n.o.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TWO AXLE TRAILER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone: 01586 552345</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£1,200</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RENAULT MASTER 2004 CAMPER VAN CONVERSION</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Good condition throughout 1 full years MOT & 5 months road tax. Full service history</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 07969 571313 or 07979 416372 (Arran)</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£4000 o.n.o.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WANTED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Caravans and motorhomes Any make, Model or condition. Instant decision and payment.</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">Please telephone 07783 638067</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WANTED</p> <p>All types of motor homes & caravans. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone : 01250 884306 or mobile: 07885 203020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FIAT PANDA CROSS 4X4 DIESEL.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">October 2009. 12,500 miles, very good condition. One owner. FSH. 9 months MOT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone: 07795571534</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£8000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RENAULT CLIO 2003</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1149cc Alloys, and MOT for 1 year Tel: 01770 820230</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£1500 o.n.o.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW GREEN HONDA TRX500FMC LIMITED QUANTITY-IN STOCK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGED STODDARTS OF OBAN 01631 564176/07799692072 WWW.STODDARTS.CO.UK john.stoddarts@btconnect.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WANTED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Landrover Defenders from 1990 - 2012 All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD Mot'd or not All models required (Uist)</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">Contact 07787058277</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 BEDROOM CARNABY ROYAL 30' X 12' STATIC CARAVAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 Berth, Good Condition. Must be taken off site. Tel: 0777 195 6814</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£695 o.n.o.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">VOLVO V40 S ESTATE</p> <p style="font-size: small;">51 Plate, 1800, Bi fuel LPG/Petrol factory fitted. FSH, 46,000 miles, full year MOT, velour seats, heated front seats, electric door mirrors, electric front windows, headlamp wipers, tow bar and electric.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone: 07712114143 or 01546 602633</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;">£1600 o.n.o.</p>	

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ELECTRIC STOVE HEATER in good condition, evenings only, £30 Telephone 01631 562075.

RADIATOR oil-filled, three settings, call evenings, £25 Telephone 01631 562075.

VIRAGE HIGH EFFICIENCY open fronted insert gas fire, chrome, still in box, no longer required due to change in central heating. Cost £570 will sell for, £400ono Telephone 01631 563557.

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CURTAINS red and white checked curtains, Laura Ashley Fabric, fully lined. Very good condition, to fit rail width 112cm/drop 130cm, £45 Telephone 01631 710159.

CURTAINS cream/red curtains, fully lined. Good quality fabric, very good clean condition. Suitable for pole width 145cm, drop 149cm, £35 Telephone 01631 710159.

RUG light brown/terracotta 100% acrylic pile rug, approx 120x180cm (72"x48"), good condition, £10ono Telephone 01546 602087.

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CANON MP250 PRINTER/SCANNER Canon printer/scanner. Hardly used, £15 Telephone 01546 605324.

FOUR DRAWER FILING CABINET light wood, little used, call to view, £25 Telephone 07818 842772.

SHARP FAX MACHINE UX BS60 with digital answering system, good working order, £40 Telephone 01681 704032.

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NECKLACE AND EARRINGS with a luck charm (four leaf clover), necklace length is 18inch, £5 Telephone 07447 406046.

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KITCHEN MIXER TAP Small stainless steel ideal for rental or beds it new and boxed, £12 Telephone 01631 720369.

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TOYS AND GAMES

MACQUEEN RIDE ON CAR red lightning Macqueen ride on car, not very big, suitable up to 3 years, £7 Telephone 07447 406046.

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COPPER, BRASS, LEAD zinc, stainless, all types cable, household and armoured, top prices paid. Telephone 07770 724851 or 07788 961791.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE CONTENTS FOR SALE Saturday 23rd February from 12pm until 4pm, view at North Cottage, Arncliffe Farm, Glenbar. Telephone 01583 421208.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

HOHNER TRICHORD BUTTONBOX 3 Row, B/C#, 12 Stradella base, tuned & serviced by John Crawford and in very good condition, £350ono Telephone 01855 811558.

TAKAMINE SEMI-ACOUSTIC GUITAR EAN15CX with case, lovely instrument, £350 Telephone 07557 008386.

PERSONALS

Janet and Yvonne would like to thank everyone who celebrated with them on their birthday and made their party such a fun night and for all the lovely cards and gifts.

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SONY PLAY STATION 2 GAMES 26 Games including Lara Crofts, Red Faction 2, new Super Mario Bros, Medal of Honors plus many more, £30 Telephone 07759 304705.

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

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RUBY WEDDING
MACLEOD - MACCOLL - Neil to Christina, married February 23, 1973 in Oban.
 - Formerly Kentallen.

DEATHS
BANISTER - Rachel Jean, Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford. Died peacefully at home on February 15, 2013 aged 95. Jean will be sadly missed by her family and friends as well as former colleagues and pupils from all over the world. Private cremation. Thanksgivng service at Ardour Church on Wednesday February 27 at 11 am. A Memorial Service will be held at Somerville College in the autumn and details will be posted on the Somerville website (http://www.some.ox.ac.uk/) Family flowers only please.

CAMPBELL - Suddenly, but peacefully at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow on Wednesday, February 13, 2013, Jean Campbell, aged 76, beloved wife of Duncan Campbell, much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Many thanks to the doctors and staff at the Lorn and Islands General Hospital, Western Infirmary and the Care Plus girls. Sadly missed.

CARMICHAEL - Peacefully, after a short illness, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Saturday, February 16, 2013, aged 78 years, Marion, nee Morrison, 6 Millpark Terrace, Oban, wife of the late Dugald Carmichael, loving mother of Peggy, Christine, Catherine and Mari, mother-in-law, sister and much loved granny and friend. Funeral will take place at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on Friday, February 22, at 10.00 a.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiral collection at the service for Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

KNOWLES - Very suddenly and unexpectedly at home, "An-Struan", Benderloch, on February 12, 2013, Sarah, (nee MacFarlane), much loved and adored wife of Gary, devoted mother of Dawn, Christopher and Michael, nanny to Jonathan and Freya and a friend to many. Will be sadly missed. Funeral arrangements to be advised later, will be family flowers only.

LOCKHART - Violet, (nee MacFarlane), lately of Flocklones, Dundee. Peacefully, after a short illness at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, on February 18, 2013 aged 90 years. Much loved wife of the late Louis, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. Formerly of Crathie, Duncraggan Road, Oban. For many years Red Cross Commandant and Training Officer. Funeral will take from The Church of Scotland, Glencurriten Road, Oban, on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 1.30 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for the British Red Cross and Chest, Heart and Stroke Association Scotland.

MACGREGOR - Peacefully, with all her family at "Ard Chollie", Kirkton, Taynait, on February 15, 2013, Rhoda, (nee Carswell), beloved wife of Alasdair, devoted mother of Linda, Kenneth and John, mother-in-law of Denis, Flo and Catherine Ann, cherished granny of Jordan, Eilidh, Erin and Laura and proud great granny of Millie. Sadly missed.

MACLEAN - Suddenly at Western Infirmary, Glasgow on February 7, 2013. Angus was a cherished son of Tere with a great passion for the Isle of Skye, he was in his 90th year. Beloved husband to the late Mona MacDonald of Tere, and latterly partner and companion to Mary MacLean. A much loved brother to Elsie Black, Oban and the late Hugh and Willie MacLean, Tere. A caring uncle to Donald Dunbeg, Flora, Duncan, Alasdair, Rena MacLean, Tere and also the late Betty Davis, of Oban. A special great uncle and cousin to many and a dear and caring friend and neighbour. Sadly missed by all.

TRAFFORD - Peacefully at home on Monday, February 18, 2013, aged 53 years, Frances Clare (nee Drewery), beloved wife of Andy, much loved mum to Katherine and Alasdair, a dear sister, aunt and friend. Funeral will take place at Church of Scotland, Corran Esplanade, Oban on Friday, February 22, at 2 pm. All friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
DAVIS - Stewart and Elsie would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind support during Betty's short illness and since her sad loss. Also the caring staff at the Brownlee Unit, Gartnavel and Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital. Special thanks to Rev. Bill Gray, Donald Mackinnon and Catriona Hoey.

MACMILLAN - The MacMillan family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and cards following the death of Diarmid on January 28. Also thanks to D&A Munn and the Rev. D. Cameron. Retiring collection for ABCD. Thank you.
MCARTHUR - The family of the late Malcolm (Calum) McArthur would like to express sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy following their sad bereavement. Special thanks to Jean and Craig MacAffer for their efficiency and compassion in organising the funeral. Thank you to the Baptist minister, James McNulty for his comforting service and to Jean Campbell the organist. Thank you to all who attended the funeral service and for their kind donations to the District Nurses Fund. Thank you to the Bowmore Hotel for the lovely lunch, and grateful thanks too to all the staff at Islay Hospital, the District Nurses and all Calum's carers.

MEMORIAMS
BROWN - In ever loving memory of my dear husband Alasdair, who died February 25, 2005, also remembering my brother-in-law Hector, who died March 24, 2004, also remembering all loved ones gone before and after. Deep in my heart you will always stay. Quietly remembered every day.
 - Seonaid, 11 Balephuill, Tere
CAMPBELL - Remembering with love our devoted dad John, who passed away February 20, 1986. Precious memories last forever.
 - Avril and John.
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, Duncan, Fiona, George, Lorna and families.xx
CHISHOLM - In loving memory of James Stewart Chisholm (Chubby), who was suddenly taken from us on February 24, 2012, much too soon. A much loved husband. An empty place no one can fill I miss you and I always will. A prayer, a tear, are all I can give. These you will have as long as I live. Till we meet again.
 - Derina x.
 A dearly beloved father and grandfather, missed so much. Remembering you is easy I do it every day. It's just the pain of losing you that never goes away.
 - Love always Natalie, Morgan, Owen and Brionne x.
CHISHOLM - Stewart. You always went that extra mile for family, friends and business. A much missed son-in-law.
 - Willie and Cona.
CHISHOLM - Stewart, died February 24, 2012. You had a heart of gold. One of the best to behold. You were generous, loving and kind. These are the memories you left behind.
 - Love Jim and Freda.
CLARK - In loving memory of Gary, died February 24, 2012. You are loved and missed every day.
 - Gran
FARQUHAR - In loving memory of Molly and Donald.
 - Rhoda.
FERGUSON - In loving memory of a treasured wife, mum, mum-in-law and granny, Georgina (Ina), who died February 18, 2012. Forever in our thoughts and our hearts. Sent from us all.
 - Always DJ x
GIBSON - In loving memory of my dear wife Marybell, who died February 23, 1987. Always remembered.
 - Jimmy.
GIBSON - In loving memory of our dear mum Marybell who died February 23, 1987. We love and miss you every day.
 - Iain and family, Dalmally.
 - Margaret and family, Canada.
MACCALLUM - Alastair, loving brother and uncle taken from us on February 11, 2010. We cried when you passed away. We still 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 Cathrine Ellen, Allan, Wilma and our children.
MACARTHUR - John. In memory of a much loved father, father-in-law and grandpa who went home to be with his Saviour on February 21, 2010. Your humility, compassion, integrity, great sense of humour, and the witness of your daily walk with Jesus continues to influence our lives. What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see. There'll be no more sorrow there, no more burdens to bear.

