

SPRING WEDDINGS

Motherwell snap up High School keeper Eilidh



Last minute heartbreak for Oban Lorne



Also inside this week: Records tumble at sports hall athletics final • Golf club action plan • 'Big Society' nothing new here

Fish discards unethical waste of effort says EC commissioner

EUROPEAN Commissioner, Maria Damanaki, has told Brussels that the process of discards is 'unethical, a waste of natural resources and a waste of fishermen's effort.'

In a speech on Tuesday, Ms Damanaki called on the EU to ban the process of discards and devise a new way to manage fish stocks as part of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), else risk the marine ecosystem and the welfare of Europe's fishermen.

She said: 'While I say this word - discard ban - out loud, I am conscious that some of you would rather not discuss such a ban, while others already support this idea.'

'But I need to point out to you: if we don't tackle this problem now, it will come back to haunt us.'

Ms Damanaki said that current estimates show that Europe was performing far worse than the global average when it came to discards.

In Europe, half of white fish are thrown back while 70 per cent of flat fish were discarded.

No simple solution
However, the speech was given a luke-warm reception by John Hermse, the secretary of the Mallaig and North-West Fishermen's Association.

He said: 'Anyone can say something and it seems like the first step. You can say, "I'm going to stop all accidents on roads." What are you going to do though? Stop the cars. Stop the cycles. Stop people walking?'

'The solution to ending discards is a little more difficult than that.'

'We, the fishermen, have several solutions. There are "bottom up" solutions we could suggest that would be workable.'

'If they had done that in the first place rather than listen to single-agenda "green" non-government organisations, we would never have had this wasteful policy of discards.'

A formal debate on CFP reform is due to be presented by the European Commission in the coming months.



Video of this available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Woah! You're a big horse!

Strathclyde Police horse *Meams* has a good look at little Connor Mackenzie from Dervaig, Isle of Mull, during a visit by mounted police officers to the island last week. The two police horses proved a big hit at Tobermory school where children from throughout the island gathered to welcome them 16_109horse2

Decision Day for 12 schools under threat

Campaign group calls for complete change of council policy and thinking

THE FUTURE of 12 schools listed for closure is due to be discussed at an Argyll and Bute Council meeting today (Thursday).

Schools on the proposed closure list include Ardhattan, Ardconnell, Achaleven, North Bute, Luss, Toward, Minard, St Kieran's, Rhunaharoin, Skipness, Ashfield and Clachan.

Education spokeswoman, Councillor Ellen Morton, has also revealed plans for further consultations with schools that may be closed in the future.

Scottish Government education minister Michael Russell, acting in his role as a parliamentary candidate for Argyll and Bute, has asked the council to drop plans to close schools and enter into a dialogue on the future of rural schools.

Councillor Morton said: 'We need to be realistic and face the fact that the council needs to make savings. We have too many schools and too many of them are under-occupied.'

'We have an inequitable situation where the cost of education

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
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"We need to face the fact that the council needs to make savings."

Argyll and Bute Council education spokeswoman Ellen Morton

per pupil ranges from around £3,000 per year in some schools up to £30,000 in others. This situation is not sustainable.

'I still think we need to hear more from our communities before we make further decisions which is why I'm suggesting we have some informal consultation meetings in March before developing our plans for the school estate any further.'

'There has been a lot of valuable work carried out to date and this will all contribute to the eventual proposals, which I will bring to council in April.'

'The council will be asked to agree a recommendation to hold informal pre-consultation meetings with representatives from 12 communities that may be affected by the school estate review. This represents a new approach from the council, giving greater transparency, greater detail and greater involvement from communities.'

However, campaign body Argyll Rural Schools network (ARSN) said: 'We need a complete change in council policy and thinking. We want the debate to move from one about school closures to one that is focused on the Argyll and Bute we want to live in.'

Michael Russell MSP said: 'I am sorry that the council administration still seems hell bent on closing good schools in Argyll and Bute. There is a better way forward that does not involve the wholesale destruction of high performing and much valued schools and my party would be happy to work with them and others to secure that better way before further damage is inflicted on this fragile area.'

Two men held on attempted murder charges

TWO OBAN men have been remanded in custody on charges of attempted murder following an incident in the town centre in the early hours of Sunday morning.

On Monday the two, aged 17 and 19, appeared from police custody at Oban Sheriff Court.

The charges against the men include allegedly inflicting multiple stab wounds to the head and body of their 37-year-old victim with a knife or similar implement at a house in Oban.

It is also alleged the accused doused the victim with bleach.

Prosecutor Fiscal David Glancy said the men had confirmed their names but made no plea before being remanded in custody.

Both accused were on bail when the incident occurred.

They are due to appear from custody at Oban Sheriff Court again within seven days.

Police confirmed that a 37-year old man was taken by ambulance to Lorn and the Isles Hospital in Oban in the early hours of Sunday morning following a disturbance in and around the Albany Street area.

The area was cordoned off until forensic officers from Glasgow investigated the street scene and a private house within the town.

As The Oban Times went to press, the victim was said to be comfortable but in need of continuing medical attention.

Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward but have stressed that the public should not become unduly concerned.

Chief Inspector Glen Bland said: 'This is a one-off incident which is highly unusual in Oban.'

Craignish man escapes Libya

A CRAIGNISH man, caught up in the Libyan unrest, has managed to return home safely.

Andrew McIvride, from Craobh Haven, was holidaying in the country when fighting broke out two weeks ago.

It is understood Mr McIvride was able to escape on one of the last official flights out of the country.

He arrived home last week.

Oban punter scoops £40,000 jackpot

ONE LUCKY punter managed to turn a 50 pence stake into more than £40,000 at a betting shop in Oban.

Despite having to pay out the maximum amount permissible under his licence, local bookmaker Aldo Lopez says he is happy for his customer.

On Monday lunchtime, the man 'nipped out' from his work in the town to place a bet at the bookmakers on Soroba Road.

He made a 50 pence bet on a Lucky 31 accumulator, with a further £17 bet on five races at Wolverhampton Race Course.

The punter's first bet was on the 3pm race on 12-1 Sound Amigo who came in strong, followed by a 3.30pm bet on Below Zero at 5-1 but it wasn't until Needwood Ridge, a 50-1 outsider romped home, that Aldo began to get a bit hot under the collar.

At 5.30pm the 9-2 Tornado Force was almost pipped at the post - which must have been a nail-biting moment for the punter. But at 6pm the 1-2 winner Sweet Origin came home at breakneck speed.

The shop's limit is £40,000 - but the total winnings of the bet

could have been £82,532.

The mystery punter, who spoke exclusively to *The Oban Times* said he wasn't worried about claiming the full amount. He said: 'I have been betting since I was 18 so this has been a long time coming. I have a fair number of bills to pay off. After that I might take a little holiday.'

Bookmaker Aldo, on the other hand, says that he was pleased for his customer and he would like a win like that himself one day. A Lucky 31 consists of 31 bets involving five selections in different events.

Dunbeg man escapes death in New Zealand earthquake

A DUNBEG man caught up in the tragic earthquake in Christchurch last week contacted terrified friends and family via Facebook to let them know he was alive.

Steven Marshall has described the chaotic scenes in the city centre on February 22, when at least 155 people died.

Steven told *The Oban Times*: 'It was crazy to say the least. Honestly, I thought I was going to die.'

'I was only two minutes from Cathedral Square and the tremors started quite slowly but then they became really violent; that's a good word to describe it, actually, violent.'

The 25-year-old chef said he could barely stand as the strength of the earthquake peaked and could only watch on as buildings collapsed around him.



Steven Marshall - 'I thought I was going to die'

'I don't really know what was going through my head but I remember the noise was surreal, alarms going

off everywhere, people crying and screaming,' he said.

'I saw people with blood all over their faces.'

Steven's first thought was to get back to his hostel to make sure his friends were okay and they all went to a shelter in Hagley Park, where they stayed the night.

He said: 'The Red Cross and Salvation Army are heroes. They gave us blankets and pillows, tea and food and snacks during the night.'

'Luckily, one of my friend's bosses had a house on the outskirts of the city that we all stayed in and four days after the quake went to the airport to get a flight out to Queenstown.'

I am working for my accommodation just now because I'm flat broke but I want to thank my family for their help. Without them I don't

know where I would be now.'

Steven's mother, Moira, faced an anxious wait to hear from her son in the aftermath of the earthquake and did not hear from him over the weekend.

She said: 'I am so worried about him but I am glad he is safely in Queenstown and I would like to thank everyone who has posted nice messages on Facebook.'

'Steven went over at the end of last year and there was a smaller earthquake then. This earthquake was twice as strong.'

'His sisters and I have been glued to the laptop to see if there is any news from him.'

New Zealanders paused at 12.51pm on Tuesday for two minutes of silence, marking the time a week ago when the earthquake struck Christchurch.

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Glasgow's March fishing exhibition flounders

ORGANISERS of this year's Fishing Expo in Glasgow have blamed market conditions for their decision to cancel this year's show. Increasingly tight profit margins for fisherman, combined with a new rival show in Aberdeen, has forced organisers QD Events to take the difficult decision to cancel the Expo less than four weeks before it was due to take place. They say, had it gone ahead, it would have been the show's last on the eve of its 25th anniversary next year. Delegates QD Events have instead decided to hold a party on March 25 to celebrate the Expo's successes in the past, with the 900 delegates who had signed up to visit now invited to join in the celebration and will now turn its attention to a bigger and better show in 2012. Market conditions The company's managing director Fran McIntyre said: 'It's basically down to market conditions. The fishing industry is going through a real period of turmoil and people are tightening their belts. I have no doubts that we would have attracted a reasonable buying audience from across the UK over three days. However, we had to look at whether we were honestly presenting customers with the event they wanted or expected, or whether in doing so we would be misrepresenting the industry - and ultimately losing credibility. I would much rather we were honest about it and upfront rather than put on an event that wasn't as promised.' Bi-annual Ms McIntyre said QD Events are now considering making the Glasgow Fishing Expo a bi-annual event.

Former police chief dives into new venture

A FORMER police inspector has set up an in-depth business that could help in west coast waters. With tightening budget constraints on public services the private underwater search unit may be an asset to a number of organisations that can no longer afford to run units of their own. Clyde Commercial Diving Secure Search Division, run by Oban's Fred Hall, is set to support all eight police forces in Scotland as well as give technical advice about searching in the marine environment. Fred, a former police diver, said: 'This venture came about as a consequence of my background in police diving and everyone being aware of the cut backs facing the police service. I took the view that in partnership with a commercial diving company I and other police divers could create a unit that could take on the work of policing diving teams, thereby allowing police forces to retain a service by hiring it from us but at the same time freeing up a budget line that consisted of wage, subsistence costs, training costs and equipment costs. 'With us they just pay for the service they request and it frees up a budget line, frees up staff for the front line and a cost and abstraction rate saving.' The Secure Search Division of Clyde Commercial Diving is a unique combination of experienced divers originating from police, military and commercial backgrounds. The Secure Search Division has been formed within Clyde Commercial Diving Ltd, a company that has been providing first class diving services to the commercial diving market since 1991. 'Our aim is to provide the evidence gathering expertise and full remit of a police diver combined with a team of highly trained and experienced ex-police, ex-military and commercial divers. 'The technical capability of our company and the specialist equipment available to us, in my view, surpasses that of any police diving team.'

How rural businesses must adapt to flourish

REPORT by STUART LAUNDY laundy@obantimes.co.uk

THE IMPORTANCE of being able to adapt to changes - especially in a recession - was highlighted at a meeting designed to improve the business skills of women involved in rural enterprises. Marjorie Nelson outlined how a decade of hard work, development and diversification at Glengorm Estate, on Mull, meant it was now much more than a family home. 'We can now afford to live there,' she joked. Marjorie was the guest speaker at an open meeting organised by Lantra, an independent training organisation which aims to provide the skills needed in a number of outdoor and rural areas, such as agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture and wildlife management. 'Glengorm has gone from just being a family home to a working business,' she explained. This has included turning the castle into a B&B, offering self catering units, opening a farm shop, café and gallery and redeveloping other farm buildings. After a 'pretty good year' in 2010, Marjorie said things were shaping up quite well for 2011. 'Self catering is booking up well



Developing their skills: Marjorie Nelson, right, of Glengorm estate, on Mull, with businesswomen and organisers of the Lantra meeting at Oban's Corran Halls. 15_09lantra01

and the B&B is getting there, so we are hoping we will be okay. Adapt 'You have got to be able to adapt to changes - not just in what you are doing, but changes that are happening around you, especially with the recession. Trends change. Last year we had a lot of European, English

and Scottish visitors and a lot of repeat business in the self catering. In other years we have welcomed a lot of visitors from the US.' Last Saturday's meeting at the Corran Halls was organised as part of Lantra's Business Skills for Rural Businesswomen project. Mary Mitchell, Lantra's regional partnership manager, said the project was a proven success, recognising the important role rural businesswomen play. Guest A second meeting has been organised for this Saturday, March 5, at The George Hotel, Inveraray, at 11.30am, when Virginia Sumison, from Loch Fyne Oysters, will be the guest speaker. 'We hope women will attend to find out more about the support available through this programme and speak with other businesswomen to find out how they've developed their skills,' said Mary.

Residents told to boil their water

BRIDGE of Orchy residents have been told their water is unsafe to drink by Argyll and Bute Council staff, who visited the area last Thursday. Following a story in last week's Oban Times, representatives from the council's environmental health department tested the village's damaged water filtration system before declaring the water unsafe. Each resident has now been issued with a health and safety warning to boil water before drinking it. The village has had a problem with its water supply since late November but there has been confusion over how to fix the problem, as no public authority has direct responsibility for it. The council ceased responsibility for the water supply after the last council house was sold and the school closed down. Iain MacKinnon, Environmental Health area manager, said his officers had found the treatment plant was offline and was being bypassed, so raw, untreated water from the hill was being fed into the village. He added: 'Staff visited all properties that are connected to the supply and offered advice on boiling water to make it safe to drink and use for food preparation. The two businesses on the system were already taking precautions to protect customers and staff and the environmental health officers were satisfied with these arrangements. 'Untreated water has the potential to cause harm especially to those with underlying medical problems and low resistance with young children and the elderly most at risk. Drinking the water, preparing food and even brushing teeth may allow bacteria to enter the body and cause illness.' The council can offer grants of up to £800 per house to improve a supply and install treatment.



George Berry, of Oban Diecast Model Association, with his replica model of Oban Airport's fire appliance, which fellow enthusiast Alan Brander helped build. George is an ex-fireman and was keen to have the Oban Airport fire service built. 04_09smo0606

Model behaviour on show in Campbeltown

A REPLICA of the Oban Express yard is next on the list for Oban Diecast Model Association. Organisers valued the guide hall's contents in Campbeltown 'well in excess of £100,000' as enthusiasts from across the area gathered to show off their collections. As well as buses, trains and cars, more unusual lorries, cranes and tractors were on display. Some even travelled from Wick for the inaugural event which organisers hope will be taken over and organised annually. Members of its club attended a show in Campbeltown over the weekend and said hopefully they will be able to build this next. As well as a replica West Coast Motors yard, a replica of Oban Airport's fire service was also on display, which has been created by Alan Brander of the association. 'I hope they will now think again and come up with something a bit better. 'Everyone recognises the need to restructure, but they need to move away from this idea of centralisation.' Liberal Democrat MP Alan

Islander helps to ensure the harbour stays open

ANEASDALE islander has found a 'satisfactory' way of saving the council money - by doing the job himself. The annual dredging costs for the Nether Lorn island are said to be astronomical and to ensure the job was done on time and to a good standard Mike MacKenzie decided to ask for permission to do the job himself. Mr MacKenzie said: 'There were remedial works required to protect the harbour, giving passengers a safe way in and out. 'Years ago we had a problem where we had to dig ourselves out, but this year the council agreed to provide the materials and we would do the work ourselves. We are in the good position of having the necessary equipment. 'However, the council, to date have not provided the materials, nor in fact have they had the good grace even to say thank-you. 'We invited them to come to a meeting with Eilean Eisdale, the community development company which owns the harbour, to discuss ways of reducing the annual dredging costs while still safeguarding the service. 'After initially agreeing to attend such a meeting they have shown no interest in this. 'This is quite disappointing, especially as the chief executive was quoted in The Oban Times as inviting communities and individuals to come forward with money saving ideas. 'Nevertheless, I was pleased to do the work. It safeguards the ferry service and there was a real danger of us losing our harbour altogether had this essential maintenance work not been carried out before the onset of winter gales. 'Under the circumstances it doesn't make sense for the council to pay for transport of plant and machinery on and off the island when we have suitable equipment here. 'This seems to me therefore to be an effective way of making a contribution in kind. If it saves the council from having to make cuts elsewhere I will be delighted. 'It is time though for the council to co-operate more closely with communities and this involves treating them with respect and not just paying lip service to this notion.' A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'There was a discussion with one of the islanders who offered to dredge the channel leading to the harbour. 'This would be done at no cost to the council on the understanding that the need for further protection barriers, known as gabion baskets, would be reviewed, which the authority said it would consider. 'The dredging was done and the results are considered satisfactory. 'The council is, of course, happy to work with local communities whenever appropriate.'

Tweed celebrations

THE Isle of Harris' most famous product, Harris Tweed, will be celebrated at a special event in London's Victoria and Albert Museum on Friday. The island-woven material celebrates its 100th birthday this year and has been the cloth of choice for a number of distinguished and eccentric characters, including Elgar and Doctor Who. Nowadays it is showcased by contemporary designers such as Vivienne Westwood for diverse applications from fashion to footwear and even furnishings. Harris Tweed Authority chief executive Lorna Macaulay said: 'It's an honour for the Harris Tweed Authority to be associated with the Victoria and Albert Museum.'

Royal National Mòd brought £2m to Caithness

THE PERCEIVED success of last year's Royal National Mòd in Caithness has been backed up by the statistics as it generated £2m direct expenditure in the area. A survey of people visiting the Caithness Mòd, the first time the area has hosted Gaelic's premier festival, has also shown that an additional £1m was generated in indirect expenditure for the area. More than half of this expenditure remained within the Caithness economy. The survey, carried out by Value8 Research and Consultancy, showed 6,673 people were attracted to the Caithness Mòd. The return in Caithness, on investment of £133,000 by The Highland Council and Event Scotland's £36,000, was 9 to 1 and 31 to 1 respectively for every pound invested. Results of the Mòd visitor survey showed that 23 per cent of people said that they would definitely return to the area for a holiday; 78 per cent would not have taken another break in Scotland at that time outwith the Mòd; and 30 per cent of Caithness competitors were competing in the Mòd for the first time. Mr MacIntyre demonstrated that the National Mòd had raised the profile of the Caithness area within Scotland through the wide media coverage that it attracted including a visit from HRH The Duke of Rothesay Prince Charles.

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

ANN AM BEAGAN IS TRÌ SEACHDAINEAN, thèid iarraidh air a h-uile ceann-taighe air feadh Bhreatainn ceisteachan cunntas-sluaigh a lìonadh, a chlàradh an t-suidheachaidh nan dachaigh air 27 Màrt agus tha e an aghaidh an lagha diultadh sin a dheanamh. Ach tha feadhainn ann nach eil deònach agus tha caochladh adhbharan aca, eadar beachd chuid nach bu chòir dhan riaghaltsan làn fhiosrachadh den t-seòrsa fhaotainn mun deidhinn agus cuid eile a tha dìreach airson a dhol am falach! Aon leigeil ris an gabhainn fhìn gu ìre air choreigin 's e a' ghràin a th' aig a' mhòr-chuid againn air tòiseachadh a' lìonadh ceisteachan mòr fada sam bith. Ach tha adhartas ann an saoghal dìdeastach as na deich bliadhna bhon a bhà an cunntas-sluaigh mu dheireadh ann agus tha làn chomas Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 a fhreagairt air-loidhne ann an Gàidhlig ma thogas duine. Chan e a-mhàin gun teid agad air a' cheisteachan a lorg anns a' Ghàidhlig agus a fhreagairt as a' chànain sin, ach ma tha ceist ann nach eil thu buileach a' tuigsinn anns a' Ghàidhlig, faodaidh tu sealltainn ris a' cheisteachan Bheurla aig an aon àm. Ged a tha ceisteachan a' Chumntas-sluaigh car tomadach, tha mòran de na ceisteachan freagairt le dìreach comharra a chur ma choinneimh aon de thaghadh fhreagairt. Agus ann an cuid de shuidheachaidhean, theagamh gum bithear a' cur comharra ma choinneimh a h-uile taghadh a th' ann, leithid Ceist 16. Tha a' cheist seo a' faighneachd mu chomasan leughaidh, sgrìobhadh, tuigse, agus labhairt ann am Beurla, Albais, agus Gàidhlig. Chan eil a' cheist a' faighneachd de ìre comais a th' aig duine agus tha e air leth cudromach gun tèid comas sam bith a chlàradh an seo. Bidh am fiosrachadh sin na chuideachadh ann an dealbh innealachd leasachaidh na Gàidhlig as na bliadhnaichean ri teachd. Ach tha cuid de na ceisteachan a tha 's dòcha ag iarraidh freagairt sgrìobhte, leithid Ceist 18. Tha a' cheist seo a' faighneachd mu chànain sam bith a thathas a' cleachdadh nan dachaigh a bharrachd air Beurla. Chan eil a' cheist a' mineachadh de cho tric 's a dh' fheumas ann cànan sin a bhith ga labhairt agus mar sin tha e cudromach gun tèid Gàidhlig a chlàradh an seo ma thathas ga cleachdadh aig àm sam bith nan dachaigh, fù 's air a' fòn neo ri pètaichean! Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk

New inquiry into future of Coastguard service

LOCALS with concerns about cuts to the Coastguard service have been asked once again to voice their opinion as part of a new inquiry. The UK Government's Transport Committee has announced it is to conduct a full inquiry into the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's 'modernisation' programme, following huge public pressure. As well as looking at how the proposal came about, the investigation will examine the government's decisions not to renew the current contract for emergency tugs when it expires in September and to review arrangements for the Maritime Incident Response Group, which responds to incidents at sea for which fire-fighting, chemical hazard and/or rescue teams may be required. The move comes as local campaigners against the threatened closure or downgrading of Coastguard stations across the UK banded together to appeal for support from the nation, with just over a month left for responses to the MCA's own consultation on the moves. A spokesman for the campaigners said: 'This national appeal is asking the public to respond to these plans to make sure that the UK has a Coastguard service that is fit for the search and rescue and environmental protection of the coasts and seas of this country in the future.' That sentiment has been echoed by Western Isles SNP MSP Alasdair Allan. He said: 'I get the impression that the MCA realise they made a bit of a mistake here. 'I hope they will now think again and come up with something a bit better. 'Everyone recognises the need to restructure, but they need to move away from this idea of centralisation.' Liberal Democrat MP Alan

Reid said responses to both the consultation and inquiry were important, but refused to be drawn on the possibility of another u-turn for the Tory-Lib Dem coalition. He said: 'Safety at sea must always be of the highest priority when considering alterations to the way coastguard services are organised. The Government's proposals must be scrutinised extremely carefully so I welcome the Transport Select Committee's investigation.' The MCA's plan calls for the number of Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres across the UK to be reduced from 18 full time stations to just two main centres open 24 hours a day and a further five sub-centres, most of which will be open only during daylight hours. For Scotland, that would mean only one 24 hour centre, in Aberdeen, and a part time centre in either Stornoway or Shetland. The move would also result in a near 50 per cent reduction in full time Coastguard staff within four years. To respond to the MCA's consultation, log on to www.mca.gov.uk, while submissions to the Transport Committee's Inquiry should be sent to transev@parliament.uk by April 26.

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Golf club launches drive out of the rough

Glencruitten plans introduction of initiatives in bid to increase membership

A NEW committee has pledged to reverse the fortunes of Glencruitten Golf Club with a series of initiatives to boost membership and raise much-needed revenue.

Members were given a warts-and-all review of the club's poor financial situation at the annual meeting last Wednesday - but members were also reassured the club was in no danger of folding.

In the past year club membership has dropped by 40 and the club was running at a £30,000 loss.

Further fears for the future of the club were sparked by the recent redundancies of the club steward and two part-time club staff.

However, the new club captain, Declan Curran, said the committee had a positive outlook on the future of the club.

He said: 'You can't run a club at a £30,000 loss; the club steward and staff were a luxury we just could not afford and we had to stabilise the club and regroup.'

Proposed changes include:
 Existing members can introduce a new member and both will receive a £100 discount on their annual fee.

Under-12 juniors will play free of charge, subject to rules and regulations.

Social membership has been dropped to £1.

The club is also looking to promote youth golf and is keen to work with schools in encouraging the uptake of the game.

Mr Curran added: 'We have caught the slide in time, however, and we now have a full committee of four office bearers, plus eight committee members who are enthusiastic about taking the club forward.'

"We love our golf and want people to come and use the course and enjoy it too."

secretary of Glencruitten Golf Club
Tony Cave

Secretary Tony Cave said usage of the clubhouse has fallen as membership has declined. 'On a prizegiving night, when I first came here 18 years ago, you couldn't get into the clubhouse for people,' he said.

'At one point we held four large dances a year and you had to get here early for a seat; now you're lucky if you get 40 people to a function.'

But as part of the changing times at Glencruitten, the clubhouse has now been upgraded and driving bays have been set up, courtesy of a grant from Awards For All.

Tony continued: 'Our first priority is the golf course and that has not been affected by the changes.'

'The course is the only green belt area in the town - I am sure the council would love to build houses on it - but we love our golf and want people to come and use the course and enjoy it too.'

The committee has thanked members for their support and local businesses who have advertised on the tee markers.



Eye on the ball: Eilidh Hegarty hopes to have a career in football after being signed by Motherwell Football Club. 08_109ellidh01

Eilidh is keeping her eye on the ball

Young female footballer signs up to play for Motherwell

A YOUNG goalkeeper, who has just signed for Motherwell Football Club, hopes to follow in her uncle's footsteps by one day representing her country.

Talent spotted
 Oban High School pupil Eilidh Hegarty was spotted when playing for Oban Saints against

Motherwell, one of the country's top ladies teams.

The 16 year old has goalkeeping talent in the family; her shinty-playing uncle, John MacGregor, played in goal for Oban Camanachd and Scotland.

But it is another MacGregor, Rangers Football Club goal-

keeper, Alan, who is Eilidh's idol - she even wears the same make of gloves.

'I have been playing football since I was in primary one at Dunbeg school,' said Eilidh. 'But I couldn't believe it when Motherwell asked me to join their team.'

The Rangers fan has ambitions to win a scholarship to a US college after school but is also clear about her footballing goals. 'I would love to play for Rangers one day and, if possible, represent Scotland.'

Having trained with her new team for the past three weeks,

Eilidh's first game for Motherwell could be this Sunday against Queens Park.

Eilidh's mother, Linda, said: 'It is such an achievement for her. It is a big commitment to travel down two days a week for training and for games but this is a great opportunity for her.'

CalMac aim for hybrid fuel ferries

THE WORLD'S first ferry to be part-powered by batteries could be about to set sail on some of Caledonian MacBrayne's Clyde and Hebridean routes.

It would effectively be the maritime version of a hybrid car, with the potential to cut diesel consumption, and emissions, by at least 20 per cent.

Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) said the hybrid ferries could potentially serve on 50 per cent of its current routes - 11 of the shorter crossings, which don't require large vessels.

They could include those linking the mainland to the islands of Gigha, Lismore and Raasay,

along with secondary short-haul routes to Arran, Bute and the Isle of Mull.

The firm which owns CalMac's vessels and harbours, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMA), said the first ferries could be ordered as early as next year and might be in service around early 2013.

The 145ft-long craft would carry 23 cars and 150 passengers and travel at nine knots over routes of about four miles. They would be powered by a combination of battery and diesel engines, with the batteries being recharged overnight while in ports.

In a further environmental boost, the batteries could have the potential to be replenished using wind energy generated at night, which might otherwise be wasted because of the limited demand for power in the small hours.

The batteries are expected to take as much space as a Transit van, with the hybrid technology adding £1m to the £6m cost per vessel.

Hybrid and battery vessels are currently limited to a number of European river ferries, such as in Germany, although the technology has been used on tugs and ocean-going yachts.

Spilt mercury sparks full chemical emergency

A FULL-scale chemical emergency was activated after a spillage of mercury in a garden workshop in Inverneil, near Ardrishaig.

Police, Fire and Rescue teams and scientists were all alerted after the spillage.

Fire and Rescue Group Commander Thomas Keay, from Helensburgh area command was called to the scene along with Oban's retained fire fighters. A government scientist was called to the building in the roadside garden to assess the situation. Group commander Keay said:

'Any chemical spillage can be serious and this woman acted in a very appropriate manner by contacting the emergency services immediately.'

'The woman was tidying out her new work shed when a bottle of an unidentified substance fell.'

'By the way the chemical reacted she realised it was mercury. Despite it being a very small amount of the chemical we have to treat all incidents with the up most caution.'

This woman made the correct decision to call for help. Mercury is a very dangerous substance.'

ACHA commits cash to housing needs

THE BOARD of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) unanimously voted to invest 70 per cent of its £38m budget in capital investments this financial year.

Almost £27m will be put towards improvements to bring the association's existing homes (more than 5,000) up to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015.

The association also hopes to spend £4,394,300 in building new homes, which will be subject to final confirmation of grant funding by the Scottish Government.

A further £2million will be invested in roads, footpaths, playparks, water supplies and septic tanks around the organisation's housing schemes.

ACHA has set aside nearly £3m for day-to-day repairs in its properties and £1,669,701 in planned maintenance.

The association has also budgeted for £200,000 to go into aids and adaptations to help existing tenants with disabilities remain in their homes.

War and Peace opens its doors

OBAN'S War and Peace Museum re-opened for the season on Monday with new and updated exhibits.

Among the additions are a scale model of the Northern Lighthouse Board ship *Hesperus*, a Luftwaffe photograph of Oban Bay and the Sunderland Flying Boat repair yard on Kerrera.

The museum, which is run by volunteers in the old Oban Times building on the Esplanade, will initially open from 10am - 4pm daily.

Police ask for help with bogus callers

POLICE are appealing for help to catch two bogus workmen.

The men, who had Irish accents, were in the Bridge of Ave area on the afternoon of February 23.

Police are asking for anyone who has seen the men offering a bogus skip hire service, and driving a blue Volkswagen Passat, to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Confectionery store may close doors

THORNTONS confectionery store on Oban's George Street is set to close.

A spokeswoman for the company said: 'The lease on the building is due to expire. As a result, as with any renewal, the company is consequently considering all options available to it; including opening a franchise outlet in place of the own store, renewing the lease or simply closing the store.'

The company has decided to close the store saying: 'The town is probably more suited to a smaller franchise store rather than a full Thorntons store.'

Man arrested after Oban Ecstasy find

A MAN was arrested in Airds Crescent, Oban on suspicion of possessing the Class A drug Ecstasy.

Police cautioned the man for supplying drugs on Friday evening. A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

Grab Trust faces crucial meeting

A CRUCIAL meeting tomorrow, Friday, between Oban-based recycling charity The Grab Trust and Argyll and Bute Council will work out whether it can survive the cut in funding imposed in the budget.