No more sickness, no more pain, no more parting over there. But forever I will be, with the One who died for me. What a day, glorious day that will be. Love you for ever.
 - From Rose, Harold and Isabel (Canada).
MACDONALD - Treasured memories of our beloved mother, gran and great-gran Margaret MacDonald, who passed away on February 21, 2005. So very missed. Also remembering loved ones gone before.
 Carson ma ta bhids sibh ri bron
 Mar dheadm gun dochas mair
 Am bheil sa' bhasach teachdair sith
 'Gan gairm gu ridhachd na glair.
 Dear mam give our love to da.
 - Inserted by her loving daughters Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.
MACDOUGALL - Ewen. Nam chridhe gu brath.
 - Eleanor.
MACFARLANE - In loving memory of a dear sister and aunt, Cathy MacFarlane, 8 Millpark Terrace, Oban who was knocked down and killed in Oban on February 19, 1991. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.
 - Flo MacGillivray and Isobel Stewart (sisters) and Corinne and Alan Barrie.
MACGILL - In loving memory of Donald MacGill, a loving husband and father who passed away February 23, 1991. Always in our thoughts - Nancy, Anne and Neil.
MACQUEEN - Precious memories of my dear daughter Veronica, who passed away February 25, 2000. Though absent you are always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.
 - Mum.
MACQUEEN - Veronica. In loving memory of a dear mum and nana died February 25, 2000. Love you and miss you every day.
 - Yvonne, Richard, Michael and Innes x
MACQUEEN - Loving memories of Veronica, a much loved sister and auntie. Time passes. Precious memories remain.
 - Violet, Iain, Janette, Jennifer and families.
MCLENNAN - In loving memory of a dear brother Willie who passed away February 24, 2008. Forever in our thoughts and in our hearts.
 - Margaret, Elsie and families.
MORTON - In loving memory of a dear wife and mother, Catherine, passed away February 24, 1995. Forever in our thoughts - John, John and David.
MORTON - In loving memory of a dear daughter-in-law Catherine passed away February 24, 1995. Forever in my thoughts.
 - Mum.
MORTON - In loving memory of a dear mum and nana. Passed away February 24, 1995. Thinking of you always - Norman, Karen, Christopher, Lewis and Arran x
ROBERTSON - In memory of my husband Tom, who passed away February 18, 2011. Always remembered.
 - Jean.
ROBERTSON - In loving memory of my mum (Agnes) who passed away on February 26, 2012. I loved you then and love you still. In our hearts and minds always.
 - Jim, Jessie and family.

CHURCHES
ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
 Campbell Street Church
 Sunday 24 February 2013
 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
 Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
 Rev. Archie McPhail
 MA, MTh
 (01631) 567076
 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
 Sunday 24th February 2013
 Lent 2
 St John's Cathedral, Oban
 Holy Communion.....08.00
 Sung Eucharist.....10.15
 Sunday School and Creche
 Loop System
 Large Print Hymn Books
 All Welcome
 Nicki McNelly, Provost.
 (01631) 562323
 St Columba, Gruline, Mull
 Holy Eucharist.....11.00
 The Bishop
 St Columba,
 Bishop's House, Iona
 Holy Eucharist.....09.30
 Thursday 28 February 2013
 St John's Cathedral, Oban
 Morning Prayer and Eucharist.....09.30

ARGYLL RALLIES
 Wednesday 27th February
 Lochgilphead Free Church
 7.30pm
 Thursday 28th February
 Campbeltown Salvation Army
 7.30pm
 Friday 1st March
 Oban Baptist Church
 7.30pm
 Speaker: John MacLean
 Bookstand & Tea
 Arranged by the Faith Mission

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 CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
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 407 St John Street
 London EC1V 4AD

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Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
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 North Avenue, Clydebank
 Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
 In memory of Dawn Joyce

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Alistair MacLean Master Sculptor
 Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
 Design and prices on request
 LETTERING AND RENOVATING DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

WEDDINGS
GRETNA GREEN
 SINCE 1754
McMILLAN - BAKER
 Peter and Isobel would like to announce their surprise wedding on January 11, 2013 at The Old Famous Blacksmith's Shop, Gretna Green, after 12 years of un-wedded bliss. We would like to thank family and friends for the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes.

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Legend of McPhunn brought to life

Strachur group revisits famous Argyll tale

THE STORY is well known in north Cowal. Archie McPhunn of Driep was caught stealing his Campbell neighbour's sheep. An unfair trial at Inveraray court before a Campbell judge resulted in a death sentence, and McPhunn was hanged. When his body was being taken over Loch Fyne for burial he began to show signs of life - and was brought round by a dram. He had beaten the gallows. But is this story truth or myth? A new play, commissioned by Strachur and District Local History Society, aims to find out. Playwright Gordon Neish was, however, giving little away. 'I have done a lot of research', he said, 'but there are still some things that aren't clear - as well as some which are. I can say, though, that the records of his trial show that it was for something far more sinister than sheep rustling he was arrested. What is not clear from the records is McPhunn's status in life. 'He may have been a nobleman - we just don't know. What points to that is his address - Driep Castle - and the fact his wife was referred to in some documents as 'Lady' McPhunn. 'I have yet to find a record of his birth, or indeed his death, date. So there is a wee bit of guesswork in the play. 'I've also had to make some alterations to the facts we have to make a better story. The main one is that the trial lasted more of a day and his sentence was carried out a few days later.' A cast of nine, along with numerous behind-the-scenes volunteers, has been working hard on the production, which will open tomorrow (Friday). Tickets are selling fast, and are strictly limited in number for both performances. The Strange Case of Archie McPhunn will take place in Strachur Memorial Hall over two nights. Tickets are available from Strachur Post Office, Strachur Filling Station, or by telephone from (01369) 860 497. The Strachur and District Local History Society was established in September 2007 to gather and record material relating to the history of the Parish of Strachur and Strathlachlan, to make such information available to the public at large, and to stimulate interest in local history among residents of the area. It has brought together people with an interest in diverse aspects of local heritage - including family history, clan history, oral history and archaeology. Playwright and director Gordon Neish has written a number of plays, including A Para Handy Wireless Show, which toured Highland Scotland and appeared at the Edinburgh Festival. As an actor he is best known for playing Adam Land in STV's Take the High Road.



Shellfish group's campaign role

ROPE grown mussels from the Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group (SSMG) enjoyed a great reception from consumers during Sainsbury's recent 'Switch the Fish' campaign. During the initiative, the supermarket gave away free samples of less popular types of seafood to anyone who bought one of the 'big five' eating varieties of cod, haddock, tuna, salmon and prawns. Scottish rope grown mussels were one of the alternative types of seafood selected for the free sample give-away and, according to Rob Mitchell of SSMG, they went down a treat with shoppers. 'The Switch the Fish campaign was a great success and it really highlighted to consumers the fantastic taste of mussels and their simplicity in cooking,' he said. 'The feedback we have had from Sainsbury's was very positive and we are hopeful that this campaign will have played an important role in ensuring that consumers broaden their horizons when purchasing seafood. 'We are particularly proud of the sustainability credentials of our Scottish rope-grown mussels, which also seems to appeal to consumers.' SSMG mussels are independently certified by both the Marine Stewardship Council and the Friend of the Sea for the environmentally-friendly manner in which they are grown.



Volunteers help to raise more than £400 at Marie Curie afternoon tea

More than £400 was raised at an afternoon tea in St John's Cathedral Hall on Saturday, organised by the Oban branch of Marie Curie Cancer Care. The group also used the event to raise awareness of Daffodil Month, which takes place in March. Pictured, from left, are Marie Curie volunteers Isobelle Smith, Irene Main, Christine Marlow and June Henderson. 15_08marie01

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 & West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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BSW mill manager Andy Rogers presents Lochaber Camanachd captain Ian Love with the BSW trophy. 20_08shinty01

Lochaber win derby trophy as squads size each other up

LOCHABER Camanachd overcame local rivals Kilmallie 2-0 to win the BSW Cup before a sizeable crowd at Canal Parks on Saturday.

Hero of the hour for the Spear Bridge men was keeper Calum MacDonald, who pulled off a string of five saves to deny the home attack.

The clubs swapped places last season as Lochaber moved up to the Orion Group Premiership and Kilmallie dropped down to North Division 1.

But there was never much between the sides throughout and only in finishing did Lochaber have the edge.

MacDonald denied Kilmallie's Michael Rodger on several occasions, arguably his brilliant block from Rodger's 25-yard angled shot on 18 minutes being the pick of the bunch.

The save proved crucial as five minutes later Lochaber captain Shaun Nicolson opened the scoring with a smart finish past Kevin Toye.

Kilmallie had the upper hand early in the second half but could find no way through - and they paid the price when Stuart Callison scored from close range to seal victory.

Delighted Lochaber coach Michael Delaney told *The Oban Times*: 'They had more chances than us and Callum was a bit busier than their keeper.'

'It was a fairly even match but Shaun's one on one finish was clinical and when we got the goal late in the game that killed it.'

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre said: 'We had all the pressure but we just couldn't score. Our two top forwards [John Stewart and Liam MacDonald] were out injured and we missed them.'

NEWTONMORE'S first match under new manager Paul John MacKintosh saw them lift yet more silverware as they defeated Skye Camanachd 2-0 in the George Michie Memorial Cup in Portree.

The home side were always going to find the going tough against the reigning Orion Premiership champions and manager Willie MacRae's task was made even harder as he was missing several first team regulars, including David Grant, Iain Nicolson and Shaun Hedley. Star forward Danny MacRae put 'More in front from the edge of the D, before creating the second for Steven MacDonald on 23 minutes. Newtonmore were on top for

SHINTY

much of the game, but Skye defended resolutely throughout to keep the scoreline down.

After the game 'More captain Jamie Robinson was presented with the trophy by George Michie's nephew Cameron MacDonald.

KYLES ATHLETIC took a squad of 41 players to Aberdeen on Saturday for a one-and-a-half hour training session before their match against the hosts.

Kyles won the match 6-0, while giving debuts to players as young as 14 years old.

Roddie MacColl bagged a hat trick, with Thomas Whyte, Euan Campbell and one of the aforementioned youngsters Scott MacDonald netting the others.

GLENURQHART won the MacDonald Cup with a comfortable 6-0 win over Strathglass at Blairbeg on Saturday.

David Smart scored the opener before man of the match Fraser Heath made it 2-0.

Strathglass forward Robert Geddes pulled one back but Glen proved too strong and ran out winners after goals from James MacPherson, John Barr and two great strikes from new signing Ewan Brady.

Manager Fraser MacKenzie said Brady, signed from Glenargry, would add versatility to the Glenurquhart attack.

The Drumadrochit side face Newtonmore in their final pre-season friendly this Saturday, before lining up against the same



Martin Johnstone and Stevie MacAllister duel for possession. 20_08shinty02

opposition in the season opener on March 2.

Neale Reid has resumed training after breaking his arm on international duty, but is not yet match fit.

OBAN CAMANACHD put five goals past Strachur at the Strachurmore pitch but went 1-0 down to their hosts on a heavy surface.

Ian 'Scally' MacMillan equalised before half time and during the interval Camanachd manager Gussie Campbell left his team in no doubt that he expected more from them.

The reply was immediate, with second half goals from substitute Scott MacMillan, Andrew MacCuish, Craig MacDougall

and new signing Lewis Cameron sealing the win.

Manager Campbell said: 'I thought Scott MacMillan made a difference when he came off the bench and I am delighted that young Lewis Cameron got a goal to cap a good performance.'

'Another plus point was the fitness of team and the last 20 minutes showed me that our long winter training sessions have paid off.'

'But the team has to realise that our performance in that first half was not good enough, especially now we are back in the premier league.'

Ian 'Gussie' Campbell returned from a hand injury to play a part in the game, wearing a glove that gives his hand extra support.

Skye win North of Scotland Under-14 Indoor 5-a-sides

SKYE CAMANACHD won the North of Scotland under-14 indoor five-a-side title when they beat Beaulieu in the final on Saturday.

After the preliminary round robin league at Macdonald's Dal-faber Sports Hall in Aviemore, the island boys won through with a fine win over Fort William.

In the other semi, Beaulieu edged out Kingussie courtesy of a 'golden goal' in extra time.

Newtonmore, meanwhile, defeated Lovat in the 5th/6th place play off and Lochcarron edged out Uist for 7th place.

In the final, Beaulieu struck first and for a long period frustrated the dangerous Skye forward line while looking threatening on the break.

But midway through the second half the day's top scorer Conor Ross equalised and in the last minute the same player struck again to ensure the trophy would be crossing the Skye Bridge on Saturday night.

Skye's success was tinged with sadness though when news came through that Joy Robson had tragically died following an accident at the Snowman Rally earlier in the day.

Joy worked as a classroom assistant at MacDiarmid Primary School where Skye players John Gillies and Marcus Ross are pupils.

Everyone at Skye Camanachd and the whole shinty community sends their deepest condolences to Joy's family at this sad time.



A victorious Glenorchy Camanachd returned from Edinburgh last weekend after winning the annual Drop Kick Murphy's 6-a-side Shinty Competition. The tournament last Saturday included teams from Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. After qualifying for the final from a group stage, Glenorchy won the final 2-1 against hosts Edinburgh University, with Kieran McKay scoring both goals.

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 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.

WIN £1350

Easy to enter
 Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules
 No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, 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.
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I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name
 Address
 Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Saints march through to last 16 of the Scottish Cup

The Oban side now face a tough away trip to face Colville Park, one of the cup favourites

Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup 6th Round
Oban Saints 3
Cambusbarron Rovers 1
CALEDONIAN Premier Division side Cambusbarron Rovers

were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Scottish Amateur Cup 6th round tie with the winners gaining a place in the last 16 of the national cup competition which started back in October

FOOTBALL

when nearly 700 teams entered. The Stirling team knocked Saints out of the competition last season at the 5th round stage, so this was a chance for the Oban side to gain revenge for that defeat and this they certainly did with an excellent performance against a good Rovers' side.

Manager Iain Jackson made a couple of changes for this important cup tie from the team that defeated Burntisland in the previous round. Jamie Graham and Marc MacCallum came into the defence with Willie Gemmell and Dene Cassells moving into midfield. Myles McAuley was working on Colonsay and Paul Kerr dropped to the bench.

The home side started well and Craig MacEwan had a great chance with a header from a Willie Gemmell cross as early as the fourth minute.

Three minutes later Saints took the lead when Willie Gemmell sent Donald Campbell clear on the left. Donnie danced past a couple of markers before setting up Chris Graham who stabbed the ball home past keeper Adam Young.

This was just the start the home side had been hoping for as they took the game to their Calety League opponents.

Finger-tipped

They almost increased their lead in the 18th minute when Donald Campbell set up strike partner Mattie Rippon, but the young striker's shot was finger-



Saints captain Keith Millar closes in on the ball during last Saturday's Scottish Cup win over Cambusbarron. Photo: Stephen Lawson

tipped round the post by the Rovers' netminder.

Cambusbarron came more into the game and were pressing hard for an equaliser and this they got in the 36th minute when Ricky Carroll fired a low shot through a ruck of players and the ball nestled in the bottom right hand corner of Daniel Cassells' net.

The home side were stung by this reversal, and they were finding it hard going as Rovers were starting to get a firm grip of the game in midfield.

Although under pressure the Saints back line were defending well and the midfielders were working their socks off to help out their colleagues at the back when required.

The home side always looked dangerous on the break and Marc MacCallum had a great chance when he got on the end of Willie Gemmell free kick,

but his header went straight to the keeper.

In the last minute of the half Saints took the lead when they were awarded a free kick 25 yards out. Willie Gemmell fired a great shot over the Rovers wall and high into the net giving keeper Adam Young no chance. The ball was centred then referee blew his whistle for the interval - what a time to get a goal!

This goal seemed to knock the stuffing out of Cambusbarron as they never really got going in the second half and it was the home side who created a string of great chances in the opening minutes with Dene Cassells, Keith Millar and Donald Campbell missing gilt-edged chances that would surely have put the game to bed.

The home side were in control of the game now, playing some good stuff but they needed that vital third goal that would prob-

ably make the game safe.

But it was a mistake at the other end that allowed Cambusbarron full back Chris McBrier the chance to run through on goals and thankfully for Saints Daniel Cassells made a great save to deny the Rovers player.

This was a warning for Saints and thankfully they took heed and tightened up at the back.

Both teams were playing some good football, but it was the home side that looked the more likely to score and they should have done with Dene Cassells missing another good opportunity. At the other end Saints had to be on their toes to clear the ball off the goal line as it looked to be heading into the net.

The vital third goal that Saints were looking for came in the 78th minute when Donald Campbell made progress up the right flank before picking out Eddie Swift

with a great ball across the goalmouth and much to the joy of the large Oban support Eddie steered a right foot shot past Adam Young and into the net to make the score 3-1.

Credit to Rovers they kept plugging away and created a couple of half chances, but the home side were full of confidence now and ran down the clock fairly comfortably and it was a jubilant Oban contingent who celebrated when referee Stephen Payne, who handled the game well, blew his whistle for the end of the 90 minutes in what was a very entertaining game of football played by two good teams.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: 'We played some good stuff against a top class team. We started well, but then fell out of the game for a while.

'The goal just on half time gave us a great boost and we were the better team in the second half, but I was a bit concerned when we passed up three or four excellent scoring chances in the early part of the second period. However, we got there in the end and fully deserve to be in the last 16.'

'We now face a tough away game against one of the cup favourites Colville Park from Motherwell for a place in the quarter finals.'

Saints are at home again this Saturday when they take on old rivals Pollok in the third round of the West of Scotland Cup. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 1.30pm kick-off with extra time and penalties, if required, to see who goes through to the next round. Referee is Jimmy Litster from Lochgilhead.



Saints players Willie Gemmell, Marc MacCallum and Keith Millar are in attendance as keeper Daniel Cassells punches the ball clear. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Atlantis Leisure Indoor League

INDOOR FOOTBALL

RESULTS: Handy Men 13. Hotels 0; Gavin MacMillan MOTM
Oban Times 2, Atlantis 3. Elliot Douglall MOTM
Oban High School 12. Glenorchy 4 Daz Bryars MOTM

This Sunday's Fixtures: 6.20pm Carpet Fitters v RM Builders.
7.10pm Atlantis Leisure v Hotels.
8.00pm Oban Times v Stoddarts T&T.

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atlantis	7	7	0	0	21
Carpet Fitters	7	6	0	1	18
RM Builders	7	6	0	1	18
Oban HS	8	5	1	2	16
Oban Times	8	5	0	3	15
Handy Men	9	3	0	6	9
Stoddarts T&T	6	2	1	3	7
Glenorchy	9	2	0	7	6
Royal Hotel	7	1	0	6	3
OES	8	0	0	8	0

Oban Pool League

POOL

RESULTS: Markie Dans 'B' 6, Lochavullin 4; Kelvin 2, Markie Dans 'A' 8; Lancaster 'A' v Lancaster 'B' postponed; Gluepot 1, Cellar 9; Claredon 5, Lochnell 5.

Fixtures: Cellar v Lancaster 'A'; Lochavullin v Claredon; Lochnell v Markie Dans 'B'; Lancaster B v Kelvin; Markie Dans 'A' v Gluepot.

League Table	Pts
1 Markie Dans A	23
2 The Cellar	22
3 Lancaster B	17*
4 Lancaster A	16*
5 The Lochnell	12
6 The Lochavullin	11
7 Markie Dans B	10
8 The Claredon	9
9 The Kelvin	5
10 The Gluepot	3

*The Lancaster teams both have a game in hand

Fancy a flutter on the shinty?

SHINTY

PUNTERS who fancy a flutter on their weekend sport can add shinty matches to their coupons after Ladbrokes became the first bookmaker to offer odds on the sport.

Having already released odds for this season's Orion Group Premiership title, fans will also be able to bet on matches weekly.