Directors and staff from The Grab Trust will put forward details of the savings the charity makes for the council both in costs and the environmental impact of the educational work not going ahead.

For the full story see Page 4.

Town buildings fail to sell at auction

TWO of Oban's most prominent commercial buildings failed to sell when they went to auction at Glasgow's Swallow Hotel last week.

Dunollie Halls, on Breadalbane Street was advertised with a guide price of £300,000 at the SVA Property Auctions sale. Despite being split into a number of units, including a store, three offices and a salon, the lot failed to attract any bids.

The 560-square foot former discount outdoor clothing store at 8 Albany Terrace, George Street, was also available at the same auction, but again failed to attract any bids to meet the reserve, despite its location.

It is not yet known if the properties will feature at SVA's next sale, on April 20, again at the Glasgow venue.

Oban soldier ready for posting to Afghanistan with Highlanders

OBAN'S Daniel Johnstone is one of the few Argyll soldiers who will be heading out to Afghanistan this month.

While the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland (5SCOTS) are preparing to return to the UK at the completion of their tour of the country, Daniel will head out as a private with The Highlanders, 4th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland (4SCOTS).

Lifelong ambition

Currently in his hometown on leave, Daniel, 22, from Dunollie, will return to his base at Fallingbommel in Germany on Sunday before heading to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 13 on March 30 for his first tour of duty since joining the armed forces in 2009.

It's a potentially daunting prospect for the Highlander, but he's not at all phased, as the tour will fulfil a lifelong ambition.

Daniel, who has been staying with his grandmother, Ena Johnstone, at Lismore Crescent during his leave, said: 'I'm looking forward to it more than anything. A quick run there and back, six months and I'm home - hopefully! My birthday is October 27 so I hope we'll be back in Germany by then.'

'It's my first tour, but there's quite a few of us in the Battalion who are also on their first tour. I think we're all looking forward to just getting out there.'

'My Dad was actually in the army, Neil Johnstone. He was



Daniel Johnstone, who sets off for Afghanistan at the end of his month. 15_109daniel1

in the Scots Guards and served in Ireland before going to Hong Kong.

Best decision

'I always had it in the back of my mind to join. In 2009 I signed up and it was the best decision I've made. I didn't really think about other Battalions, I just always wanted to be a Highlander, I thought I'd be more suited to them.'

The climate in Germany is somewhat different to the climate in Afghanistan during the summer months, with the temperatures set to soar into the 40s. Accordingly, the Highlanders have been issued with over £3,000 of new equipment, including combats, armour and boots etc, to cope with the conditions.

There is one disappointment for the former Rockfield and Oban High School pupil though; he's not been able to play his beloved bagpipes, or Dudelsack in German, for weeks. A multiple award winner for years on end, it's something he's aiming to get back to, especially competing.

He said: 'I've been playing the pipes since I was 10 or 11 and I play the pipes and the drums for the Highlanders.'

'We were actually in Australia last January to play at their Military Tattoo and that was great.'

'I've not had a chance to play for a while though as we've been preparing for Afghanistan.'

'I'm looking forward to getting back to it. I would like to be Pipe Major one day.'

Appin landowner gifts scenic spot to the community

A COMMUNITY trust and a landowner in Appin have united to protect one of the area's most scenic spots.

The unspoilt coastal walk around Clach Thoull is popular for locals and visitors alike but there has been recent property development at the Port Appin end of the trail.

'Natural leisure area'

In a *My Village* article in *The Oban Times* nearly three years ago Dr Iain McNicol, then the village's GP, chose Clach Thoull as his favourite place in the village and stressed it should be protected from development.

Following the appearance of the article, landowner Andrew Gordon Duff got in touch with the doctor to see how the community could take over the deeds to his part of Clach Thoull.

Dr McNicol, a member of Appin Community Trust, explained: 'I suggested it be handed over to the trust - the charitable arm of Appin Community Co-op - and he agreed.'

'We paid the legal fees but he gave us the land for nothing. Two-and-a-half years later and the deal has gone through.'

The deeds to the three-acre area of land, from the Port Appin pier car park to the gate to Airds Estate, was signed over last Wednesday.

Dr McNicol said: 'Over the past 20 years seven houses have been built into the land but this deal means there will be no more development between the present houses and the gate.'

'The route will remain a natural leisure area for the benefit of the community and visitors.'

The next step for the community trust is to erect a plaque stating the land was gifted to the community by Andrew Gordon Duff and also an information board pointing out local landmarks that can be seen from Clach Thoull.

Mr Gordon Duff's family has a history of gifting land to the community. In 1948 his uncle, Sir Richard Baird, gave Port Appin Village Hall to the villagers.

Glencoe to host Scottish Schools ski championships

GLENCOE Mountain Ski Resort this week hosts the first Scottish Schools West of Scotland Ski and Snowboard Championship to be held for years.

Over 80 primary and secondary school children from across the country will take to the slopes of Scotland's oldest ski resort for the challenge, which is endorsed and supported by Snowsport Scotland.

The event is designed to enable Scottish Schools to take part in competitive snowsports as part of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Glencoe owner, Andy Meldrumis, said: 'It's great for Glencoe to have a mid-week boost to numbers and a fantastic opportunity for the children to compete in a professionally organised race.'

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New fashion store opens in Oban

FASHION retailer Peacocks will open its newest store in Oban today (Thursday), bringing an expected 22 new jobs to the town.

The store will be located in the Co-op building and offers the latest fashion for ladies, men and children.

Barnardo's thank pre-five toddlers

CHILDREN'S charity Barnardo's Scotland has thanked the pre-fives in Argyll who took part in the Barnardo's Big Toddle 2010 and raised £3,098.20.

Toddlers in Campbeltown raised £1,429.50, Dunoon £1,466.70, Taynuilt £37.00 and Cairndow £165.00.

The toddlers, along with half a million others from across the UK, took part in a short sponsored walk and helped to raise a fantastic amount for vulnerable under-fives in the area.

Barnardo's Scotland said it would love to see more local tots registering for the Big Toddle in 2011, when toddlers are being encouraged to dress up as their favourite safari animals.

Classic cars tour boosts Mary's Meals

MEMBERS of a classic car club will be donating proceeds from a fundraising tour to Dalmally charity Mary's Meals.

Proud owners are preparing their cars for the annual Rotary Club of Strathendrick Classic Car Tour on April 17.

Strathcarron Hospice is the other charity to benefit.

The club said the route was still under wraps but would start at the Beech Tree Inn in Killearn and head into Argyll, tackling the Rest and Be Thankful before heading through Inveraray for a visit to the castle.

Celebrity chef to cook at Kintaline

CELEBRITY chef Phil Vickery of ITV's This Morning is coming to the first Local Origins Rural Network (LORN) market held today, Thursday.

He will be filming for a series called Coastal Cuisine, and he will be cooking at the market, held at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch from around noon.

Organisers said: 'We want a great turnout and this is a wonderful opportunity to meet Phil Vickery and watch him cook. You might even get to taste some of his food. The forecast is good, let's have lots of fun.'

World Book Night at the bar

EASDALE Island's Puffer Bar will celebrate World Book Night this Saturday with a page of toast.

The bar has 48 free copies of chef, Nigel Slater, book, Toast to give away to people attending the event - and they are asking folk to come along with a copy of their favourite book to share.

Oban businessman helps the fishermen of Mozambique

AN OBAN businessman is seeking unusual donations to help an isolated fishing community in Mozambique.

Sail-making equipment

Neil Matheson, of Matheson's Furnishings, has already delivered football strips and balls to the community of Pebane but is returning to oversee the delivery of a container, which will carry

freezers, sewing machines, tools and sail-making equipment.

Neil is a member of the Friends of Pebane charity, initially set up by Scottish medical professionals to support the community's hospital.

Once emptied, the container will be sited next to the hospital and become a workshop, store and training room.

Neil said: 'This is a great project because we will be trying to help the whole community.'

'The container is crucial because Pebane is so rural; there is no postal service.'

'The hospital covers an area with a population of around 40,000 but has one ambulance - which broke down. It also

has no running water, so the charity has installed hand pumps.'

Short life expectancy

The area of Pebane has an average life expectancy of 37 years, partly because of the prominent but dangerous fishing industry. Boats are merely wooden skiffs and dug out canoes with sails made from polythene bags and the fish-

ermen paddle seven miles from shore into the Indian Ocean.

'Fifteen guys died in one week while fishing,' Neil explained. 'We need donations of old sails, sewing machines and nets.'

If you can donate to Friends of Pebane contact Neil on 01631 565 195 or e-mail info@mathesons.co.uk



Oban High School news

FOUR sixth year pupils from Oban High School are busy planning and fundraising for their gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in June to the Atlas mountains in Morocco.

The teenagers are joining a group of like-minded young people from Girvan and will be supported by Adventure Centre for Education and Hebridean Pursuits Ltd.

Once they have completed their four-day mission they hope to head higher into the mountains with a local guide to climb the highest mountain in North Africa, Jebel Toubkal at 4,167 metres.

Having successfully completed their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards Jonathan Sayer, Kirsty Pallas, Alasdair Hoon and Calum Peden spent a weekend trekking in the Cairngorms in October to start their training and they have a winter skills weekend planned in Glen Coe for March.

Meanwhile, in between revising for their forthcoming exams, they are busy contacting local businesses and organisations to ask for help in raising the £4000 they need for the trip.

They have already gained support from world famous explorers Ranulph Fiennes and Doug Scott.

Alex Needham from the Waterfront Restaurant in Oban is running a cookery demonstration on March 20 at the restaurant to support the teenagers and they will be doing a bag pack at the Co-op on April 2.

Jonathan is hoping to raise some cash by using his singing talent in May when he joins forces with the Sequence Choir.

A grand raffle will be launched soon with a huge range of prizes to be won.

For those interested in the great outdoors, there is a Seafreedom kayaking day, a three-hour boat trip with Sealife Adventures and a Puffin Dive Centre Try Dive. For those preferring a quieter, more relaxed life there is an opportunity to win a dozen Caledonian Oysters or a box of handmade Colociculus chocolates. In addition there are loads of clothing and equipment prizes donated by various outdoor companies.

If you would like to support Alasdair, Calum, Jonathan and Kirsty phone 01631 7204448 or email jonathan.david.sayer@gmail.com

TWO OF Oban High School's rugby prospects were due to make their debuts for Glasgow Warriors last night.

Angus MacCallum and Magnus Bradbury have been selected for the Warriors' under-17 set-up after impressing for Glasgow North in a trial match.

Both were hoping to make an impression on the game against the Borders, as the district matches are watched by Scottish team selectors.

Angus said: 'We are both really looking forward to playing but all the guys in the squad are good players.'

'It has taken a lot of effort to get to this stage but it is worth it. Once you are involved in playing at this level you have more chance of being noticed.'

Obviously, the ambition is to get into the Glasgow Warriors first team and maybe one day play for Scotland but that is a long way away yet.'

Recycling group in dark over cash cuts

Grab Trust claim they were not consulted

THE END to funding for a 'green education' charity in Oban and Lorn may mean Argyll and Bute Council will not meet their government set recycling targets, claims The Grab Trust.

Budget cuts in the 2011/12 budget means the Oban-based group will not have enough funding to carry on. But the project manager claims that the group were not consulted on the cuts and were not allowed an opportunity to make a case to the council.

"If the Grab Trust goes, so does the other projects it supports"

councillor Roddy McCuish

Julie Fairbrass, project manager of The Grab Trust said: 'There has been a real lack of communication with the council.'

'Until last week we were very unclear of the position as we had not been included on the council's amended proposal list. We were under the impression we had four months funding left to run.'

'But last week we received a letter to tell us that we were being given notice.'

'Until the January meeting of the council we were working towards a five per cent cut.'

Julie, along with board member Councillor Roddy McCuish, claim the council has not assessed the impact of losing the charity.

'They said: "We are going to be a big loss and we find it impossible to believe the council will be able to fill the gap that we will make."

Julie said: 'We don't divert physical tonnage but we do the education on recycling and waste reduction to thousands of children every year, we run 30 public awareness events and visit every school at least once a year.'

'I honestly believe the council would not have reached recycling rates if it wasn't for services like us.'

Mr McCuish added: 'Oban and

Lorn have a big target to meet the targets in the Scotland governments zero waste plan. It will be impossible to do that without the work of organisations such as The Grab Trust.'

'This is not a simple matter of getting rid of one organisation, it affects this council's commitment to waste reduction and prevention.'

'If The Grab Trust goes, so does the other projects it supports such as The Beaches Project and the Seaside Awards.'

Argyll and Bute Council said: 'There have been further discussions with the Grab Trust and they have been invited to a meeting on Friday (tomorrow) to discuss how best to manage the situation and consider and plan actions over the next few months.'

'The council's commitment to educating its young people about the importance of environmental sustainability is underlined by the proportion of our schools to achieve Green Flag status.'

'Argyll and Bute Council achieved the 2010 national target for 40 per cent recycling 12 months ahead of schedule and is committed to continuing to encourage residents of all ages to act in an environmentally responsible manner.'



From left, standing: Drs Andrew Gilmour, Nicky Campbell, Fiona Doyle and pharmacist and panto director Sandra Melville present the cheque to Hope Kitchen volunteers Jess MacDonald, Iona MacMillan and David Livingston. 15_109hope01

Panto funding boost for Hope Kitchen

OBAN'S Hope Kitchen is the sole beneficiary from this year's Lorn and Islands Hospital pantomime.

The soup kitchen is now more than £800 better off - a donation that will see it through the next six months - and the volunteers who run the charity said they were shocked to receive the lump sum.

The panto, 'Sno fair: Four beds

and seven dwarves, was held in the Corran Halls on January 29 and was the fifth pantomime produced by the staff at the hospital.

Iona MacMillan, who works in theatre at the hospital, is a founding member of the soup kitchen. She said: 'We have been running Hope Kitchen for 16 months for people who are socially excluded, lost and

lonely, or suffering from addictions or mental health problems. We provide food, friendship and fellowship.'

The kitchen is open every Wednesday and Saturday night and the four volunteer members will welcome more than 20 people each day. However, Iona said that number was increasing all the time.

Pharmacist Sandra Melville,

who produced, directed and scripted the panto, said: 'We always ask the cast which local charity should benefit from the panto and we all agreed Hope Kitchen was a worthwhile cause.'

'The main reason for doing the panto is to boost staff morale; the fundraising is a bonus. This year it was particularly appreciated by the staff.'

Craignure community centre given retrospective planning permission

PLANNERS have consented to a retrospective planning application for a community building in Craignure on Mull.

State-of-the-art

The state-of-the-art building came before planners after an application to alter a number of issues with the building.

These included the repositioning of the building 1.8 metres further back from the road than the original planning drawings showed and the addition of an extra window on the southeast side - a window that overlooked a neighbouring property.

Sian Scott, Mull and Iona Community Trust's (MICT) project manager explained the changes were requested last year by Argyll and Bute Council's building control department, in order to meet the current building standards regulations with regard to fire prevention and safe access and egress to the building.

In order to regulate this, the planning department asked the trust to submit a new planning application, which was lodged on October 21.

Councillors made the decision to pass the planning application if

some work was carried out - this includes the replacement of the entire upper floor windows from sheet glass to opaque glass and the covering of a pipe.

Summer completion

The work is already underway and the project manager is still hopeful the full resource centre will be up and running by the early summer.

The Island Castaways Charity shop should move into the building by April 16.

Sian continued: 'There is still a lot of work to do but what we have achieved with the support of the

local community is absolutely incredible.'

Sandy Brunton, chairman of MICT added: 'Not only is this a brilliant opportunity to increase island business activities but, by hiring space in the centre, users will also be directly supporting a community charity.'

'All surpluses generated from rental income will be ploughed back into helping support other community activities and voluntary groups on Mull and Iona.'