A spokeswoman for Ladbrokes said: 'There was significant interest in betting on shinty and it was something we looked

into after last season. 'We could price it up and the punters have shown an interest and it is something new and exciting for us.'

Newtonmore have been given the favourites tag at 4/5, with Kyles second favourites on 3/1 and Fort William on 5/1. Oban Camanachd and Kinlochshiel are considered to be favourites for the drop this season, priced at 33/1.

Stableford win for Steven at Glencruitten

GOLF

STEVEN Murphy was the winner of the Stableford competition held at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday with a score of 40 points.

Result: 1 Steven Murphy 40 (23) 2 Graeme Kynoch 36 (09);

3 Joe MacLean 36 (20); 4 John MacKinnon 35 (11); 5 Phillip Murphy 35 (01); 6 John Gibb 35 (09); 7 Ian McCuish 35 (06); 8 Andrew MacMillan 34 (06).

Scottish Amateur League results and upcoming fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, 6th round - Oban Saints 3, Cambusbarron Rovers 1; Premier Division 2 - Campbetown Pupils 4, Dunoon 0; Division 1A - Strathaven Dynamo 8, Tarbert 0; Division 1B - Kings Park Rangers 'B' 2, Lochgilhead Red Star 2.

Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, 3rd round - Oban Saints v Pollok; Premier Division 2 - Carlton YM v Campbetown Pupils; Division 1A - Port Glasgow United v Tarbert; Division 1B - Lochgilhead Red Star v Bothwell and Uddingston

Lochaber Leisure are Ali Young Premier League champions

LOCHABER Leisure were crowned champions of the Ali Young Indoor Premier League after a 4-2 win over All Blacks at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Second placed Achintore FC ended with a disappointing 4-2 defeat at the hands of Old Codgers while the Goon Squad ended their campaign in third spot after a 0-0 draw with Caol FC.

HWEnergy saved their best form till last with fine 5-4 win over Ballachulish while Portoway

INDOOR FOOTBALL

thumped bottom team AA Young 11-3.

Sponsor Ali Young's grandchildren Aidan and Caitlin Young, pictured, presented Lochaber Leisure captain Steven Martin and his team with the indoor league trophy on Sunday night.

Back row, left to right: Matthew MacDonald, Gary Davidson, Donald Lamont and Davie Forbes. Front: Neil Cameron and Mark Haran.



Lochaber Leisure, winners of the Ali Young Indoor Premier League. 20_108size01



Athletic's Dean Smith and Craig Campbell attack the ball during their side's 3-0 win over Aikenhead Thistle at Oban Community Pitch last Saturday. 07_108footy01

Oban Athletic impress with good home win against Aikenhead

FOOTBALL

West of Scotland League
Oban Athletic 3
Aikenhead Thistle 0
THE NEWLY-named Oban Athletic - formerly Taynuilt Amateurs - restored some pride last Saturday with a convincing win over Aikenhead.

A humbling 8-2 defeat last weekend at Cardross was forgotten as a more focussed and experienced Athletic side took to the Oban Community Pitch.

Athletic relied heavily on the experience of ex-Oban Saints men Colin Tindall, Craig Campbell and Stephen Fox in the opening 20 minutes as Aikenhead took the game to the hosts. This spell could have produced a goal, but for an excellent block from goalkeeper Ben Pollock.

Sheer guts and determination from every player soon changed the tide and some good forward play from Dean Smith and Kris Gillies allowed the latter to slot home.

There were other chances for Athletic to score; the home side were denied a penalty when Gil-

lies was dropped in the opposition box and Smith was unlucky to hit the post.

However, the home side made their lead more comfortable on 70 minutes when Smith let fly from 20 yards and Gillies finished the contest on 90 minutes, slotting home a Stephen Fox pass.

Manager Calum Fox said: 'The way we conducted ourselves in the second half against Cardross the previous weekend was not acceptable but I didn't have to say that. The boys knew it and showed a better attitude against Aikenhead, proving we are capable of concentrating for the full 90 minutes.'

This week against Niaroo will let me know if we can compete with the best in the league.'

Oban Athletic, sponsored by The Rowantree Hotel and Tartan Tavern, are still looking for players. Anyone interested can contact the club through its Twitter page.



Dean Smith is thwarted by the Aikenhead goalkeeper on this occasion, but the Oban Athletic striker had the last laugh as he scored later in the game. 07_108footy02

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Green Machine top the league after home win over Uddingston

Lorne must now concentrate on winning the Regional Bowl final this weekend

RBS West Division 3
Oban Lorne 26
Uddingston 13

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne's winning streak continued last Saturday, as the team now look to progress in the regional bowl and a potential visit to Murrayfield.

Victory over this weekend's opponents, Loch Lomond, in the west regional bowl final would put the Green Machine into the national semi-final of the bowl competition against another regional winner. A win at that stage of the competition would set up a date at the home of Scottish rugby in front of thousands of supporters.

Hopes are high the club's 50th season, as they sit top of West Division Three and on the cusp of their greatest cup triumph in recent times.

Confidence certainly seemed to be high at Glencruitten last Saturday, as Oban Lorne again dominated in the scrum to bulldoze their way to a 26 - 13 victory against Uddingston.

The visitors are the only team to beat Oban this year and scored the first points of the afternoon with a penalty between the posts.

Oban Lorne's formidable pack began to bully the opposition, providing good ball for seasoned general Douglas Pender at scrum-half and an on-form Graham MacEachen at fly-half. Battle-hardened second-row Neil Rimmer, in particular, gave his opposite number some real problems and nothing was going to halt the incredibly powerful Oban pack, led by Robin MacQueen at hooker.

Oban's scrum has quickly become one of the most feared units in the league, and Uddingston soon found out why.

As the referee called for the put-in, it was clear that the sizeable weight difference was

going to be a big factor in the outcome of the game. After Uddingston failed to sustain the hit and keep the scrum steady, the referee called for a penalty try and a successful conversion gave Oban a 7 - 3 lead. Oban regularly pinned the visitors back on their own try line and another dominant scrum pushed Uddingston back towards their own line for a second time. It was left for South African Corrie Louw to touch the ball down for a converted try.

What they lack in size, Uddingston make up for in pace and a rare break from their left wing ended with a converted try just before half time. In the second half the tempo of the game increased, as did the intensity of the tackles being made.

However, this played into Oban's hands and they once again found themselves in a position where the scrum could create problems.

The sound of the scrum hit echoed around Glencruitten as Uddingston were helpless to stop the drive and Corrie Louw once again was on hand to force the ball down for his second try of the game, which made him joint top scorer at the club.

However, an overly keen Oban Lorne always looked like shipping penalties and some indiscipline at the breakdown gifted the Uddingston fly-half a routine kick to bring the visiting team to within a try of the lead.

Eventually, with the clock running down, dynamic fly-half Graham MacEachen popped up to seal the bonus point with a smart dart from the back of a ruck over the line. A conversion from substitute Craig Wright sealed the win.



Man-of-the-match Graham MacEachen stretches for the try line during the Green Machine's 26-13 win over Uddingston at Glencruitten last Saturday. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Matt shortlisted for top award

SAILING

A SAILING coach from Oban that has pledged much of his time to developing the sport has been shortlisted for an award at the Royal Yachting Association's Scotland Awards.

Matt Thomas has been nominated for the Coach of the Year 2012 award for his work as an RYA Scotland Class Academy and Development Team coach for the 29er class.

Joining the Scottish 29er squad last year, Matt has brought the squad together as a team helping them make a massive leap through the British rankings, with Scottish sailors achieving 2nd and 5th places in last 29er Grand Prix event of 2012.

The RYA awards will take place this Saturday in Largs.

Winter League at Colonsay GC

GOLF

WINTER League results from Sunday 17 February: 1. S. Macalister, gross 40, nett 36; 2= D.Bell, 56, 38; S. Weatherstone, 45, 38.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Friendly - Under 13s 5, Fort William 1. Scoring for Saints were Couper Munt, Craig Easton, Ruaridh Horne, Lewis Buchanan and an own goal. Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Drumchapel United, postponed. Lenzie Colts 1, Under 16s 2. On target for the Oban side was Mattie Kelly with two goals.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v PFD United; Antonine v Under 14s; Under 15s v Drumchapel United; Under 16s v Kilpatrick.

Results from Tobermory GC

GOLF

MENS 9 Hole Stableford Played on Sunday 17th February, 1st Shaun Fisher 17 points, 2nd Gordon Chalmers 16 points, 3rd Mike Campbell 16 points.

Emergency top by four points

OVER 35s LEAGUE

RECENT Scores: Sail Trim Coach 2, West Coast Massive 6; Clements 1, Trialists 7; Emergency 5, Hydro 2; Sail Trim Coach 3, Teachers 6; Clements 1, Emergency 3; Emergency 8, Taynuilt 6; Clements 4, Teachers 4.

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Emergency	7	5	1	1	16
Trialists	5	5	0	12	
WC Massive	5	4	0	12	
Taynuilt	6	4	0	12	
Clements	7	2	1	4	7
Teachers	6	1	1	4	4
Spartak	5	1	1	3	4
Hydro	5	1	0	4	3
Sail TC	6	1	0	5	3

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Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final to be held at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday

ATLANTIS Leisure in Oban is the venue this Saturday for the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics Final.

The competition starts at 1pm in the large games hall at Atlantis with young athletes from most parts of Argyll taking part in various running, jumping and throwing events.

The final on Saturday is the last of a series of competitions held in the district this winter, which started with local area events in Mull, Lochgilphead and Oban in November and December and the Kintyre qualifying competition at the end of January.

Successful qualifiers from the local contests will now come together in Oban, with as many as 120 young athletes, from seven to 16 years,

SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

participating in what should be an enthralling competition.

Athletes are reminded to register between noon and 1pm on Saturday, with the first events starting at 1pm.

As well as trophies for first, second and third overall in each age group, medals will be awarded to all competitors taking part.

The Argyll Sports Hall competitions are promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club with support from all the other athletic clubs in the district.

For more information on the Argyll Final please phone 01546 602664.

Lack of match fitness sees Lorne ladies lose first-half lead

RBS Women's National League
Oban Lorne 19
Kirkcaldy 32

OBAN Lorne Ladies let a first-half lead slip against top-of-the-table Kirkcaldy at Glencruitten on Sunday.

The Green Army have suffered from a lack of competitive rugby and some handling errors and mistakes in the ruck led to a Kirkcaldy penalty, which was duly kicked through the posts.