The council confirmed the application was reconsidered at the meeting of February 16.

Kenyan orphanage couple are guests at North Connel

A COUPLE who have a family of 200 children in a Kenyan orphanage will be guests of a North Connel family at a reception in the village hall on Sunday.

Andrew and Denise Macdonald will welcome Ralph and May Spinks, who are travelling to the Oban area after fulfilling media commitments in London.

Since sponsoring three sisters at the East African Mission Orphanage for their own three daughters' Christmas presents, the Macdonalds have kept

in touch with the Spinks' and are delighted they will be able to meet them face to face.

Andrew and Denise met in 2006 while on a humanitarian trip to South Africa and married six months later. While in South Africa they visited an orphanage of children with HIV/AIDS.

Andrew, who runs Trail West in Oban, said: 'After experiencing these conditions we felt we should encourage our own children to appreciate what they have and take for granted,

so we decided to look for Christmas gifts that would encourage this viewpoint.'

'We searched the Internet for weeks and eventually found this small family-run orphanage in Kenya which seemed to be the ideal set-up.'

'We are very lucky that Ralph and May have decided to come to see us.'

The couple are extending an open invitation for people to come and meet Ralph and May and to hear their story at North Connel Village Hall at 7pm.

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Interest in town centre buildings

THERE ARE a growing number of developers and businesses interested in investing in the most talked about Oban town centre buildings – but the council has to date not set closing dates to sell the assets.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council revealed: 'We have received five notes of interest for Rockfield School and four for the White Building. No decision has been taken yet regarding closing dates.'

The MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust, the current tenants of The White Building, would like to keep the building in public ownership to be used as a hub for various community projects.

MSP backs Scottish Tourism Week

JAMIE McGrigor MSP has given his backing to this year's Scottish Tourism Week which ends on March 4.

Mr McGrigor said: 'For the Highlands and Islands, tourism is our biggest industry and it's not surprising because it will always sell itself in terms of beauty.'

'I think the main thing that this Scottish Government has to do is to make sure that the roads infrastructure is improved, something I continually campaign on.'

'Apart from that, I think that marine tourism and more yachting tourism has an enormous part to play in the expansion of tourism especially in areas like Oban and the Western Isles and on the Western seaboard.'

'And I think that the food side also is something that Scotland can be very proud of.'

Museums at hub of festival of culture

LOCALS are being encouraged to ensure their local museums and galleries get involved with a brand new festival for Scotland.

The Festival of Museums will celebrate Scotland's wealth of culture at a three-day event, starting on May 13.

It has been organised by Museums Galleries Scotland, who say it promises to offer Highlanders and those holidaying in the area a range of cultural experiences that will 'ignite imaginations.'

Grants to stage events are still available to Highland-based museums, but the deadline for applications expires on March 11.

New therapy centre opens in Oban

MASSAGES, reiki, Kairos Therapy and the mysterious Bowen Technique are among the treatments on offer at Oban's newest complementary therapy centre from this week.

The Therapy Rooms ofcially opened on Tuesday by the members of the SOLAS Health Complementary Therapies Argyll group in the town's High Street.

Progress made with Black Lynn Burn clean-up

CLEARANCE work resumed last Sunday on the banks of the Black Lynn Burn, alongside Stevenson Street, Oban.

A team of Oban Litter Buster volunteers continued their work

to remove self-seeding trees which have threatened to clog the town centre waterway.

Good progress was made, with the evidence of the work now becoming very obvious.

Next Sunday, March 6 will see the team back on the banks of the burn when they should conclude the scheduled tree removal process.

The next phase will be the

removal of rubbish when a team of additional volunteers will be required.

Graham MacQueen, chairman of BID4Oban who are organising the clean-up campaign,

said: 'Particular thanks are due to Technical Tree Services for ensuring a safe and effective operation.'

To volunteer, call Oban 564848 during office hours.



Pay us a visit - some of the many volunteers working to make Oban a better place. 16_t09society1

'Big Society' is nothing new

THE PEOPLE of Oban turned out in droves to say we are 'The Big Society' and politicians should come to the town to see just how it works.

Volunteer Graham MacQueen persuaded more than 100 people, who make the town a better place by their work as volunteers, and invited Jamie McGrigor MSP to take a message to the Prime Minister of an assured welcome in Oban. Graham said: 'We want to invite David Cameron, along with the leaders of all political parties, to come to Oban to show off our 'big society' in action.'

'The proof is here that by working together things can be achieved.'

Jamie McGrigor, MSP, said

with more than 50 charities represented on the day – many people are already doing their bit. I would like people to see Oban for the wonderful town and area that it truly is. It would be good for the morale of all the folks in the town if Mr Cameron was able to come.

'As the volunteer chairman for BID4Oban I have written to the Prime Minister, the First Minister and the leader of the opposition to ask them to come to the town.'

'The proof is here that by working together things can be achieved.'

Jamie McGrigor, MSP, said

that he would be encouraging the prime minister to come to the town.

'We want communities to have the power and information they need to come together, solve the problems they face and build the Britain they want – this is already happening in Oban,' he said.

'Only when people and communities are given more power and take more responsibility can we achieve fairness and opportunity for all.'

A spokeswoman at 10 Downing Street said Mr Cameron had received an invitation, and was in the process of replying to the group.

Oban has not missed CHORD funding say council

ARGYLL and Bute council claim Oban has not missed out on additional funding for it's beleaguered CHORD programme after the local authority slashed the fund.

The CHORD budget allocation was reduced by £300,000. If this was to be off-set to every project, it means Oban - which to-date

has not identified a project - will receive £60,000 less.

Economic development
The council-led project to 'assist regeneration and economic development in five of it's waterfront towns - Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dumoon - has had a number of options on the table for Oban

which have since fallen by the wayside.

Despite investing hundreds of thousands of pounds in consultants fees the Oban CHORD Board turned down plans to invest in a transit marina project in Oban Bay and plans for a development road.
The total amount for the project

in Oban was £6.9 million.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The reduction in funding is in relation to revenue monies and not capital funds, so there is no significant change for Oban or any of the other CHORD towns.'

'As this is a revenue issue, there will be no less money in the pot

for the projects.

'As regards current projects on the table, resources are being sought to take forward the full business case for developments around Oban Bay.'

It is understood that CHORD projects in Helensburgh, Dumoon, Rothesay and Campbeltown are already underway.

'Extreme' fire training simulator constructed at Oban Fire Station

OBAN Community Fire Station is to become the base for a new training unit that will recreate extreme fire behaviour such as flashovers and backdraughts.

Realistic conditions
The timber-burning Carbonaceous fire training unit, currently under construction at the Soroba Road site for Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, will give firefighters the most realistic conditions to acquire the confidence and skills to fight fires.

Temperatures in the unit's compartments may exceed 750 degrees.

The new installation will include an attack unit, in which firefighters will learn how to

attack a fire, using the correct amount of water to control and then extinguish the blaze.

A demonstration unit will allow firefighters to observe the build-up of smoke and heat and also how to apply water without producing so much steam that firefighters within the unit are scalded.

Firefighters will also learn the safest ways to make their way into burning basements or to enter through the hatch of a ship's hold.

The unit will also be used to train firefighters in how to use positive pressure ventilation fans to safely rid buildings of smoke and heat.

SQA backs Gaelic Medium Education

THE Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has launched its Gaelic Language Plan and stated its support for Gaelic Medium Education and learners.

Gaelic Language Plans are a key component of the strategy intended to deliver the Scottish Government's National Plan for Gaelic. SQA consulted publicly on the draft of its plan for a period of eight weeks in 2009 and took into account representations made to it during the consultation process. SQA Chief Executive, Dr Janet Brown said: 'In particular, our plan ensures that SQA will continue to play an integral part in supporting Bòrd na Gàidhlig's key national priorities of expanding Gaelic-medium education, Gaelic learner education in schools and Gaelic education for adults.'

The SQA's Gaelic Language Plan can be accessed via www.sqa.org.uk/gaelic and hard copies can be requested from our customer contact centre on 0845 279 1000.

Charity kayak sets off for Stornoway

A KAYAK will sail into Oban later this month as part of a special feat to raise money for cancer treatment and the RNLI.

Largs resident Bruce Joffe set off from his hometown on Monday on a 313 mile round trip to Stornoway by kayak, in tribute to his friend, Stornoway man Andrew Edwards, who died from the disease aged 33 on June 4, 2006.

He is hoping to raise £10,000 from the trip, with 45 per cent of the money going to the

Royal Marsden Hospital, the same amount to the Beatson Oncology Centre Fund and the remainder going to the RNLI. He has already raised more than £9,200.

Bruce is at the mercy of the weather though, so is uncertain exactly when he will arrive in Oban.

His progress can be tracked online though at westcoastkayakchallenge.co.uk, where you can also find details of how to donate to the cause.

LORN LINES

LORN Garden Club welcomed Peter Baxter, Curator of Benmore Botanic Gardens on Tuesday January 18.

Peter's talk was a fascinating inside to the history, discovery and re-building and planting of The Victorian Fernery which opened at Benmore officially last year.

Peter explained how the structure had fallen into disrepair nearly 80 years ago and had been left completely forgotten high in the hills at Benmore Gardens.

A few years ago however, a Resurrection was desired. Local support, Lottery funding, expertise assistance from Edinburgh Botanic Garden and imagination and a lot of hard work - has resulted in the beautiful fernery that can be seen today.

Members of the Lorn Garden Club were inspired to look into the intriguing world of Pteridophytes (ferns) with the lovely representation of ferns from as far away as New Zealand. The talk was followed by discussions, home baking, tea and coffee.

The next talk is Paul Matthews from Glasgow Botanic Garden Around the world in 80 plants March 15.

The club meets every third Tuesday of the month, St Johns Episcopal Cathedral Hall, Oban. Doors open 7pm meetings start 7.30pm. Non-members always welcome.

□ □ □

THERE was a good turnout at Oban Photographic Club's recent weekly meeting when over 60 images were up for judging in the competition 'Simply Blue'.

Well respected amateur photographer Stephen Lipton, from East Kilbride talked through the photographs providing constructive comment along the way and sprinkled it with pawky humour, which was appreciated by the audience and made for a very pleasant evening.

Best Print went to Linda Thomson and in the digital images Best Overall Image went to Tim Haynes and he received the Laird Parker Trophy, second was Stephen Lawson, and third equal were Stephen Lawson and Maurice Wilkins.

The club will host their Open Night at the Victory Hall, Benderloch on Thursday, March 17 when a slide show of 'Old Oban' will be presented by Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond.

All welcome. Collection taken.

□ □ □



Phil Gault and Claire Hasline pictured before their performance at Oban's St John's Cathedral. 15_t09piano01

A MUSICAL couple performed in Oban last week as part of a tour of Argyll and Bute.

Baritone Phil Gault and pianist Claire Haslin impressed an audience at St John's Cathedral last Tuesday, five years after they last performed in the town.

Claire may also be familiar to an Oban audience as part of Trio Ecossaise, which performed at St John's Cathedral only 18 months ago.

The married couple, who have a one-year-old daughter, also played in Rothesay, Ardrishaig, Dumoon and Campbeltown. The Glasgow couple met after Phil overheard Claire arguing with a tenor that baritones were superior.

Phil, who is originally from Wales, has performed with Scottish Opera and at the Buxton and Northampton Festival Operas and in operatic roles and oratorio throughout the UK, Europe and the US.

Claire studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) and won a number of prizes before representing the academy in Iceland and Russia. She is a staff repeteur at Scottish Opera and holds staff and teaching posts at the RSAMD and Glasgow University. Both she and Phil are Crear Scholars.

□ □ □

MEMBERS of Oban SWRI met for an evening of gourmet delights. The guest speaker was Alex Needham of the town's Waterfront Restaurant and Seafood bar which recently won two prestigious awards for food and service.

He delighted the audience with a cookery demonstration using local lamb and seafood – and the ladies sampled the food and were given culinary tips.

His unstinted giving of time, ingredients and expertise was much appreciated and he was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

Competitions: Savoury cheesecake and coffee and walnut cake – Gold: Anne Malloch

□ □ □

OBAN Lifeboat the Mora Edith Macdonald went to the aid of 52 foot motor cruiser Silver Dee last Monday last week following a report that the vessel was aground in Achnacree Bay, Loch Etive with two persons onboard.

As the lifeboat approached Connel Bridge she met the cruiser south after managing to refloat herself. The lifeboat escorted the vessel, which appeared undamaged, to Dunstaffnage marina.

The lifeboat crew was alerted again on Sunday teatime after a kayaker capsized off Dunstaffnage. However, a passing boat came to his aid before the lifeboat was launched and the crew was stood down.

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Explorer urges pupils to join in sledge race

LEGENDARY explorer, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, is calling on pupils in and around Oban to join a 2,000-mile schools' sledge race that passes through the town.

Fifth and sixth year pupils from more than 100 schools will take part in the expedition from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The event, The Scott Scholarships Sledge Pull 100, will take place in September, on the centenary of Captain Scott's famous Antarctic Expedition.

Sir Ranulph, now aged 66, said: 'The exercise will be a long hard slog, but also a hugely rewarding adventure and a lot of fun for all concerned.'

The funds raised will be divided between the British Schools Exploring Society (BSES) and the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), two leading educational charities.

To find out more, log on to www.sss100.org.

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DOWN YOUR WAY

This week - Nether Lochaber

WORK to upgrade the car park and picnic area at Glen Righ Forest, Inchree, has been completed.

The Forestry Commission has improved access to the car park and opened up the area to let more light in. The three-week job was finished last week, and the area is now open to the public again.

The commission is also part way through creating a feeding area for squirrels behind the car park.

A 10 metre track has been put in place to allow visitors to see the feeding area, which has already attracted red squirrels and pine martins. A wooden screen with viewing slots will be built next to the feeders, allowing people to watch the animals without disturbing them.

Recreation and communities forester Iain MacEchern told The Oban Times: 'Hopefully people will be able to sit or stand behind the screen and watch the squirrels feeding.'



FOLLOWING the success of the fundraising Strawberry Tea in the village hall last year, Nether Lochaber Senior Citizens Committee plans to hold further fundraising events this year.

The money raised will enable them to take village residents aged over 70 on their annual summer outing and treat them to the ever popular Christmas lunch.



ONICH villagers recently turned back the clocks with a special 'Memories' night at Nether Lochaber Village Hall.

Locals provided old photographs and memorabilia, some dating back as far as the turn of the 20th century, for the event. The photos were hung on the walls of Nether Lochaber Village Hall where visitors were able to view them.

The photos included class photographs from Onich Primary School, shots from old dance nights and pictures of how the village used to be.

Nether Lochaber Community Council secretary Ann Marie Cameron told The Oban Times: 'Some of the old school photos were of people in the village who are now in their 60s and 70s.'



Katie Wrigglesworth with her award-winning poster.

A CREATIVE Nether Lochaber youngster has won a competition to design a poster for a council recycling drive.

St Bride's Primary School pupil Katie Wrigglesworth, aged 11, won the Highland Council award after a competition to design a poster to promote its 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' campaign.

Katie won a trendy handbag and matching purse made from recycled drinks cartons. She was delighted with her prize, saying: 'The bag was so different. I had never seen anything like it before. The teachers said they all loved it too. I think my prize was appropriate because the competition was all about recycling.'



ARTIST impressions of ideas for a new Nether Lochaber Village Hall have been shown to the public.

A local volunteer drew up the plans for the new building, which would be built on the site of the current hall. They include a veranda looking down Loch Linnhe towards Ballachulish Bridge and eco-friendly ways of providing the hall with power.



Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Bonawe

with deputy editor Stuart Laundy. You can contact him at 01631 568000 or email slaundy@obantimes.co.uk.

ISLAY

RE-JIG has launched this year's campaign to tackle the growing problem of litter on the island.

While the best solution would be for everyone to dispose of their own rubbish properly, Spring Clean Islay 2011 encourages local groups and clubs to get out and help clean up communities.

Any area can be tackled, whether it's a beach, roadside or village. Re-JIG will supply all the equipment needed, help on the day and take away the collected rubbish. As an incentive, Re-JIG will sponsor litter collectors, based on how much rubbish they collect. Last year, Re-Jig sponsored 15 local groups, including all the island's schools. It's good exercise, great fun and groups benefit financially.

For more information contact Polly on 810880 or re-jig@uwclub.net.

PRIMARY four to seven pupils had a great opportunity to learn from the experts when they took part in a Glow Meet with the National Museum of Scotland (NMS) as part of their topic on making their own museum exhibition.

A Glow Meet uses the Scottish Schools Secure Intranet to video-link with people around the world for talking and learning together. The museum was running a course in Edinburgh on setting up an exhibition, but being on Islay meant it was difficult to attend. So NMS kindly agreed to run the course online, using Glow Meet.

The pupils are now organising their own museum exhibition for islanders, based on life on Islay in the past, which they hope to run on March 8.

THE UPCOMING Ardbeg School Reunion date has had to be moved forward to April 9. It is hoped this will not inconvenience anyone who is planning to attend. Please contact Elizabeth Findlay on ggfindlay@hotmail.com for further information.

PORTNAHAVEN SWRI met on Tuesday at An Taigh Seinnse and enjoyed a talk on local archaeology given by Susan Campbell.

The talk ranged from the end of the last Ice Age, hunter-gatherers and flint working in the Mesolithic to Islay's Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age sites and later structures.

Members joined the discussion about local sites and place-names, making this a very interesting meeting.

EIGHT Islay High School pupils recently travelled to Campbeltown to compete in the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI) swimming league competitions held at the Aqualab leisure complex.

After a warm up, the racing began with 50 metre and 100 metre competitions in each stroke for girls and boys.

Islay competitors did a great job with eight personal best times being improved.

The Islay contingent came out on top with 27 points which were added towards Islay's MAKI league total.

Well done to all the swimmers and thanks to Donna Boyd for accompanying them on the trip.

SLEAT

TICKETS are selling fast for a community evening and dance in Duissdale Hall on Saturday March 5 in aid of the Sleat Nursing Community Fund.

All proceeds will go towards buying medical aids and equipment for patients being attended by local district nurses on their rounds.

Members of the Cast Ewe Ceilidh Band will provide the



Lauren Matheson from Barvas Primary School and Freya MacLeod from Stornoway Primary School.

Western Isles pupils sweep boards for third time in Gaelic writing competition

PUPILS from the Western Isles have swept the boards for the third year running at the Royal Mail's National Gaelic creative writing competition.

In the 8-12 year old category, Lauren Matheson from Barvas Primary School was presented with the prestigious Scottish Books Trust's first prize for Gaelic at the annual Royal Mail awards ceremony held in the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow recently.

Freya MacLeod from Stornoway primary, who won the event last year, along with Katie Finlayson from Barvas Primary School,

was awarded joint runners up in the national competition. Freya and Lauren attended the prize giving ceremony in Glasgow but Katie was unable to attend.

Chairwoman of the Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Committee at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Councillor Agnes Rennie said: 'On behalf of the Gaelic Books Council, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all three pupils and this only serves to highlight the excellent work that is taking place in our Gaelic Medium Units throughout the islands.'

'For the third consecutive

year island pupils have done exceptionally well in a national competition and it demonstrates the talent and skills which our island pupils possess.'

Rosemary Ward, Director of the Gaelic Books Council, who presented the awards to the island youngsters added: 'The Gaelic Books Council is delighted to be associated with the Royal Mail Scottish Children's Books Awards and to be working in collaboration with the Scottish Books Trust to promote the children's Gaelic writing competitions.'

'There were a very large number of Gaelic entries received

in the seven and under and 8 to 11 years categories this year and parents and teachers are to be commended for encouraging and supporting our Gaelic youngsters to put pen to paper and enter this important national competition.'

'I would like to extend my special congratulations to all of the winners who produced writing of a particularly high standard. I was hugely encouraged by the standard of the children's written Gaelic in general and I hope that all who participated in the competition will continue to develop their writing skills and love of literature.'

ARISAIG

ARISAIG Primary School Parent Council can press ahead with its plans for a wildlife garden after Lochaber councillors granted £500 from their discretionary budget towards the cost.

The move was agreed at the local members' February business meeting with officials in Fort William.

COLL

A GARDEN, wormery and knowledge of recycling and waste management has won Arinagour Primary School on Coll its first Eco Schools Green Flag.

The Eco-Schools assessor, Paula Love, noted her pleasure when she was shown all the environmentally friendly projects in and around the school.

The Eco Committee, of pupils from primary one to primary seven, were also very excited to watch the new, longed-for playground equipment being built during the morning of the assessment.

The range of charities supported by the school includes

Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal.

The pupils have been helped with many activities by GRAB Trust and Coll's own RecyColl Group.

BANAVIE

LOCHABER councillors have agreed to grant Banavie Floral Improvements £500 from their discretionary budget to buy plants.

Shopmobility Lochaber will get £1,500 towards the purchase of a new portable cabin, subject to match funding.

Meanwhile, members agreed to contribute £1,000 in the current financial year to a project to remove graffiti from public and private buildings in Fort William.

It was also agreed to extend the boundaries of the scheme to the Greater Fort William area and to ask affected businesses for donations towards costs.

CALLANDER

A CAMPAIGN at McLaren High School called 'Give every Child a Voice' will exchange mobile phones for the latest classroom response devices.

All phones donated during the campaign will be recycled and converted into valuable funds for the NSPCC's Child Voice Appeal.

IN DECEMBER all pupils and staff participated in Number Day joining thousands of other schools to raise money for the NSPCC whose aim is to protect vulnerable children.

The purpose of the activities was to show pupils the fun in numbers whilst testing their mathematical ability and problem solving skills and encourage them to work as a team.

Winners at the Celebrating Success Awards were: Outward Bound Loch Eil: Adele Melia; Dynamic Youth Awards: Gary MacKenzie, Robert Lafferty and Alex MacLennan; Full Attendance: Gordon Petrie.

KILLIN

GRAEME Young has been appointed operations director of the Abernethy Trust.

Since graduating from St Andrews, he has worked in children's services in Bristol. He has been in Ardeonaig for two years working in all areas of the centre.

Graeme and his wife Helen have two children who are at primary school.

THE LOCAL Brownies raised £400 which they will share with the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home delivering local Christmas Cards.

Thanks are due to Nevis First and the library for being collection points and thanks are also due for the donation of £50 from the organisers of the Ogham concert.

ARROCHAR

COMMUNITIES in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park will have help with local housing problems following the introduction of a new service.

Established by the National Park Authority and the Rural Housing Service, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) will help communities identify and develop solutions to address the issue of affordable housing. The post is currently being advertised by The Rural Housing Service.

It is anticipated the service will be up and running by April.

The post has also been given support from Argyll and the Islands LEADER and Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER.

KILMORE

KILMORE SWRI held an Open Night with cake and candy stall on Wednesday February 9.

President Iobal Smith welcomed members and visitors from Connell and Benderloch for a talk from guest speaker Squadron Leader John Gilbert.

During an excellent talk, with slides, on the Justified Reasons for Low Flying Aircraft in our area, he explained that pilots, both male and female, have to train to fly at 250ft to avoid radar, which also involves the dropping of aluminium to confuse enemy tracking systems.

Following the talk there were Royal Air Force posters and cards for everyone.

The Squadron Leader was thanked for his visit by Ann Robertson and a lovely tea was served by Mairi Morrison and helpers.

The 100 Club winner for January was L Romney and the February winner was K Whyte.

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ISLAY LETTER

THE ISLAND'S 18,500 acre Dunlossit Estate, owned by the merchant banking Schroder family, has appointed a new manager.

He is David Gillies who has moved from Inverness to take up his new responsibilities. He is married to Eilidh and they have two sons, Duncan and Andrew.

The new manager and his wife are from the west coast of Scotland and should have no difficulty in settling in to an island setting.

He succeeds farm manager Chloe Randall who left these shores for pastures new last year.

Dunlossit is one of the island's most progressive estates and employs almost 30 local workers.

As well as offering shooting and fishing, it operates a number of tenant farms, a quarry outlet, a farmers' market and an abattoir service. It is also the island home of Bruno Schroder, a generous local laird and benefactor, whose family bought the island estate in 1937.



ISLAY and Jura Gaelic Initiative is hosting a taster class through the medium of Gaelic in Taekwondo, the national sport of South Korea, on March 14.

Putting everyone through their paces will be Kenneth Combe, a black belt instructor who takes regular classes among Glasgow's Gaelic community.

There will also be an involvement with local schools and the classes are suitable for all age groups apart from very young children.

More information on 01496 810 818.

GLASGOW'S Ilich, along with a goodly number of supporters from the home isle, will be heading for the city's west end on Saturday March 5 where An Comann Ieach Ghlaschu holds its 149th annual gathering in the University Union, at 7.30pm.

Guest chairman will be Gaelic broadcaster and TV presenter John Carmichael whose roots were firmly embedded in Bridgend before stretching to the Mull of Oa area.

The Association Pipers will give of their rousing best and the Ballochmyle ceilidh band will entertain concert goers and provide the music at the ensuing gathering dance.

Raising their voices in Gaelic songs will be Port Ellen's Jane MacQueen and Jennifer Campbell who has strong connections with the Isle of Mull.

Last year's Mòd gold medalist Iain MacLean will reprise his winning ways and there is sure to be a special welcome for the veteran Keills medalist Ian A Carmichael who first struck gold at Stirling in 1961.

Enhancing the singing performances will be piano accompaniments by Norma

MacDougall. Keeping a presidential eye on the proceedings will be Bowmore's Malcolm Campbell who took up the Association's top office in June of last year.

Next year marks the association's 150th anniversary and a number of special events are planned to mark this special milestone.

HOLY Communion will be celebrated at Bowmore's Round Church on Sunday March 13, at 10am.

The service will be conducted by the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, minister of the linked charges of Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa.

Congratulations to Gaelic activist, Mòd gold medalist and Còisir Ghàidhlig Ie conductor Iseabail Mactaggart on her appointment to the board of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Congratulations also to Bowmore butcher and Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association president Billy MacFarlane and his Hearsch wife Margaret who celebrated 40 years of marriage on March 5.

The 'ruby couple', who were married in 1971 in Luss Parish Church, now live at Mulindry in the Bridgend area.

Meal ar naidheachd. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810 658.

KYLE

KYLE Primary School is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the new school in May.

The school plans to mark the occasion, named 'Going for Gold', with a number of activities ending with an exhibition of the school past and present.

Principal teacher Mary Logan said: 'To make this project a success, we are relying on the local community, in particular ex-pupils and staff, to give their time to share memories and to lend old photos and school memorabilia, for example clothing, jotters, and school property.'

Anyone who can help is asked to contact the school before Friday March 18 on 01599 534194, fax on 01599 534654, email to kyle.primary@highland.gov.uk or in writing to Kyle Primary School, School Road, Kyle of Lochalsh, IV40 8LG, using the subject heading 'Going for Gold'.



Jim Blair presents Thomas and Katie with the rock samples.

Ardnamurchan High School pupils get help to study the rocks beneath their feet

ARDNAMURCHAN High School pupils Thomas Rae and Katie Mackinnon gratefully received a presentation of rock samples local to the area from Jim Blair of Lochaber Geopark at the school last week.

The samples, beautifully coded and organised, came with full information for use in the curriculum.

While not present at the time, delighted geography teacher Mrs Rough expressed her thanks, explaining the local environment and ecostructure was a vital aspect of the new Curriculum for Excellence.

She said: 'The presentation pack will be a very valuable aid to school's learning and teaching resources.'

MULL LINES

TOBERMORY RNLI lifeboat carried out a training exercise with a difference when three of its volunteer crew were 'rescued' by helicopter from a life raft in the Sound of Mull. Tobermory lifeboat joined forces with a Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter from HMS Gannet at Prestwick (call sign Rescue 177) for the exercise. It began with crew members, Iain Malcolm and Rob Macdonald, together with newly appointed Lifeboat Medical Authority (LMA), Dr Francis Adie, taking to the lifeboat before being cast adrift in the Sound. With the Tobermory Severn class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, standing by, Rescue 177 despatched winch man, Royal Marines Sergeant Lee Haggerty to effect a hi-line rescue and all three lifeboat crew were safely lifted into the Royal Navy Sea-King helicopter. The exercise concluded with a further four crew members being winched from the all-weather lifeboat by Rescue 177. Tobermory Coxswain Phil Higson said: 'This was a fantastic afternoon and one of the best training exercises which we have ever had. I suspect that the Royal Navy crew found it as useful as we did.' Commanding Officer of HMS Gannet, Lieutenant Commander Debdash 'Debs' Bhattacharya agreed: 'This was a rare opportunity for our crew to practise the skills required for lifting casualties from a life raft. A life raft is a very small target and as the pilots are unable to see it from the cockpit, communication with the crew at the rear of the helicopter is vitally important. Thanks to the Tobermory lifeboat for giving us this excellent training opportunity.' The exercise also marked the first solo command for newly appointed Deputy Second Coxswain, Andrew McHaffie, who was passed out as a coxswain at the end of January. At only 24 years of age, Andrew is one of the youngest all-weather lifeboat coxswains in the RNLI. Coxswain Phil Higson added: 'We're very grateful to local skipper, Paul Gallagher, for kindly donating the life raft to us.'



AN OWNER for the Mull Railway has still not been found. The 10 1/4 inch gauge railway hit the buffers when the ownership of the land and castle the train visited went up for sale. It was hoped that a buyer could be found for the venture but to date, and despite interest, there has been no secure bid. In order to fulfil its obligations the board will welcome any proposal that serves either the continued operation of the Railway Company, on or off the island, or the disposal of its assets and subsequent winding-up. Interested parties should contact the company on mbe@bishop-perowne.worcs.sch.uk.



ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour at Mull Music Festival will be a thing of the past. Sergeant Mark Stephen has been working with elected members to make sure the festival runs smoothly. Speaking to the island's community council Sgt. Stephen confirmed that this year there would be no camping at the Masonic at Tobermory Harbour Association or at the trees by the bridge. A piece of land between Shillinghill and the MacDougall's farm is to be opened up for wild camping and any campers on the Main Street will be directed there by the police. There is a suggestion that an area of the car park be cordoned off with a very strict set of rules including that overnight camping is being allowed for that weekend only. Whilst community councillors thought to be a good idea, Argyll and Bute Council would have to approve it. The licensees in the town are in agreement that music would stop one hour before closing time. It has been agreed that the MacDonald Arms will close at 1am, the Mishnish at 2am and MacGochan's at 3am. To avoid people simply moving from pub to pub as they close, anyone who is not in MacGochan's by 1am will not be admitted. Policing on the ferry would be from Oban; the Lochaline ferry would come under Northern Constabulary. A sniffer dog may be used on the Oban ferry to ensure that no illegal drugs were being brought to the island. Sgt Stephen was aware that some people are put off by smokers congregating on the pavement outside pubs and a cordoned off parking space on the sea side of the road was suggested. When it was pointed out that the cones would probably land in the harbour, Sgt Stephen reminded the licensees and all their stewards were covered by the Licensing Act 2005 and any deviation would be treated seriously.



TOURIST viewpoints on the Isle of Mull would cost £5,000 each - but may ease the problem of motorists parking in passing places. At a meeting of Mull Community Council investigations by tour operators and others to create additional viewpoint parking spaces, advised by the Argyll and Bute Council's island road manager said five metre wide spaces would be costly. Twenty possible locations had been identified through Glen More, most where double-parking places existed or where the old road crossed the new one. Sergeant Stephen reiterated that cars parked in passing places would be moved on and possibly get a parking ticket if they were parked illegally.