A physical encounter ensued, with Oban's Jennifer McPhee suffering a nasty head knock but as half time approached, a moment of class from Oban's Jemma Campbell saw her break the Kirkcaldy line and run in for the first try of the game, converted by Karen MacCorquodale.

Laura MacCormack then capitalised on a mistake to burst through, carrying the ball over the line.

But with the half drawing to a close, the pacy Kirkcaldy left winger broke free and touched down to reduce the deficit.

The second half began poorly for The Green Army, losing two tries in quick succession.

A fatigued Green Army struggled to find a way through the visitors' line and another Kirkcaldy try soon halted Oban's march forward but tireless centre Donna Smith broke free from a tackle to score a consolation try.

Kirkcaldy sealed the win with more impressive set piece play, to end an entertaining match. Player of the match was Oban's Alanna MacKenzie.



Oban Lorne's powerful runner Jemma Campbell runs in a try for the home side. Photo: Stephen Lawson

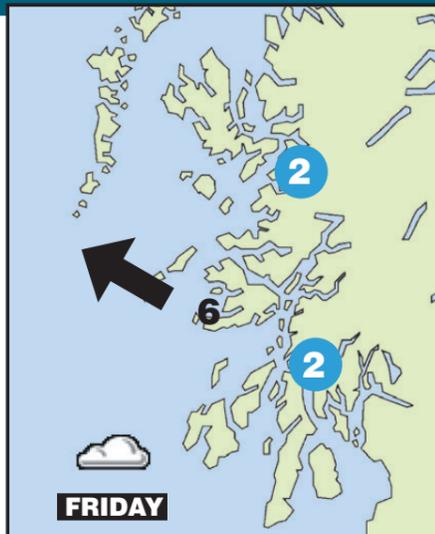
Weather

Thursday Light sunny
Winds moderate, east south easterly
Temperatures -1C to 4°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds light, east south easterly
Temperatures -1°C to 2°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 0°C to 3°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 21, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.46 2.9 09.56 1.9 15.41 3.1 21.16 1.7	
Fri	03.39 3.1 10.36 1.7 16.15 3.3 22.08 1.4	
Sat	04.19 3.4 11.07 1.4 16.50 3.5 22.48 1.1	
Sun	04.56 3.6 11.36 1.2 17.24 3.7 23.23 0.9	
Mon	05.32 3.8 12.04 1.0 17.57 3.8 23.56 0.7	
Tues	06.05 4.0 12.33 0.8 18.26 3.9 ** ** *	
Wed	00.28 0.6 06.34 4.0 13.02 0.8 18.51 3.9	

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.



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Thursday 21 February, 2013

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Inside this week

Festival 'giant' set to stay in Lochaber



Key players missing for away trip to Huntly



Residents demand action on icy steps

RESIDENTS have demanded action from Highland Council over ice-bound steps and pavements in their Fort William housing scheme.

Local man Vincent Duncan fell on ice coming down the steps from his Argyll Terrace home four weeks ago, bruising a bone in his back.

Two doctor appointments later he is still in pain and has been told the injury will take six to eight weeks to heal.

On Tuesday morning, up to two inches of sheet ice was again covering the steps and pavement below.

Mr Duncan, better known locally as Rusty, said old folks and children going to school were particularly at risk from serious injury.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This all started when they built the new flats on Heathercroft [higher up Cow Hill].

'I have been phoning the council for months. The water has been running down the hill for a year. When the frost comes people can't use the steps, yet there's nothing been done about it.

'There's an 84-year woman next door and when her daughter comes to take her out she can't use the stairs.'

The elderly lady's home carer,

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT BY

STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Jennifer Bell, had to grab both handrails coming down the steps after her morning visit.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I think it's ridiculous. It has been reported time and time again and we're still waiting.

'There is no way an 84-year-old lady can use the steps when they are like this. She can't get out today.'

Mr Duncan, 64, said a council workman had dug out a small channel next to the steps to carry water away, but in freezing weather conditions surfaces still became treacherous.

According to Mr Duncan, the council assured him tenders for work to correct the drainage problems were put out before Christmas but he has seen no activity since.

He said: 'A man from environmental health was here last week. He said it was surface water and would look into it.

'All they need to do is to lay a pipe next to the bannister and dig it into the concrete at the bottom.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'We are aware of the issue.'



Rusty Duncan can make little impression on thick ice covering the steps up to Argyll Terrace.



Home carer Jennifer Bell gingerly makes her way down the steps.

Tributes to Skye nursery assistant

TRIBUTES have been paid to the Skye primary school nursery assistant killed while spectating at the Snowman Rally on Saturday.

Joy Robson died after she was struck by a Honda Civic car during the event's first stage through Lochletter Woods, Balnain, west of Loch Ness.

Mrs Robson, aged 50, who leaves four children, had worked for five years at Mcdiarmid Primary School, Skeabost Bridge, seven miles from her home in Portree.

She was in charge of a nursery of 11 pupils and helped organise activities for the other 51 pupils at the school.

Pupils and staff remembered her at a special assembly on Monday morning.

In a letter to parents and carers, head teacher Susan Lumley said: 'It is with great sadness that we inform you of the devastating death of Joy Robson.'

'She was a super nursery assistant and the children, parents and staff will all miss her bubbly personality around the school. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.'

An eight-year-old boy was injured in the horrific incident, in which the car careered off the track into spectators. Mrs Robson and the boy were left trapped underneath until other spectators lifted the car free. Driver Graeme Schoneville and co-driver Michael Hendry were unhurt.

The rally was immediately abandoned and competitors, including several from Skye and Mull, made their way home without starting.

In a statement, rally organisers the Highland Car Club said: 'The club extends its sympathies to the families of those involved.'

D-Day approaches for Skye community's ambitious project

D-DAY is approaching for a south Skye group's ambitious plan for a sustainable retail, social and tourist hub to act as a focal point for community life.

Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative has already secured planning permission from Highland Council for the £1.6 million centre on Camuscross common grazings above the A851 between Armadale and Broadford.

But without major 'Stage 2' funding from the Big Lottery, it is unlikely the project

will see the light of day. CDI has already been granted one extension to complete their detailed application for Lottery cash - thought to be around £1million, the maximum allowed.

Now the go-ahead community group, assisted by a project officer, is busy working on the final wording of the bid, which must be submitted by mid-March.

CDI director Susan Walker was in no doubt as to the consequences if the application was unsuccessful.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We have already done the business planning, the designs are finished and the planning came through in October. But if we don't get the money from the Lottery we may as well forget it.'

The hub will feature a village shop, a café-bakery and a 'gathering space' for meetings and functions with a capacity of 110 seated and 175 standing. Also included in the blueprint are showers, toilets, an office, a foyer for tourism and local

heritage displays and parking for 50 cars. A business development manager, financial administrator, shop manager and a chef will staff the centre if and when it becomes a reality. Business projections show the hub would turn over £511,000 a year by year three, supporting seven full-time equivalent jobs and injecting an estimated £157,000 into the local economy annually. By year five, according to CDI's estimates, the hub would see 34,000 additional visitors stop and spend time in Sleat.

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Sneak thieves escape with £2,500 worth of goods



Steve White.

SNEAK thieves stole around £2,500 worth of property from a Fort William army veteran in an early morning raid.

Steve White, who lives on the Glasdrum estate, came downstairs at 6.20am last Thursday to find his living room ransacked and precious belongings gone. Mr White, a procurement manager at Rio Tinto Alcan's Lochaber smelter, immediately called police, who arrived within minutes.

It is understood the criminals got in through the back patio doors. Items taken included a Galaxy tablet, an i-Pad, £70 in cash, a compact Nikon camera and three watches - one a luxury Bulgari. Mr White, a keen ornithologist, also lost his compact Zeiss binoculars, a spotting scope, a compact laptop and charger, a memory

stick and a memory card. According to Mr White, 50, a lady living a few doors away had her front door 'broken in' and her handbag stolen the same night. None of the goods have so far been traced.

The veteran, who was in the Royal Logistic Corps for 22 years and served in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, only recently moved to Fort William from Namibia. Among personal items with 'huge emotional value' taken were around 200 photographs of his family and African wildlife. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would love to have my items back. I'm resigned to the fact they have gone but I'm clinging on to the hope somebody might know something. I feel violated. I don't need toe rags taking my stuff. The police were extremely helpful and did what they could. The fact they had

CID down from Inverness and sniffer dogs shows they were taking things seriously.'

A spokesperson for Fort William police confirmed property was taken from two addresses, but had yet to be recovered. He declined to confirm what had been stolen or Mr White's suggestion that police were aware of a number of 'double glazing salesmen' from Glasgow knocking on local doors the week before.

The spokesperson said: 'I would urge anyone with information regarding these thefts to get in contact with ourselves on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.'

He added: 'I would advise all householders to ensure their property remains locked and secure overnight and when vacant.'

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Flu bug closes hospital ward

A MEDICAL ward at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness was closed to new admissions on Monday after patients came down with flu.

Visitors are being asked not to attend the hospital while staff deal with the outbreak in Ward 5A. Ten patients were confirmed as having the virus.

Consultant microbiologist Dr Adam Brown said it was likely flu had been brought into Raigmore from outside.

He said: 'As well as restricting visiting to the affected ward we are also asking people not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had flu until at least seven days after the onset of symptoms. By doing this we will be able to limit the spread as much as possible.'

'Hospital staff will of course be very happy to talk to visitors on the phone so they can get updates on how their relatives are.'

NHS Highland flu immunisation co-ordinator Dr Ken Oates said it was not too late for people in 'at risk' groups to get a flu jab.

Guarded welcome to emergency vessel deal

A DEAL between the UK Government and the oil industry to provide a back-up vessel during maritime emergencies has met with a guarded welcome in the Western Isles.

BP-chartered ship the *Grampian Frontier*, currently stationed in the Schiehallion field west of Shetland, now joins the Kirkwall-based *Herakles* in providing support in the event of a major shipping incident.

Western Isles Council leader Angus Campbell welcomed the move – but said western waters were still 'vulnerable'.

An earlier plan, he said, envisaged moving the *Herakles* further south to ensure adequate cover for the west and the Minches as far south as Mingulay.

He said: 'I will be seeking a meeting of the Scottish ETV Working Group to examine the issues around deployment arrangements.'

The *Herakles* is the only dedicated emergency tug patrolling UK waters.



The striking sculpture is welcoming visitors to Fort William during this weekend's mountain festival.

20_f08mountain01

Bernera people to vote on community buyout

RESIDENTS of a windswept 7,000-acre island off Lewis' Atlantic coast are to vote on buying the island on which they live.

Former Bernera owner Count Robin Mirrlees died last year and his family are offering the community first refusal.

Various figures are being quoted locally, with most commentators suggesting the asking price could be as low as £70,000-£80,000. That figure, if accurate, is a bargain in anybody's terms – but islanders are well aware a buyout would mean future responsibility for regenerating Great Bernera would be theirs alone.

Great Bernera Community Development Group will invite

the 230-strong community to a meeting in Bernera Community Centre to decide the issue in the next three weeks.

Committee member Fiona Graham said time was of the essence as the first refusal offer had a deadline of April 1.

She said: 'It's going to be very interesting to see what the community wants. For the amount of money you may imagine we should just go for it – but how Bernera is going to cope afterwards, I don't know.'

'I am undecided whether I am for or against it. But then again, if we don't do it, who is going to come in and buy it?'

Ms Graham, who moved from Greeock to Croir on Bernera

10 years ago, added: 'If people decide they are interested in buying it, we will be registering an interest in purchasing the island. The ball is now very much in our court.'

Count Robin bequeathed Bernera to his grandson Cyran under the terms of his will. Patrick de la Lanne, Count Robin's only child and executor of his estate, is offering islanders the chance to own their land. If the offer is turned down, Bernera will be sold on the open market.

The French-born, Oxford-educated count died aged 87 in the Blar Buidhe nursing home in Stornoway last June. His son Patrick is mayor of Delmenhorst in northern Germany.

Festival 'giant' set to stay in Lochaber

THE GROUP behind an eye-catching new sculpture in Fort William have said they hope it will become a permanent feature of the Lochaber scenery.

'Ben Mhor' – a 14-foot tall structure made mainly from recycled bike parts – was commissioned to celebrate the Fort William Mountain Festival.

Created by Ballachulish man Ewan Lawrie, the imposing figure sits on the Old Town Pier by the A82 bypass, and a positive response from locals has encouraged the festival organisers to try and find it a permanent home.

Festival chairman Mike Pescod told *The Oban Times*: 'If I get my way I think it will stay forever. It's not going to be dismantled at the end of the festival, it will be going somewhere.'

The steel statue formed the centrepiece of a torch lit procession from Nevis Range to Fort William last night (Wednesday) to launch the festival, which runs until Sunday.

The celebration of Lochaber hills will take place against a background of nine deaths in Scottish mountains since the start of the year.

Four walkers were killed in an avalanche in Glencoe at the end of January, and last week three people died in similar

circumstances near Aviemore. At the start of February a man fell to his death while walking near Jacob's Ladder in the Cairngorms, while a climber died on Ben Nevis last month.

Mr Pescod said: 'Nobody wants anyone to get hurt but unfortunately it does happen. But when people know what they are doing it is still safer than driving or playing a game of rugby.'

A number of safety workshops, including avalanche awareness, will be held during the festival.

Meanwhile, Fort William woman Myrtle Simpson has been awarded the Scottish Award for Excellence in

Mountain Culture by festival organisers. Ms Simpson, a climber, skier, canoeist and former chairwoman of the Scottish National Ski Council, played a key role in setting up ski centres at Nevis Range, Glencoe and the Cairngorms. Ian Sykes MBE, who won the award in 2011, said Ms Simpson was 'an inspiration'. He said: 'I can't imagine anyone more deserving for this award. There are very few men or women who have done as much in the mountains as Myrtle; and a true ambassador for women climbers.'

Ms Simpson will be presented with her award in the Nevis Centre on Saturday evening.

Al-Anon group to meet in South Uist

HELP IS at hand for families and friends of heavy drinkers in South Uist after Al-Anon, a sister organisation to Alcoholics Anonymous, announced weekly meetings on the island.

Anyone whose life has been affected by someone else's drinking is welcome to attend the meetings, which begin next Monday at 8pm in the annexe of St Mary's Church in Borinish.

The local Al-Anon co-organiser, who asked not to be identified, said guarding attendees' anonymity in a place where everyone knows everyone was paramount. She told *The Oban Times*: 'There is as great a need for this here as there is in most other places. We welcome anyone whose life has been made unmanageable by alcohol. It's imperative that what's said in that room stays in that room, and we will be stating that at every meeting. It's vital that the room is a safe place, where people are free to share their experience and gain strength from one another.'

She added: 'Al-Anon is about helping the people around the drinker to cope, to realise that there is a way to regain control over your own life.'

'Speaking for myself, I felt that there was no support for me – nowhere to turn. I felt very much alone.'

For directions to the meeting or more information, call 07731 875744 or 07879 898278.

German students start work on Knoydart hydro scheme

AN INTERNATIONAL group of students from Germany has started a five-week placement working on a remote Lochaber community hydro scheme.

Students from Flensburg University's energy and environment masters programme will be lending a hand at Knoydart's hydro electricity scheme as part of their studies.

The university has been sending students to remote Scottish communities for 11 years after a link was forged by Lochaber man John Hutchison, with Knoydart being their destination for the third time. The project is supported by the charity Community Energy Scotland.

The delegation of 14 students from Flensburg – a town near the German/Danish border – hail from 11 different countries and three continents.

They were greeted by Lochaber Provost Allan Henderson in Fort William on Monday morning, where he presented course

leader Dr Wulf Boie with a bottle of whisky and a hip flask as a welcoming gift.

Provost Henderson said: 'Having you working together as a group on projects like this is important for the area, and it will certainly help the Highlands.'

'Knoydart has a growing vibrant population always seeking new sustainable green energy options and will be enriched by this diverse cultural group of students.'

Dr Boie added: 'This is a great

experience for the students, they always really, really enjoy it.'

'The fact that the Knoydart community is not connected to the mainland grid and manages their own isolated hydropower scheme, with all advantages and challenges related to it, makes it a very interesting place for our students.'

One of the students, Katrina Baris from the Philippines, said: 'I hope that our group will be able to contribute something to the community.'



Provost Allan Henderson and Dr Wulf Boie exchange gifts in Fort William before the students set off for Knoydart.

SNH considers hedgehog-trapping programme switch

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage could switch a hedgehog-trapping programme from Benbecula to North Uist.

SNH board members last week heard concerns the animals are making a comeback on the island and could again threaten ground nesting bird sites.

Around £1.5 million has been spent over the past 10 years trying to rid the Uists of the pests through the Uist Wader Project. But no firm evidence exists that the project has helped wading

bird populations recover. The conservation body also agreed to spend more on research into what predators, including gulls, were taking eggs and young chicks.

David MacLennan, SNH unit manager for the Outer Hebrides, said: 'We will monitor the response of waders to predation and other factors over the next two years.'

Hedgehogs are not native to the Hebrides and were introduced in the 1970s in an attempt to control garden pests.



KPL directors Simon Russell, right, and Alasdair Ferguson, second right with First Minister Alex Salmond at last month's announcement of the memorandum of understanding with HIE.

Kishorn Port unveils major expansion plans

KISHORN Port Ltd (KPL) unveiled major expansion proposals at a public open day in Lochcarron Village Hall yesterday (Wednesday).

The ambitious masterplan allows for full-scale manufacture of concrete bases for offshore wind turbines, reclamation of the foreshore to create more industrial space and full services for the growing offshore wind, wave and tidal energy market.

The company – a joint venture between Leiths (Scotland) Ltd and Ferguson Transport (Spean Bridge)

Ltd – is currently working up the masterplan with Highland Council in advance of submitting a formal planning application. In what KPL director and Ferguson Transport boss Alasdair Ferguson describes as 'the best case scenario', up to 2,500 jobs could be created on site, along with accommodation for 1,500 staff, storage, warehousing, berthing and workshops – potentially transforming the Wester Ross economy. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have at least two developers looking at manufacturing concrete bases

on site. Kishorn is one of the finest sites in the whole of Europe for concrete manufacturing.'

He added: 'We are looking at further consultation events in the area, with possibly one at Plockton. As part of the planning process we will tease out any local issues we need to take on board as we prepare to lodge our major application.'

The move follows last month's announcement of KPL as one of four Highland companies capable of exploiting a potential £100 million

energy bonanza from offshore renewable projects. Under a groundbreaking deal, KPL signed a memorandum of understanding with backers Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which is supporting KPL's manufacturing bid. The agency is contributing up to £106,500 towards planning and marine engineering consultancy fees.

Kishorn is identified in the Scottish Government National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (N-RIP) as a potential manufacturing and distribution hub for the offshore renewables industry.

The original Kishorn yard and dry dock was developed as a manufacturing and fabrication yard for oil platforms in the 1970s. At its height more than 5,000 people worked on the 44-hectare site.

The KPL tie-up combines Leiths' quarrying, concrete and construction materials know-how with Ferguson's skills in port operations, shipping, stevedoring and transport.

Combined, the parent companies employ more than 600 staff and have an annual turnover in excess of £70 million.

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Fort William woman victim of sexual attack in Thailand

A WOMAN from the Fort William area was the victim of a horrific sexual attack by a gang of men in Thailand in the early hours of Saturday morning. The 20-year-old university student was reportedly dragged off the street and gang raped by four men after becoming separated from her boyfriend after a night out in the city of Nakhon Si Thammarat in the south of the country. Thai police are still

looking for the men who carried out the attack. Locals phoned the police who found the woman lying on a balcony of a block of flats, and she was taken to hospital for treatment to her injuries. The woman, who has not been named, is thought to have been in the area for around two weeks during a break from her studies and had applied for a job at a local primary school as an English teacher.



HMS Argyll leaves Plymouth on its seven-month deployment across the Atlantic.

HMS Argyll sets sail across Atlantic

THE ROYAL Navy frigate HMS Argyll left Plymouth on Monday on its latest deployment, conducting counter-narcotics operations across the Atlantic. Families and friends bid farewell in Devonport dockyard, on Devil's Point and the Hoe with the traditional flags and good luck banners to wave off their loved ones on the ship's departure this afternoon. Pipers from the City of Plymouth Pipe Band embarked on the ship and played onboard for the passage down the Hamoaze and the Sound.

HMS Argyll is due to undertake a range of tasks across the Atlantic in support of British interests worldwide on its seven-month deployment. Its tasking will be on counter-narcotics effort in the West Africa region, as well as providing reassurance to UK territories and partners worldwide. On completion of her tasking in the Atlantic, the ship will undertake a number of high profile regional engagement visits in the Caribbean before returning to its base-port of Devonport home later this year.