MULL musician Colin Macintyre is asking people to pre-buy his new album, and in doing so give money to Dalmally-based Mary's Meals. His album, City Awakenings will be on sale in a few weeks' time and Colin, formerly of Mull Historical Society, is offering a signed CDs and other goodies for people. A portion of the profits from your pledges will go to providing these children with Mary's Meals.



POLICE on Mull had a secret mission last week - when they visited all the Sea Eagle nest sites on the island. Police sergeants Mark Stephen and Mike Wood were joined by constables Stevie Brown, Neil Walker and Iain Young plus Lynne Jamieson of the Crown Office and Procurators Fiscal Service. They met with Dave Sexton, RSPB officer based on Mull and a wildlife crime investigator based in Edinburgh who covers the whole of Scotland. During the course of the day the group attended various nest sites that the birds have been busy preparing for this year. Sgt Stephen said: 'This meeting is vital in continuing Strathclyde Police's successful partnership with Mull Eagle Watch. By early identification of the nest sites, this visit provides myself, my officers and Lynne first hand knowledge of sensitive locations which can be subject to unlawful disturbance in the spring and summer months. Mr Sexton said: 'The RSPB and Mull Eagle Watch are happy to continue to work closely with Strathclyde Police based on Mull in ensuring the current successful Sea Eagle project continues. Coordination of events are vital, as we expect a high number of visitors this year, with BBC TV programmes such as Autumn Watch describing Mull as Raptor Island in late 2010, web sites hits and requests for information being very high. Even on today's brief one day trip we were fortunate enough to observe nine different Sea Eagles, which reinforces the importance of our partnership with Strathclyde Police and the unique opportunities the Island of Mull can provide to visitors.'



TOBERMORY has seen in boom in business with a number of new shops already opened or due to open over the next few weeks. Councillor Mary-Jean Devon welcomed the developments saying: 'Tobermory and the whole of Mull are a great place to live and do business. We are hoping to continue to buck the trend and welcome more businesses to the island.'



A TABLE Top Sale will be held in the Aros Hall on Saturday, March 12 between 11am and 1pm. To book a table contact Donna on 01688 302467.



COLONSAY

ENTERPRISING islanders on Colonsay have won a grant of £10,000 to help fund their Festival of Spring and boost the island economy. Colonsay Tourism and Marketing Group (CMTG) identified spring as a quiet time for visitors, despite the bird and plant life being at its best. The Festival of Spring will feature guided walks by plant and bird experts and a range of other activities, covering everything from history and archaeology to foraging and cooking wild food. It will run from April 30 to May 20 this year. Gavin Clark, chairman of the CMTG, said: 'The value of the grant to us as a group, and to the island cannot be understated; the main aim of the festival is to promote knowledge of this gem of an island, with its outstanding bird and plant life, to help to reverse population decline and also to support local businesses, such as my own. Awards for All has given us a huge boost to help with marketing our first ever Spring Festival, now we want to go out there and make it a success and hopefully, this will be the first of many.'

TAYNUILT

WHIST Drive results from February 18: Ladies - 1 Christine Allen, 2 Marina MacInnes (Connel), 3 Mairi Keenan, 4 Judith Day. The consolation prize went to Sandra Steel, who also won the travelling prize. Gents - 1 Floreene Anderson, 2 Jim Grout, 3 Christine MacLennan, 4 Alice Campbell. Marjory MacGregor won the consolation prize and Connie McNeill won the travelling prize. There were nine tables.

KILLIN

KILLIN's village library has been saved after a last minute change of heart by Stirling Council. The authority was considering closing the amenity as part of budget savings, but following objections from locals and the opposition, the proposal was binned. One of the councillors who fought against the plan was conservative councillor for Stirling's Highland Ward, Tony Finch. He said: 'I am proud to have supported a budget that protects services in our villages. For Killin Library to be singled out in this way was wrong and I will fight against any proposal to close it.'



Children from North Lorn schools with Isle of Eriska chef Robert MacPherson.

North Lorn pupils learn about health and wellbeing through dance and food

CHILDREN from North Lorn schools marked a Health and Wellbeing day with a Zumba class and a healthy eating lesson. Every child in Ardchattan, Barcaldine, Lismore and Strath of Appin took part in Zumba led

by Magdalena Sadlik - there was even a class in the afternoon to encourage mums, grannies and friends to get fit. They also worked together on a dance related topic where the youngest children produced impressive puppets that with

moveable limbs could dance, the middle group looked at dance styles throughout the world and, having worked together, produced posters to teach each other about different dance styles. The third group researched Zumba and then went on

to design and produce their own Zumba themed t-shirt. Robert MacPherson, chef at Isle of Eriska Hotel, led a workshop on healthy eating. The children were challenged to produce a fruit kebab and sampled a wide range of fruits.

SOUTH UIST



Kathleen MacInnes singing at Ceilidh Mor in 2010

AN ISLAND based traditional music, dance and culture educational centre is proving popular worldwide. Ceolas Summer School 2011 in South Uist is attracting bookings from places as far apart

as Scotland, Australia and the Ukraine. This year's event will run from July 3 until July 8 and has been successful in securing a wide range of high-class tutors. Singing tutors for this year are Rona Lightfoot, Kathleen MacInnes and Maighread Stewart who will be joined by Gillebride MacMillan on the singers evening to launch his new CD. Joe Peter MacLean and Dawn Beaton will teach fiddle alongside Iain MacFarlane while Frank McConnell, Alison MacLeod and Margie Beaton will form the step dance team. In the popular piping section, Allan MacDonald will bring his own unique skills to the piobaireachd and piobaireachd song sessions. The format of the Gaelic classes will change to enable tuition to take place in interesting places in the community and Gaelic teachers, Catriona MacIntyre and Alex Bhaltais will deliver the programme

Dancers will enjoy stepping out to great young musicians: Ewen Henderson, Angus Nicolson, Sarah Hoy/Fin Moore plus Angus MacDonald of Na Deasaich. Piping for youth will be taught by Andrea Boyd and youth fiddle will be taught by Allan Henderson. The community events team met on February 28 and there will be an exciting programme of walks and talks alongside the key evening events. The usual activity for families will take place at Lochboidale Pier on the Saturday. A crèche is provided for the families attending. Further information from: Mary Schmoller on 01878 700154 or info@ceolas.co.uk

LEWIS

THE GROUP hoping to buy out estate land on Lewis has hit out at delays which could mean the process being stalled until after Scottish Parliament election in May. The Paicr Trust, who have applied to Scottish Ministers to buy land and an associated lease on the Paicr Estate in South-East Lewis on behalf of and with the backing of the local community, has reiterated their strong determination to see this long-running saga to a satisfactory conclusion, despite further delays by the Government in reaching a decision. Updated applications under Part 3 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 were made in February 2010, and Ministers have been in a position to take a decision since late October. In November the responsible Minister, Roseanna Cunningham, indicated that she hoped to take a decision before Christmas. In January 2011, a further letter from the Scottish Government dated 28th January stated that it was anticipated that the Minister would take her decision within two weeks. No decision has yet been announced despite cross-party calls for an end to

the prolonged uncertainty and frustration faced by the Paicr community. A judicial review of certain aspects of the case, which was due to start on 8th February, will not now proceed. If a decision on the Paicr Trust applications is not announced within the next three weeks, it will not be possible to do so until after the Scottish Parliament elections. Paicr Trust chairman, Angus McDowall, said: 'I cannot express too strongly how disappointing these continuing delays are to the morale of the local community. We have meticulously followed the procedures set out in the legislation intended to promote community land ownership for over six years, and have been faced at every stage by delaying tactics by the landlord. Now the Government appear to be procrastinating. Meanwhile, communities throughout the Highlands and Islands are reaping the economic and social benefits of greater control over their own destiny. Even some private landlords are offering land to local communities because they recognise the wider benefits this will bring - witness the latest example on Scalpay. There is in our view no reason why the Paicr community should not also be allowed to run our own affairs and create local jobs and opportunities in the greater public interest. The only difference is that uniquely we are faced by an absentee landlord determined to use every financial and legal device for his own ends. I understand the pressures on Ministers because Part 3 of the Act has never been used before, and the landlord has demonstrated that he is of a litigious nature, but now is surely the time to back the community and the intentions of the legislation. Our resolve remains undiminished because we believe our case is morally right, and we also believe public opinion is overwhelmingly behind us in placing the overall public interest ahead of private gain.'

KILCHRENAN

WORK has now started on repairing the pot holes on the B845 Glen Nant road to Kilchrenan, for which the residents in the area are really grateful. This means that travelling times will be shortened as most people had to drive slowly or sometimes even stop, to avoid damaging their vehicles. Thanks are due to Argyll and Bute Roads Department for their prompt action and thanks also to The Oban Times for highlighting the problem in their article of February 17. This now means that villagers will not have to repair the roads themselves!

ONCE again, Margaret Ann Nicholson of Kilchrenan, held a successful Buffet Brunch in the village hall on Sunday, February 20. This is becoming a regular feature for locals who look forward to the next one.

CRAIGNISH

CRAIGNISH Parish Church is celebrating Fair Trade Fortnight by holding a food night and sale of Fair Trade goods, in Craignish Village Hall on Saturday March 5 at 7pm. Everyone is invited to go along to the hall with a dish to share (made with Fair Trade ingredients if possible) and to enjoy an evening of good food and company. There will be sales of goods from around the world, including Madagascar, Palestine and Sri Lanka, plus the evening will see the launch of Just Trading Scotland's '90Kg rice challenge' amongst the Netherlorn churches. Just Trading Scotland is a Scottish Charity, based near Glasgow, which imports a range of products from Malawi, Swaziland and South Africa. The Charity is challenging schools, churches and community groups to sell 90Kg of Kilombero rice, the amount which a Malawian farmer must sell in order to pay for a year's basic secondary education for one child. On Saturday the Rev Professor John Riches, founder of Just Trading Scotland, will talk at Craignish Village Hall. Tickets for the evening, which is suitable for all ages, are £5 and are available from Ardfern Village Store or by ringing 01852 500674.

LOCHAWE

FORMER Dalmally pharmacist Malcolm Bruce was guest speaker at the February meeting of the Lochawe WRI in Lochawe Village Hall. Malcolm spoke about photography and explained the various uses of different cameras he had brought with him. He also showed the results of these using a display of landscape photographs. Competitions: Jack Frost - J Wylie, Green; P McLeod, Blue; J Ogden, Green. Alive and Kicking - J Wylie, Gold; P McLeod, Silver; M MacKenzie, Red. A lovely tea was provided by Mrs A Hay and Mrs J Buchanan, hostesses for the evening.

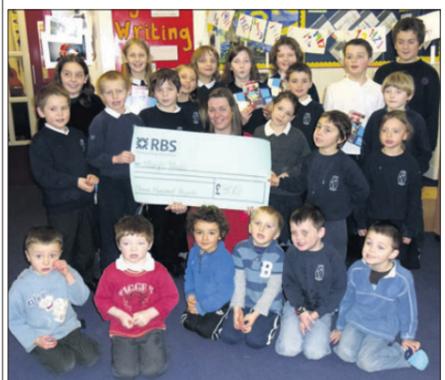
DRECO services
Will be in the Oban Area from Thursday March 3rd. Emptying Septic Tanks.
Call Graeme 0780392549 or 01586 552807

ISLAY

DUNLOSSIT Estate on the Isle of Islay has appointed a new manager. David Gillies has moved from Inverness with his wife Eilidh and their two sons. He said he was looking forward to bringing new ideas to the role but stressed it would be 'business as usual' when it comes to the Schroder Foundation's support of local causes and charities. Mr Gillies said he also encourages an 'open door' policy and welcomes enquiries about the estate's work, especially regarding access during the field sports season. MOD GOLD medallist Iain MacLean will be among the

singers performing at this year's Islay Gathering in Glasgow University union this Saturday. Glasgow's Ilich, along with a band of islanders will be attending the 149th gathering of the Glasgow Islay society, An Comann Ilich Ghlaschu. Chairing the event will be Gaelic broadcaster and television presenter John Carmichael. AN ISLAY woman, whose career has seen her work in China and London, as well as her native island, has been appointed to the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Iseabail Macgarratt was appointed by Enterprise Minister and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather. She currently works at the

family business in Kentraw, a traditional hill farm and bed and breakfast accommodation. Iseabail is also a Gaelic speaker and prizewinning singer and conductor at Royal National Mods. ISLAY Rugby Football Club will travel to the Scottish Borders to compete for the second time at the prestigious Davidson Chalmers Melrose Sevens Veterans Tournament, the 'home' of the abbreviated game around the world. The islanders, who last played at the 125th tournament in Melrose three years ago, will face stiff opposition from both Scottish club sides and invitational teams from South Africa, the Cayman Islands and, for the first time, Tyndale, the English rugby club which hosted the first sevens tournament south of the border in 1894. The veterans tournament, which will be held on Friday, April 8 is now in its fourth year.



Luings pupils make Mary's Meals their chosen charity

Luings Primary School children have chosen Mary's Meals as their charity this year. So far they have raised a fantastic £300 through a collection at their nativity play and a well attended Tartan T, where they recited poetry, sang songs and the famous Ukulele Luings played. Julie MacFarlane-Barrow was invited to the school to talk about Mary's Meals, where the children proudly presented her with a cheque.

2011 Calendars

Scottish Field - £8.95	The Oban Times - £6.25	Scottish Field Mini - £5.25
£3.83	£2.62	£2.62

1/2 price sale!

East Coast Scenes - £5.25	Isle of Arran - £5.25	West Coast Scenes - £5.25
£2.62	£2.62	£2.62

Only available via our office at The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban, Argyll or by calling us on 01631 568000. Order online at: www.scottishcalendars.co.uk. *All prices exclude worldwide postage and packaging, which is an extra £2.

Bonniest Baby Competition 2011

Please note - entries for this competition are now closed



Matthew Forbes,
Oban, 16 months.



Eilidh MacDonald,
Glasgow, 14 months.



Fiona McDiarmid,
Lawers, 23 months.



Emily MacDonald,
Cairndow, 1month.



Niamh McGowan,
Inverness, 11 months.



Ryan Kirsop,
Oban, 12 months.



Chloe Dougan,
Kinlochleven, 13 months.



Bethan Neil,
Oban, 21 months.



Ava Johnston,
Haddington, 3 months.



Neha Toledo,
Oban, 10 weeks.



Emma Quinn,
Bearsden, 21 months.



Tommy Richardson,
Fort William, 5 months.



Josh MacKellaich,
Inverness, 6 months.



Kyle Sharman,
Mallaig, 14 months.



Caleb MacLean,
Dunbeg, 7 months.



Innes Gemmell,
Oban, 15 months.



Dexter MacLean,
Oban, 10 months.



Lucy Campbell,
Connel, 6 months.



Clara McLellan,
Bridgend, 11 months.



James Henderson,
Tobermory, 7 months.



Aidyn Davidson,
Dunbeg, 7 months.



Finlay Milton,
Oban, 11 months.



Caitlin Baird,
Exeter, 11 months.



Finlay Gillies,
Taynuilt, 9 months.



Ethan Douglas,
Dervaig, 2 weeks.



Milly Mitchell,
Kilmelford, 18 months.



Aiden Munro,
Bowmore, 24 months.



Steven MacAulay,
Dunbeg, 6 months.



Hayleigh Ward,
Oban, 18 months.



Connor Beattie,
Oban, 14 months.

Councillors count cost of mix-up

A PLANNING mix-up led to three Lochaber councillors travelling from Fort William to Dingwall in vain on Tuesday.

Eddie Hunter, Donald Cameron and Bill Clark arrived at the Easter Ross town expecting to jump on the bus for a site visit to Garve, between Dingwall and Achnasheen, to view where E.on Climate and Renewables want to build 19 turbines at Corriemollie Forest. Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee were then to decide the issue at 1.30pm.

The controversial application, which is being recommended for approval, has provoked a hurricane of protest. Some 458 objections have been lodged.

But at Dingwall, about 30 objectors turned up en masse with local Councillor Audrey Sinclair, who believed a site hearing, not a visit had been arranged.

A hearing allows objectors and applicants to actively discuss the proposal on site with councillors

then make a short presentation to the planning committee at the planning meeting proper.

The bus was kept waiting as the committee debated whether to go ahead or defer the matter to a special site hearing and meeting at a later date.

Councillor Sinclair got her way, the committee backing her deferral move on a knife-edge 5-4 vote, defeating Lochaber councillor Bill Clark's motion to press ahead. The matter will now be determined on March 22, when a full site hearing will be held ahead of the meeting to decide the issue.

Councillor Eddie Hunter acknowledged it had been a costly exercise. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Although it was a wasted journey for Lochaber councillors, what price can you put on the voice of the people and local democracy? It is only right that people in ours and any other area are able to have their say.'

Clash over threat to Highland classroom assistant posts

THE SNP group on Highland Council and administration leader Councillor Michael Foxley clashed this week over the threat to classroom assistant posts.

SNP finance spokesperson Councillor Drew Hendry claimed £900,000 savings from a classroom IT replacement programme in schools meant any redundancies could be avoided.

Hesaid: 'It is, at least, interesting that he (Councillor Foxley) is now publically admitting that the savings of almost a million pounds are indeed there to be made from the huge Highland Council electricity bill, but his assertion that energy savings from new IT equipment would not be seen for 18 months is both factually wrong and, frankly, insults the intelligence of the public.'

But Councillor Foxley said any meaningful savings would not kick in until 2012-13, and even then might be undercut by spiralling energy costs.

He said: 'The SNP is quite simply wrong about finance and they are abandoning their responsibilities.'

'We offered them places on the cross party working group on this, but they refused to take them up.'

'We have to take £60 million out of the budget over the next three years and education is half that. It is frankly impossible not to make cuts in primary schools - that is the reality.'

'We are doing a serious review on classroom and learning assistants until June and any agreed changes will kick in from August, the start of the new academic year.'

Pupils visit rural trust to learn how to care for pets

INVERLOCHY Primary School P1 pupils took their classroom pets project to Lochaber Rural Education Trust's An Clachan HQ at Torlundy last Thursday.

Scottish SPCA Lochaber officer Dawna Connolly gave the 27 children a short talk on pet care before giving a demonstration of equipment SSPCA officers sometimes use to rescue animals in distress.

Highlight of the children's day

came when LRET trustee Isabel Campbell asked for Honey the rabbit and assorted guinea pigs to be brought in for grooming. Percy the cockerel also put in an appearance and stood patiently as the children queued to stroke his feathers.

Teacher Lia Hunter said: 'The children got a lot out of all the hands-on activities. Our project is all about showing them how to look after and care for their pets.'

Four jobs to go as Thorntons closes

FORT William High Street has taken another blow with the news a popular chocolatier is to close its branch in the town with the loss of four jobs.

Thorntons will close in May, after bosses warned last month falling profits meant branches across the UK, including the Fort William and Oban shops, would have to close.

The closure announcement is the latest development in what has been a rollercoaster ride

for Fort William's commercial centre recently.

Only two weeks ago Alpine Bikes opened their new store in the West End after buying out Off Beat Bikes.

Meanwhile, the town is still waiting for Ashford Property's hotel and shops development at the former Grand Hotel site to get underway. The 100-year-old Thorntons company has 371 stores and 229 franchise outlets across the UK.



World champs: Banavie P7 and under team with their trophy after their victory at the Nevis Centre.

Banavie shinty stars do the double at national festival

BANAVIE Primary School fought off all-comers from across Scotland to win both competitions at the Gilmour Sports First Shinty Festival at Fort William on Saturday.

The double success means the youngsters are shinty national and world champions for their age group and represents a major boost to the sport in Lochaber at primary level.

An enthusiastic crowd watched Banavie's P5 and under team triumph 4-2 over Glenquhart in a thrilling final at Lochaber High School, while

hundreds lined the indoor pitch at the Nevis Centre to see the P7 and under squad beat St Columba's from Oban 3-2 in an equally enthralling final.

Teams from Skye claimed third spot at both venues. Portree Primary overcame Glasgow Gaels in the third/fourth playoff at the high school, while North End, comprising players from Staffin, Kilmuir and MacDiarmid primaries, defeated Tomnacross from Kiltarity 1-0 in the corresponding fixture at the Nevis Centre.

Banavie coach Victor Smith said the performance of both his teams was 'fantastic'.

Invergarry power plant plan rejected

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a huge biomass power station in Invergarry have been turned down by planners, to the delight of local campaigners.

Canonbie-based Northern Energy Developments Ltd (NEDL) had hoped to build the 5-megawatt scheme at a forestry depot on the A87, but in a decision delegated to officials, Highland Council ruled the plan out of order.

Some 112 objections had been lodged questioning the site's suitability, the efficiency of the plant and its impact on the environment. Fears over residents' health and quality of life were also raised.

A fiery public meeting in Glengarry Community Hall, in December 2009, came out strongly against the plan and gave NEDL director Fergus Tickell a torrid time in a question and answer session. In their refusal letter last week to Mr Tickell, planners said the station 'would have an adverse impact on the character of the village and local amenity'. It added: 'It is considered that the proposal, by virtue of its scale, height, siting, appearance and use will have a significantly detrimental impact on local landscape character, does not demonstrate sensitive siting or high quality design, will not contribute to the economic and social development of the community and is not compatible with existing land uses.'

Welcoming the news, Glengarry Community Council treasurer Lee McNally said: 'Everyone here is delighted.'

Caol and Mallaig ward councillors, Eddie Hunter, Allan Henderson and Bill Clark, were given seven days to decide whether the planning committee should 'call in' the planners' refusal for further debate - but chose not to intervene.

Councillor Hunter told *The Oban Times* local opinion had guided his decision to let the recommendation stand. He said: 'The folk of Invergarry are not opposed to a biomass plant, but it did seem to be a bit insensitively sited near the graveyard. There is another site further up the road beyond the dam at the old Hydro depot I would have thought would have been more acceptable.'

NEDL now has three months to decide whether to appeal the decision. Mr Tickell confirmed he had received the refusal notification but was unaware the councillors had, by their non-intervention, ratified the decision. He said: 'What you are telling me is news to me. The councillors have either not responded at all or have responded. If they don't make a comment it is deemed that they have accepted the recommendation, but I have had no indication on how that has panned out. I find it unsatisfactory that I am being told this by you.'

Asked if NEDL would challenge the decision, Mr Tickell added: 'We are looking at the reasons the planning officer has given and we are reflecting on the matter at the moment. We will take a view on this in due course. We have three months to lodge an appeal, but I don't know if the clock has started ticking.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS

More deer talks on agenda

REPRESENTATIVES of conservation body the John Muir Trust (JMT) and deerstalkers have agreed to a further round of talks on managing red deer numbers across the West Highlands.

The move follows a meeting between stalkers spokesperson Iain Thornber and the JMT's head of land and science Mike Daniels in Fort William last Wednesday.

That head to head summit was called after a heated debate in the columns of *The Oban Times* over whether a recent cull of hinds and calves in upper Glen Nevis was appropriate or necessary.

The JMT believes killing deer in certain areas is essential to allow habitats to regenerate from overgrazing, while stalkers maintain wholesale slaughters of deer are disproportionate and threaten their livelihoods in the glens.

In a joint statement, Mr Thornber and Mr Daniels confirmed to *The Oban Times* that consultations

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

between the two sides would continue. They said: 'We had a two hour discussion and a frank exchange of views which were both constructive and helpful. We have agreed to have another meeting with several local stalkers to discuss deer management and conservation issues.'

It understood that the JMT's deer officer, Lester Standen, is also to attend the summit, which will be held in Fort William in the very near future.

Last week the trust presented a petition to the Scottish Parliament demanding action to protect Scotland's wilderness areas which were home, it stated, 'to some of our most iconic wildlife'.

Where there's a will there's a way to raise money for a good cause

FIRST there was Will Aid, then Will Relief, now Oban's solicitors are lending their support to Will Month throughout March to raise money for Friends of Oban Hospice.

The month-long event allows people to make or update a will in return for a donation to the Friends of Oban Hospice, in lieu of a solicitor's fee.

The idea of Will Month was suggested to the charity by Kelie Cooper at MacPhee and Partners. Firms DM MacKinnon and Stevenson Kennedy also signed up to the cause.

Ms Cooper said: 'We have all know somebody who has been helped by a hospice and we value the support it has given, so it's nice to give something back.'

'A lot more people will come forward to do their wills this month because the proceeds are going to charity.'

Suggested donations are £70 for a single will, £95 for mirror wills and £35 for a codicil.

Karen MacAllister of DM MacKinnon said: 'People are often under the impression that, in the event of their death, everything will automatically pass on to their spouse. This is frequently not the case. Making a will can ensure that those who one would want to benefit, do so.'

Ms MacAllister and Stevenson Kennedy solicitor Gordon MacNab said their respective firms were very pleased to be involved in the fundraising for Friends of Oban Hospice.

Anne May, of Friends of Oban Hospice, said: 'We are delighted to receive help from another group of people that we haven't been involved with before.'

'It is always nice to hear from people who have fundraising ideas.'



Helping to launch Will Month are, left to right, back row: Kath McMahon, MacPhee and Partners; Isla McColl, DM MacKinnon; Louise Stewart and Gordon MacNab, both Stevenson Kennedy. Front row: Karen MacAllister, DM MacKinnon; Anne May, Friends of Oban Hospice; and Kelie Cooper, MacPhee and Partners.

NEWSDESK: 01631 568000

15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, March 7, 1996

Oban Waterfront development to go ahead

THE second phase of Oban's Waterfront Development is finally going ahead after years of political and legal wrangling.

The £3.3 million project by Lismore Investments Ltd which is to be built by M&K Macleod will create 40 full-time and 50 temporary jobs.

The development will comprise four buildings on the site adjacent to the railway station, the main feature of which will be a family leisure facility including a ten-pin bowling centre and four-lane indoor carpet bowling arena.

The 24,000sq ft two-storey leisure building will also have a pool room, children's play area, two bars, restaurant and function facilities.

A new bowling club will be established within the centre and the complex will be leased and run by Champions Leisure and will be open to the public and clubs throughout the year between 9am and 10pm.

Parking spaces for 150 cars will also be created.

Next to the leisure complex will be a building consisting of four retail units on the ground floor which will be retained by Eskvale, the property arm of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill. Twenty four luxury flats will be built on the four upper floors.

One-off Oban sale stopped

HUNDREDS of bargain hunters returned home empty handed last week after a one-off sale in Oban was cancelled by Trading Standards officers.

The officers branded the sale illegal - which the company denies - and warned of the risks of buying possibly shoddy goods.

Flyers dropped through household letterboxes advertising hundreds of low-cost electrical and household goods for sale at the Alexandra Hotel on Thursday evening.

After intervention from Trading Standards, however, the venue cancelled the booking and organisers tried to reschedule at the last minute in the Regent Hotel.

The Regent also cancelled, however, on discovering the nature of the sale and hundreds of people were turned away at the door.

'After a tip-off, we made some inquiries into the sale and discovered it was to be a 'mock auction' which is illegal,' said Oban Trading Standards Officer Allan Adcroft.

'The company was advertising electrical goods at very low prices and, in the past at similar auctions, these goods have not been available when people went to buy them - it's just a way of getting people to the sale. People should think carefully before buying goods from this type of sale.'

Doubters proved wrong by reborn Oban mart

A LOT of people said it couldn't be done and some said it shouldn't be done, but Oban Mart was rebuilt and is now entering its second year.

And the market and the co-operative behind it are proving the doubting Thomases wrong in the best possible way, by going from strength to strength and expanding.

The venture is also being held up in development and enterprise circles as a shining example of what a local community can achieve.

The old Oban mart went the way of many other markets before it. The rise of large stores wanting to create shopping outwith town centres saw land prices rise and the value of the site became too great to justify its continued use as a mart.

The closure of the mart came as a shock to the farming and commercial life of the region.

Oban Chamber of Commerce was approached by the farming community, concerned at the loss. A co-operative was set up to run the new mart with 540 shareholders. As a co-operative, no matter how large a shareholding someone might have, they only have one vote. Oban Livestock Centre Ltd is a mutual shareholding company and has over 500 shareholders.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Shirt (6)
- 8 Anxiety (6)
- 9 Particle (4)
- 10 Dignified (8)
- 11 Make smaller (7)
- 13 Of seaweed (5)
- 15 Normal (5)
- 17 Hurt (7)
- 20 Foot treatment (8)
- 21 Ill-gotten gains (4)
- 23 Deluge (6)
- 24 First act (6)

Down

- 1 Smudge (4)
- 2 Season (6)
- 3 Fixed (4,3)
- 4 Manly (5)
- 5 Fuel (6)
- 6 Touch (8)
- 12 Former ones (3-5)
- 14 Nothing to do (7)
- 16 Dislike (6)
- 18 Crab youngster? (6)
- 19 Enjoy a drink! (5)
- 22 Told a porky (4)

Last Week's Solution

S	P	E	C	R							
O	A	H	L	I	A	E	X	O	G	E	T
K	E	T	A	M	T						
R	I	S	C	W	I	N	S	G	M	N	A
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OT

Sir Jimmy stars in new Lochaber video

A SPECTACULAR new action video featuring Sir Jimmy Savile has been launched online to promote Lochaber. "Choose Your Own Adventure" is the second in a series of tongue-in-cheek videos Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK) are releasing featuring Sir Jimmy. The "viral" videos are designed to spread quickly across social networking sites on the internet. This time he is reflecting on a lifetime of activities and adventures, focusing on mountain biking, ice climbing, skiing, and kayaking. Stunt doubles, including Danny MacAskill, downhill biker Joe Barnes and skier Mike Pescod, demonstrate a range of incredible sporting skills and stunts. OCUK's Frazer Coupland said: "We wanted to promote Lochaber as the country's top spot to experience outdoor pursuits in as humorous and memorable way as possible."

Roy Bridge ceilidh boosts flower funds

A FUND to brighten up two villages with floral displays has been boosted by a ceilidh held at Roy Bridge Hall. The event featured prize raffles and Fort William band Music Shed who, dressed in 1970s Abba-style clothes, sang hit songs by the famous pop group. Almost £580 was raised for planting tubs and flowerbeds throughout Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge. The ceilidh was organised by the Glen Spean and Great Glen Marketing group which have organised floral displays in the village for several years. Chairman Ian McDougall said: "Thanks to the successful evening the displays will be bigger and better than ever this year."