Rest and Be Thankful relief road ready



Transport Minister Keith Brown oversees the final stage of work to get the Old Military Road ready for traffic in the event of another landslide at the Rest and Be Thankful.

Argyll open for business

MOTORISTS using the A83 will no longer have to endure a 40-mile detour when a landslide closes the Rest and Be Thankful as the relief road becomes operational this week. Transport Scotland has told *The Oban Times* work to upgrade the Old Military Road was to be complete 'as early as this week', whilst vehicle convoy test runs would get underway to ensure smooth running of the road. The announcement by the Scottish Government has been described as a 'confidence boost' ahead of the tourism season. Visiting the Glen Croe construction site last week, transport Minister Keith Brown said: 'Our focus remains to ensure that, as far as is practicably possible, Argyll stays open for business. To this end, the team on the ground has worked seven days a week to overcome the significant engineering challenges needed to bring the Old Military Road up to the standard needed. 'Emergency vehicles, hauliers, locals going about their business, and tourists will all feel the benefits this new road will bring should we find ourselves facing another landslide. In particular, hauliers and local traders will make time and fuel savings.' Despite being five months over schedule, the opening of the road was welcomed by people in the tourism industry. Mike Story of Argyll and the Isles Tourism said the most important thing was that the road would be open for March 1, the start of the tourism season. 'People have been complaining that the diversion route will still cause delays but, from a tourism point of view, the minute people go on a detour to other parts of Scotland there is a better than likely chance that they won't come back here,' Mr Story said. 'However if we have the relief road that follows the route they have been travelling on, then we have a much better chance of retaining that customer. That's why we need the relief road.' Mr Story said the relief road would remove lengthy detours for tourists, adding: 'It will give people more confidence; it's definitely not the long-term solution but it is a confidence boost because it provides a real alternative.'

Argyll and Bute Council reduction in funding to Gaelic language is 'disgraceful', claims councillor

NEWS of a reduction in funding to Gaelic language schemes in Argyll and Bute was described as a cut to 'the life-support' of the language. 'Disgraceful' Last week's approved budget will see £120,000 a year cut to non-grant Gaelic funding - 17 per cent of the overall funding allocated within the education budget. Shadow lead councillor for the language, Islay councillor Robin Currie, described the move as 'disgraceful'.

Criticising the SNP-alliance administration for the move, Mr Currie said: 'This is the birth-place of our national language, yet we're cutting £150,000 from the Gaelic specific grant. That's the life-support of Gaelic.' Michael Russell's words Referring to a statement made by Argyll and Bute's SNP MSP in 2011, Mr Currie added: 'When a language is an expression of identity, a carrier of the past, a hope for our future and the greatest of cultural vehicles and is in the emergency ward, it would not

only be cruel, but wrong, to call for the life support machine to be switched off. 'These are the words of Michael Russell - we should not be supporting these cuts to Gaelic.' In its proposal, passed by majority vote on Thursday, the administration said the move would 'reduce the capacity for discretionary spend in Gaelic activities' but added mainstream costs would be funded from Gaelic grant funding. The move would also 'severely impact on training and career

development for staff. *The Oban Times* Gaelic columnist and chairman of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Allan Campbell, said: 'I agree totally with what Robin has said. 'Gaelic has been in the high dependency ward for some time and some would say it's even more perilous than that. 'When a council like Argyll and Bute, which already has an extremely modest allocation for Gaelic in the first place, takes a decision like this it negates all the work done in previous years.'



Islay councillor Robin Currie.

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Horse meat scandal triggers added interest in local food show

THE ORGANISER of a trade show for food producers, caterers and retailers in the Highlands and Islands says next week's event will be one of the most important yet, in light of the horse meat scandal.

The West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow, to be held

in Oban's Corran Halls on Wednesday and Thursday next week, will welcome 104 exhibitors keen to show the benefits of locally-sourced food.

John Forteith, of tradeshow organiser Forteith Foodservice, said: 'Historically, the tradeshow has brought together na-

tional brands and local brands and demonstrates how they complement each other.

'This particular show is one of the best in the country, has won numerous awards and is now among the biggest food and drink shows in Scotland.

'We had a record 1,000 trade

customers through the doors in 2011 and people come from as far as Inverness, Edinburgh and Dundee. The size of the event means local producers are showcasing products to both retailers and caterers and this is particularly important this year with the recent media coverage

of the beef crisis.

'Locally-sourced meats should be of interest to customers, as they will know the origins of the products and that they are high quality. With the recent food scares, origin and quality have become top of the agenda' As well as meat producers,

there are a range of businesses in attendance at the biennial show, which has been running for 34 years. Local companies such as Argyll Eggs, Argyll Hill Lamb, Argyll Angus Beef, Argyll Pork, Argyll Wild Venison and Mull's Island Bakery will be exhibiting alongside

multi-national companies such as Coca Cola, Diageo and Heinz. The established Drumadrochit-based Cobbs Bakery will be among newcomers to the Argyll area exhibiting at the event, which is anticipated to be the biggest West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow to date.

Mull BID meets with opposition

A VOCAL opposition has made its intentions to vote no to a Business Improvement District (BID) on the Isle of Mull known as the ballot continues.

While the result will not be available until after the ballot closes on March 21 the campaign against the plan is growing.

But the steering group behind the BID insisted it had the 'best of intentions'.

Those against the proposal include Margaret Fenouillet of Brown's in Tobermory who said: 'I think you'd be as well throwing money in the bay as voting yes for BID. It is a complete and utter waste of time.'

'I don't think it will increase footfall to the island, as I asked how they planned to do this and the only two suggestions they came up with - a food festival and wildlife week - have already been done for free.'

James Heggie, another trader on Tobermory's Main Street, told The Oban Times: 'I don't think there is sufficient income generated by the rate payers on Mull to make this work. Running costs are almost half of the budget which I find to be disturbing.'

'I applaud trying to get more people to the island but I'm not sure this is the correct way to grow, the main problem is the ferry fares. We don't need a BID, we need a reduction in ferry fares.'

Richard Nealon, vice-chairman of the BID steering group, said the group had reached this stage through consultation but things weren't set out in detail to avoid 'tying down' the future board.

He said running costs would need to be looked at 'very carefully' but there would be funds available to 'properly promote' events on the island without duplicating the work of other organisations.

But Vivien Barlow, owner of Carnaburg Guest House in Tobermory, is happy with things as they are.

She said: 'I run my business as I wish. I ensure that I do the same turnover annually and then close for a winter break. I, like others, do not want to do any more business than I currently do. I strongly object to proposed and unwanted interference from outside.'

Matt Doyle, of Island Cabins in Tobermory, voted against the plan, calling it 'undemocratic'.

He said: 'I find it difficult to accept, on principle, why a cohort of yes businesses should impose a tax on other businesses voting no should the BID be successful at the ballot. There is a ground-swell of opinion against the proposal.'

Mr Nealon is urging people to check the website at www.mi-bid.co.uk or get in touch with a steering group member if they have any concerns or questions.

He added: 'If you're not moving forward you're moving backward. A thriving business needs to be continually updating and trying new things.'

'This is being done with the best of intentions. The structure isn't perfect but none of the flaws that are there are insurmountable. Talk to one of the steering group and find out more about it before casting your vote.'

More trains for Oban

THE NUMBER of daily trains between Oban and Glasgow will double next summer, following the submission of a 'compelling' case put to ScotRail.

As part of improvements to the service, ScotRail has also approached Argyll and Bute Council to suggest that 'school trains' for Oban pupils could run from next August.

From May 2014, the number of trains to and from Oban will double from three to six trains between Monday and Saturday.

Funded by ScotRail, a new early morning service from Oban will reach Glasgow before 9am, a new evening service will connect with the southbound Caledonian Sleeper at Crianlarich and an additional afternoon service has been included.

One of the extra northbound services will depart Glasgow Queen Street at 5.10am, reaching Oban before 9am.

The announcement on Tuesday came after discussions between ScotRail, HITRANS and Argyll and Bute Council and has been widely welcomed.

Steve Montgomery, managing director of ScotRail said its original plan was to run five services a day but discussions with HITRANS and the council revealed a 'compelling' case for six each day.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Louise Glen Lee said: 'This is great news for Oban and its surrounding population. It will allow people to take a full day in

Glasgow for work and hospital appointments and allows Oban to be inter-connected in a way it has never been before.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'Connectivity is so important as a lever in boosting the West Highland economy.'

'This improved transport link helps Oban become the first choice of destination for visitors and as we know the islands and surrounding area can also benefit from that.'

Oban South and the Isles councillor Roddy McCuish, the council's deputy leader, said: 'This opens up big opportunities for the area and I am sure it will encourage more people to visit this beautiful part of the world.'

Highlands and Islands MSPs Jamie McGrigor and Mike MacKenzie have welcomed the news, with the latter describing the additional journeys as, an excellent 'door of opportunity' for Oban.

Doug Carmichael, chairman of Friends of the West Highland Lines, said: 'In recent years we have met with ScotRail and Transport Scotland over this and last autumn we met with Keith Brown, Transport Minister, at Holyrood. We pulled no punches in explaining that Oban was the largest town in Scotland served by rail - but with only three trains a day.'

'We welcome this innovation and the town will now benefit from a rail service that it deserves.'



The number of trains to and from Oban will double from three to six.

Early options for new Oban High School build

THE PROPOSED new Oban High School building could be sited in one of four locations, *The Oban Times* understands.

Whilst not a definitive list of options, four possible sites could be identified from Argyll and Bute Council's local plan: Glenclruin, behind the rugby pitches; Millpark; the Dunbeg corridor and Glenshellach, behind the hospital.

Consultation with community However, Argyll and Bute Council is adamant there is no list of possible sites and is open minded as it seeks to consult with the community.

Councillor Louise Glen Lee, Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee chairwoman, said: 'I am looking for the community, parents and children to decide where the school should be.'

'It needs to be somewhere that suits everybody and there is nothing on the table until the com-

munity comes up with suggestions.

'As an administration we are going to be working with community councils, community groups and young people to get the best solution.'

The Scottish Government announced funding was available for a new Oban High School last September, as part of its Scotland's Schools for the Future programme.

The council's executive director of community services, Cleland Sneddon, said: 'It is proposed that a master planning consultation will be conducted for the Oban area and within that the options for a new school will be consulted on.'

'The timescale and details of the consultation have still to be worked out and presented to council for approval.'

'A recommendation would only be made after this consultation.'

Flat plan for North Connel comes before council planning committee

A RECOMMENDATION to approve the construction of 24 flats on the site of the former Ossians Retirement Home was due to be discussed by councillors yesterday (Wednesday).

If Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee agrees the recommendation, a local hearing could be held in view of the 14 letters of opposition

to the proposed plan by Melfort Care Ltd.

The planning application includes the demolition of the former care home, the upgrade of the road leading to the building, the construction of parking and turning areas and drainage improvements.

Consultee Ardchattan Community Council said a lack

of detail in the plan made it 'difficult to assess the impacts which the proposal will have on the surrounding area and the wider community'.

It goes on to explain it had concerns about the public main and sewer capacity in the area and whether the road from North Connel to Bonawe was suitable for the increased traffic.

Lochaweside chef with no licence or insurance drove after drinking

A HEAD chef from a hotel on Lochaweside has been fined £580 after drink driving without a licence or insurance.

Alan Radcliffe, 28, of staff quarters, Portsonachan Hotel, Dalmally, pled guilty to the offences when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The court heard police officers were dealing with an accident around 4am on Sunday morning when they saw a vehicle approaching them sounding its horn.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'The driver slowed the vehicle on seeing police and when he approached the officers they could immediately

smell alcohol.'

Defence agent Gordon Seaton told the court Radcliffe had started work at the hotel as head chef a matter of weeks ago. As a result he had been living away from his fiancée.

He said: 'She arrived unexpectedly for a few days and there was an incident involving car keys where she sustained a fairly severe laceration to one of her fingers.'

'She was bleeding profusely and she asked to be taken to accident and emergency. He foolishly decided to take her to hospital.' Sheriff Jack Davidson also banned Radcliffe from obtaining a licence for one year.

Breath test man fined and banned

AN OBAN man who refused to cooperate with police over a breath test has been banned from driving for a year.

Hugh Ramsay, 40, of 11 Stalcair Crescent, Oban, was also fined £350 when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. He had previously admitted the offence.

Shop front cash deadline looming

BUSINESSES keen take advantage of the BID4Oban Business Frontage Scheme before the summer have until February 28 to get their applications in.

Funding of up to £1,000 including VAT is available to help traders who feel their shop frontages need updating. The next round of funding will be in September.

Timetable
Glasgow - Oban departures (from May 2014)
05:10 New
08:20
10:37 New
12:21
16:37 New
18:21
Oban - Glasgow departures (from May 2014)
05:20 New
08:57
12:11
14:41 New
18:11
20:37 New

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Key players missing for away trip to Huntly

Keeper Lewandowski played through the pain barrier and made a couple of great saves

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William will look to build on Saturday's reasonable showing in the 4-2 home defeat to Inverurie Locos when they take on sixth-bottom Huntly this weekend.

Manager Danny Conlon never



Iain Fogg clears his lines
20_08footie01

has the luxury of a full squad at the best of times - and will again be without key players for the trip to Aberdeenshire.

Forward Andy MacLean and midfielder Michael Gillespie will be unavailable while Sean Grant, the scorer of Fort's second goal against Locos, has work commitments.

On the plus side first choice keeper Daniel Bell will return in place of Polish stopper Robert Lewandowski.

Conlon said: 'Huntly beat us 1-0 down here earlier in the season and the game could have gone either way.'

'Michael Gillespie is a big miss for us but hopefully we can get one or two others in to get the squad numbers up.'

'Having Daniel Bell back is a big plus. His communication is superb and he talks to the young lads at the back all the time.'

Dislocated

The omens weren't good for the Fort right from the start on Saturday after Lewandowski dislocated the middle finger of his right hand during the warm up. The keeper bravely assured Conlon he was okay to play - but the scale of the damage was apparent after the game.

FOOTBALL

'I couldn't believe it,' said the manager. 'The finger was all swollen and black and blue. He must have managed to put it back in himself. But he did well and made a couple of great saves in the second half.'

Spurned

Locos were 3-0 up after 20 minutes through goals from Jack Strachan, Scott Begg and Neil MacLean and spurned several chances before Fort grabbed a lifeline before the break.

Davie Forbes, who had a fine game, fired in a shot from the left and the inrushing MacLean could only hammer the ball into the roof of his own net.

Stuart McKay's smart finish made it 4-1 to Locos on 55 minutes but Fort's persistence found its reward when Sean Grant scored a fine goal with the last kick of the ball.

Conlon said: 'I felt for the first 30 minutes we were really poor and looked as though we were still suffering from a hangover from the Rothes game, but I felt we played reasonably well after that and we won the next hour 2-1.'



Andy MacLean curls a shot round Neil MacLean - unfortunately for Fort straight into the arms of keeper Reid. 20_08footie02

Duncan hits top individual game

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER 10 weeks play in the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre Alleycats still lead the scratch division by 10 points.

Council sit in second place on 36 points, while Splitheds are third on 31.

The handicap division is much closer with Alleycats leading with 32 points, Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in second place with 31 points whilst Council are in third place with 30 points.

Top individual game of the week came from Duncan Gillies of Rotavators with 212 scratch, 279 handicap. Gillies also had the top two game series with 347 scratch, 481 handicap.

Top team games of the week were 569 scratch from Alleycats and 848 handicap from Fairway Fillies. The best scratch two game team series was 1,026 from Alleycats whilst the best handicap two game series was 1,580 from Rotavators.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 166, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 152 with Rosamary Wareing (Ardtoe/Nevis Radio) and Colin Pinkett (Council) sharing third on 147.

Oban girls pay a visit to High School

HOCKEY/NETBALL

LOCHABER High School girls will welcome their counterparts from Oban High School to play hockey and netball challenge matches today (Thursday) at 3.30pm.

The netball match will be the first played on the newly lined netball court in the Lochaber High School games hall.

Rollover jackpot

LOTTERY

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £400 is up for grabs in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw this weekend. Last weekend's numbers were 12, 17 and 19.

Kinlochleven race

ATHLETICS

LOCHABER Athletic Club's Black Water Dam race saw 33 runners tackle a 12 mile course near Kinlochleven on Sunday.

David Wilby won the race in 1 hour 13 minutes and 53 seconds, some six minutes and three seconds ahead of LAC's Jon Gay. John Binnie was 48 seconds back in third place.

Lina Mardell of Deeside Running Club was the first female home in 1 hour 33 minutes and 52 seconds.

Winter league race

CYCLING

THE SEVENTH and final race of the West Highland Wheelers winter league will be held at Duror at 11am this Sunday.

Gary MacDonald of Kinlochleven currently has a big lead in the league on 214 points from five races, with each rider's top six finishes counting towards the final score.

John Shirley is in second place on 164 while Gavin Linfield is third on 152.

No Fuss at Arisaig

ATHLETICS

LOCHABER athletes secured first and fourth place finishes in the latest race in the No Fuss Events winter feast duathlon series in Arisaig on Saturday.

Stephen Burns was the class of the 41-strong field, finishing a four minutes and twelve seconds ahead of his nearest competitor in 1 hour 42 minutes and 56 seconds.

Graeme Bamber came home fourth in 1 hour 48 minutes and 35 seconds.

The runners tackled a run of around eight kilometres of trail/road and beach, before a 25km cycle. They then finished with another five km run to the finish line.

Louise Crilly was the fastest female runner and 13th fastest overall, in a time of 2 hours and 49 seconds.



Lochaber and Banavie through to First Shinty finals

YOUTH SHINTY

LOCHABER and Banavie will go through to the National First Shinty primary school finals at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on March 2 after coming through in the local qualifier at the same venue on Saturday.

P5 and under reigning champions Lochaber won all their games while Banavie were victorious in the P6-7 competition, also with a 100 per cent record.

Ballachulish, Inverloch and Glangary with the other teams taking part in the round-robin event.

The finals will feature teams from districts across Scotland including Skye, Badenoch, Argyll and Glasgow

Banavie Primary School: going through to national finals

Fort William Falcons to host first ever netball festival

NETBALL

FRESH from a Highland League victory against Caithness, local netball club Fort William Falcons are to host their first ever netball festival next month.

The March 23 event will offer primary teams from across Highland and Argyll the chance to take part in netball games and activities led by Lochaber High School pupils and the Falcons.

They will also get the chance to compete in their own junior mini tournament before watching the adults line up for an East v West Highland League encounter between the Falcons and the Fyrish Flyers from Dingwall.

Fort William player Elaine Stoddart said: 'Netball is a great sport to take part in and also to watch.'

'So if you'd like to show your support for the

Fort William Falcons then come along to the senior game at LHS on the 23rd of March at 1pm.'

Get involved

Anyone wishing to get more involved in promoting netball in the community either through coaching, umpiring, playing, driving teams to events or helping out with fundraising can contact fwnetball@hotmail.co.uk or through Fort William Netball Club on Facebook.

The festival gets underway at 9.30am. Entry is £1 per player and any schools interested in bringing a primary school team should contact Lia Hunter by email on lia.hunter@highlife-highland.co

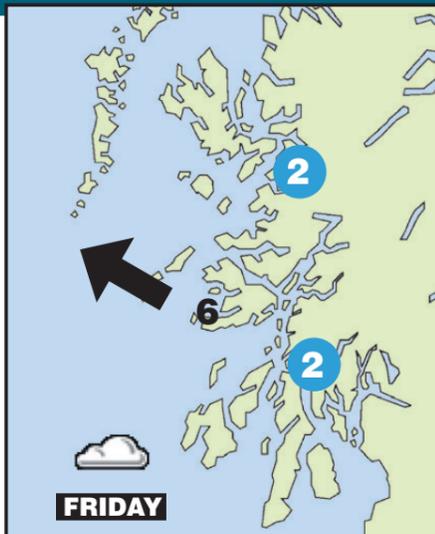
Weather

Thursday Light sunny
Winds moderate, east south easterly
Temperatures -1C to 4°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds light, east south easterly
Temperatures -1°C to 2°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 0°C to 3°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 21, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.46 2.9 09.56 1.9 15.41 3.1 21.16 1.7	
Fri	03.39 3.1 10.36 1.7 16.15 3.3 22.08 1.4	
Sat	04.19 3.4 11.07 1.4 16.50 3.5 22.48 1.1	
Sun	04.56 3.6 11.36 1.2 17.24 3.7 23.23 0.9	
Mon	05.32 3.8 12.04 1.0 17.57 3.8 23.56 0.7	
Tues	06.05 4.0 12.33 0.8 18.26 3.9 ** ** *	
Wed	06.28 0.6 06.34 4.0 13.02 0.8 18.51 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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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