Strathmore Hotels general manager Brian Hume, Ben Nevis Hotel operations manager Stuart Battersby and Alexandra Hotel staff say farewell to Tommy on Monday. 10_109tommy01

End of an era at Alexandra Hotel as Tommy retires

IT WAS the end of an era at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William on Monday as staff bade farewell to general maintenance man Tommy MacLean, who retired on his 65th birthday after almost 37 years service. Tommy started work as a joiner for Milton Hotels on April 17, 1974, his first job to make the group's six hotels, the Milton and the Alexandra, both now owned by Strathmore Hotels, his work involving everything from ordering taps to plastering ceilings. At Monday's celebration buffet, staff presented Tommy with a bottle of Ben Nevis malt whisky. General manager Brian Hume gave him gift vouchers

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

looked after every aspect of maintenance at the Ben Nevis Hotel (formerly the Milton) and the Alexandra, both now owned by Strathmore Hotels, his work involving everything from ordering taps to plastering ceilings. At Monday's celebration buffet, staff presented Tommy with a bottle of Ben Nevis malt whisky. General manager Brian Hume gave him gift vouchers

on behalf of Strathmore Hotels. The Wednesday Club, a group of former Alex employees who meet weekly in the hotel for lunch, also presented Tommy with a gift. Paying tribute to Tommy for his years of dedicated service, Mr Hume told him: "Thank you for all the hours you have put in, often coming at night at the drop of a hat. In all sincerity, tie up your boots and enjoy your retirement." Tommy told *The Oban Times* his new life of (comparative) leisure would take a bit of getting used to. "It's actually quite worrying," he said. "I started work at 15 and I have never been without a job

since. The job here was hectic - it was 25 hours a day, eight days a week. There was something happening all the time. "But I'll find plenty to do - I'm renovating our kitchen in my house, so that's my task for the next month!" Mr Hume told *The Oban Times*: "Tommy will be sadly missed. He knows every nook and cranny of the two buildings. We have worked with each other for 24 years and throughout that time Tommy has been a great colleague and a good friend." A further gift is on its way to Tommy's door, we understand - by van.

Witnesses re-live Aquila tragedy

AN INQUIRY at Fort William Sheriff Court into the tragedy that left three fishermen drowned off the coast of Ardnamurchan heard from a string of witnesses last week, including the man who rescued the only survivor of the incident. The fatal accident inquiry started on Monday and heard

By RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk evidence about the conditions surrounding the capsizing of the scallop trawler *Aquila* a mile and a half north of Fascalade, on July 20, 2009. Thomas Sanderson, Peter Hilton and skipper Tony Hayton, all of Maryport,

England, died in the accident. On Monday, Eric McIlwraith, who fished alongside Mr Hayton for 20 years, told the inquiry how he helped search for the men after their boat went down. Sole survivor Timothy Rowley gave his evidence on Tuesday, when he told how Peter Hilton had died in his arms.

Retired teacher threw life ring to sole survivor

Day three - Wednesday February 23 A RETIRED teacher from Skye who rescued Mr Rowley from the freezing water told the inquiry he first thought the fisherman's cries for help was a seagull. Christopher Pendlebury was sailing solo from Coll to Arisaig on the day of the accident and was rounding Ardnamurchan Point when he heard the mayday call on his radio. He saw no sign of the wreckage until he heard Mr Rowley calling Mr Pendlebury said: "I heard what sounded a little bit like a yell, but I dismissed it as being a seagull." He soon realised there was someone in the water, and pulled him towards the yacht with a life ring. "He amazed me. He started pulling himself upwards, so I just leaned over and rolled him in." Meanwhile, the man who compiled an underwater report of the submerged vessel told the court the *Aquila's* dredges caught on the only rock on a "near-perfect dredging seabed", causing it to capsize. John Beaton, managing director of Invergordon-based underwater contractors Caldive, said: "It was the only rock in that area, the rest was sand. The rock had a very small rise, maybe 200millimetres, and I'm staggered it was able to catch both the wires."

scene in approximately 48 to 49 minutes. We may not have been closest, but we had a 20knot tailwind so we might have been fastest." They were then called out again more than an hour after the initial call. Mr Gibson said: "We were dealing with Clyde coastguard. We received very limited radio information in-flight, and we were unable to raise Stornoway on the radio. "We were asking for numbers, assets on scene, information about the tide and wind. We got no reply so we devised our own rescue plan." They eventually found one of the fishermen's bodies and took him to Broadford Hospital on Skye, but Mr Gibson said the coastguard had not given the kind of support they would normally expect. "We did not get the service we required for an incident of this type. It was not their best performance." **Day five - Friday February 25** CONSULTANT pathologist at Raigmore Hospital Dr Rosslyn Rankin told the inquiry underlying health problems may have "accelerated" the deaths of two of the fishermen. Dr Rankin conducted the post mortems, and said all three men died as a result of drowning and their other injuries were small bruises. But Dr Rankin also said Mr Sanderson and Mr Hayton had clogged arteries around their hearts, meaning coronary problems "could have accelerated" their deaths. The inquiry was earlier told by Mr Rowley that Mr Hilton had complained of back pain before he died, but Dr Rosslyn said she found no signs of injury to his spine or ribs. She said the pain might have been caused by muscle damage. Sheriff Paul Crozier adjourned proceedings until March 21.

New recycling bins for Lochaber homes

PREPARATIONS for the introduction of new household refuse and recycling bins in Lochaber stepped up a gear this week as Highland Council begin distributing calendars and booklets detailing the new service. Households with blue recycling boxes are being issued with the blue wheelee bins for paper, food tins and drink cans, cardboard and plastic bottles, which will be emptied fortnightly. Grey and green refuse bins will be collected fortnightly on weeks in between on the same day. All households should have received two-year calendars and the accompanying booklet by the start of the new service on April 4. The council's waste awareness team will also visit local homes and hold area events to advise on any concerns surrounding the change.



TEC Services chairman Brian Murphy and Highland Council waste management assistant Scott Bellwood, centre, deliver a blue recycling bin to the Stephen family of Kenny, Ruairaidh, Arran, Alison, Struan and Cameron, at their Cameron Road home in Fort William.

TEC Services committee John Laing said successful trials of the system in Skye and Lochalsh had boosted recycling by 50 per cent and cut residual waste by 427 tonnes. He said: "When you consider that the council has to pay £48- about to increase to £56 - per tonne for landfill waste this represents considerable savings to Council Tax payers in addition to the important environment benefits." The collections are also being rolled out to all commercial customers Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh. Businesses are being contacted to discuss service levels and waste minimisation.

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West Highland restaurants win prestigious awards

THREE West Highland establishments won awards at the prestigious 2011 Scottish Restaurant Awards at the Glasgow Science Centre on Monday. Dunvegan eatery Three Chimneys was named Best Rural Restaurant Of The Year, whilst the Loch Leven Seafood Café, near Kinlochleven, was given Seafood Restaurant of the Year. The Colbost-based Three Chimneys saw off strong competition from Eat on the Green from Ellon and the Monachyle Mhor in Perthshire. The restaurant boasts a VisitScotland

Gold 5-star rating and co-owner Shirley Spear told *The Oban Times* they were delighted with their award. She said: "We're all thrilled, it's great to be recognised like this. This award endorses what we stand for, serving good quality local produce, and the work that's involved in sustaining it. Hopefully it'll help to promote the Isle of Skye and the amazing food producers and fishermen who work here." The Loch Leven Seafood Café saw off Glasgow's Two Fat Ladies and The Seafood Restaurant in St Andrews, and owner Alison Grieve and chef director Barry Moran were travelled to the ceremony to pick up their prize. Alison told *The Oban Times* she plans to display the trophy in the restaurant. She said: "We were really delighted to get the award, it was a really, really nice surprise. Hopefully it will let people know that we are here and maybe encourage some people from the central belt to come up and pay us a visit." The Isle of Eriska, near Benderloch, also picked up a prize, winning Best Hotel Restaurant of the Year.

Save YOUR cinema with the Oban Times Ticket appeal

Join one of the many A-list filmstars: Harry Potter's Hagrid, Robbie Coltrane, the White Witch from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Oscar winner Tilda Swinton, *Four Wedding and A Funeral's* John Hannah, Scottish film director Bill Forsyth and the inimitable Mr Bean, Rowan Atkinson and help re-open Oban's Cinema



The Oban Times Ticket appeal is simple: Buy a Gold, Silver or Bronze ticket and help raise the funds needed to re-open the cinema. Your ticket will be printed out and proudly displayed on the wall of the newly refurbished cinema along with your name, so future visitors of the cinema can see who helped raise the "phoenix from the ashes"



How to pledge your cash.

There are three types of ticket - Gold at £50, Silver at £25 and Bronze at £5. every donation will be carefully invested in the future of the cinema. If for any reason the cinema doesn't get up and running all monies will be returned.

Name.....

Address.....

Email address.....

Pledge GOLD SILVER BRONZE (Tick as applicable)

I would like to pay an extra £17.75 for the framing of my ticket as a gift.

Post or hand in to: Times Ticket, The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB

Cheques or Postal Orders made payable to Times Ticket.

A full list of donors can be viewed in the Oban Times until the cinema is opened.

Total amount paid..... Name you want to appear on the ticket.....

Fishing boat saved from sinking off Isle of Rum

A SINKING fishing boat was saved by the Mallaig lifeboat and four other fishing vessels near the Isle of Rum on Tuesday morning. The four-man crew onboard the *Caralisa* were two miles northwest of Rum when they noticed water in the hold and engine room. They called for help just before 6am with the mayday call relayed to Stornoway Coastguard by the nearby fishing vessel *Rebecca Janeen*. The *Rebecca Janeen* and another fishing vessel, *Ocean Hunter*, rushed to the scene and the Mallaig RNLI lifeboat was launched. Two other fishing vessels, *Viking Borg* and *Amethyst*, heard the distress call and also went to help. Four water pumps were put onboard to stop the water level getting any higher, but it took the arrival of the extra pumps from the lifeboat for the water level to start receding. The stricken boat was then chaperoned into Mallaig Harbour under its own steam with the crew onboard. Stornoway Coastguard watch manager Martin Collins said: "Without the combined efforts of all four fishing vessels and the lifeboat there's a good chance that the *Caralisa* would have sunk. "We now have the best outcome to an incident, all the crew are safe and well and the boat has been saved."

Police believe Lochaber laird's boat was set on fire deliberately

POLICE are continuing to treat as suspicious an incident in which a boat belonging to Lochaber laird Sir Cameron Macintosh was destroyed in a suspected arson attack. The burned-out vessel was discovered at a Loch Morar jetty on the croft at the centre of a long running dispute between Sir Cameron and brother Donald Cameron. The Caol pensioner has been trying to buy his 711-acre croft at 1 and 2 Tarbet from Sir Cameron's Nevis Estate, but a Scottish Land Court judge backed the landowner's claim on 22 acres of the croft for a bunkhouse and smallholding project. Crucially Lord McGhie found no legal reason to reject Mr Cameron's application to buy the remainder of the croft. Estate factor Andrew Aitchison told *The Oban Times* the boat was worth £10,000, but local crofting sources claimed the value was closer to £1,500. Mr Aitchison said: "I know that people in the local community are concerned fingers are being pointed at them. "Nobody from our side has been pointing any fingers, but it is peculiar it should happen a week after the court ruling. Asked if he felt the fire was related to the croft dispute, Mr Cameron said: "I wouldn't think so. There's been boats on the loch for as long as I can remember, and I've never heard of anything like this." Northern Constabulary chief inspector John Chisholm said: "We believe the fire to have been started deliberately."



On The London Eye with Parliament behind: Lochaber 56 pupils Ruth Earnshaw, Marianne MacDonald, Brady Gillies, Ellen Chrystal, Debbie Morrison.

Senior Lochaber High School pupils enjoy annual trip to London

LOCHABER High sixth years are back at school following their outing to London last Thursday to Sunday. Seventy seven pupils and staff made the trip, which has become an annual feature on the senior school's schedule of extra-curricular activities. Thursday evening saw dinner in the West End at Carluccio's, a short walk long Park Lane from the party's Meininger Hotel base in Kensington. On Friday groups took in Arsenal's Emirates Stadium, The National Gallery, a Big Bus Tour and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. After lunch at Harrod's, groups visited the South Kensington Museums, Wimbledon, Westminster Abbey and Parliament before dinner in the Hard Rock Café and the choice of 'Chicago' at the Cambridge Theatre or LaserQuest in Woking. Saturday saw groups visiting Madame Tussaud's, The London Dungeon or the Cabinet War Rooms/Churchill Museum before an afternoon shopping Oxford Street/Regent Street area. Evening groups enjoyed 'The Lion King' at the Lyceum Theatre and LaserQuest. A ride on The London Eye on Sunday provided a spectacular finale to what had been a great trip. The long journey home ended with pupils singing 'Happy Birthday' to Michael Kennedy who turned 18 as the group arrived back in Fort William just after midnight - a birthday he won't forget! Head teacher Jim Sutherland said the trip was a reward to senior pupils for their contribution to the school, their high standard of behaviour and good example to younger pupils. He said: "I'm delighted with the way the trip went and can only praise our young people for their impeccable behaviour and good humour throughout. "Thanks to everybody who made it all possible."

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Are hybrid vessels the shape of things to come?

COULD 'hybrid' ferries, using a mix of battery power and diesel be the shape of things to come?

Caledonian Maritime Assets, the company which owns Caledonian MacBrayne's vessels and harbours confirms that hybrid ferries could be ordered as early as next year, ready for service the following year.

They would serve on the shorter routes which don't require larger vessels, such as the mainland crossings to the likes of Gigha, Lismore and Raasay.

With batteries charged using wind power, and the need for less diesel, these 145ft long craft may be somewhat more environmentally friendly.

But those who rely on the ferries will wish to be convinced of their reliability.

There is also the question of cost. Hybrid technology adds an extra £1million to the cost of a vessel.

What will this mean for ticket prices?

We await developments with interest.

Good fortune

ONE lucky punter in Oban is more than £40,000 better off this week - all thanks to a 50p bet.

He struck it rich with a Lucky 31 - a complex accumulator bet - on the horses.

Although the chap in question asked to remain anonymous, he shouldn't be hard to spot.

He'll be the one walking around with a permanent smile on his face!

Let's hope there's more good fortune to come our way.

Now where did we put last night's Lottery ticket?



Taynuilt Highland Games - 1927

Janet Sossick of Surrey sent in this week's flashback photograph which shows dancers performing the Sailors Hornpipe at the 1927 Taynuilt Highland Games. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

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GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir Concert

FOR THE past few years the senior and junior Glasgow Islay Choirs have held their concert in Bearsden and although the venue this year changed from the Kessington Hall to Bearsden Hall the event once again attracted a sizeable audience.

They were not to be disappointed as the choir sang separately, as well as some combined items, demonstrating why they both continue to feature amongst the prizewinners at Mods.

Margaret MacLeod, of Na h'Oganach fame, chaired the concert and made a huge contribution to the success of the event linking the items on the programme in a friendly, informal and humorous manner. Prior to her success with Na h'Oganach, Margaret was a member of the choir when she won her Gold Medal in 1970 so this was very much a homecoming evening for her.

Soloists from the senior choir were Jennifer Campbell, Janet Campbell, Rena Gertz and last year's Mod Gold Medallist Iain MacLean, while Claire Campbell, Kristina MacDonald and Rebekah Boyle did likewise from the junior choir. Also from the juniors, Abigail Cavanagh, Cara MacDonald and Kirsty Thomson sang as a trio with all of these items on the programme being thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

Another particular treat at the concert was the piping of guest Mairi MacDonald, a senior pupil at the Gaelic School, and yet another of the many young top class exponents of our great piping tradition.

This was an evening of choral music enjoyed by everyone present and they can now look forward to the concerts of the other two city choirs later this month.

Annual Gathering and Dance

AS I INDICATED last week, the annual gathering and dance of the Glasgow Islay Association will be held in Glasgow University Union at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 5.

Please note this is the Saturday evening and not Friday as in previous years.

John Carmichael will chair the concert which will feature the Islay Pipers, Ian Carmichael, Jane McQueen, Jennifer Campbell and Iain MacLean together with the Ballochmyle Band.

The dance will follow the concert to the music of the Ballochmyle Band.

GG concert

THE SECOND annual concert of city choirs, that of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical

Association, will be held in Partick Burgh Halls on Friday, March 11, at 7.30pm.

After their success at the 2010 National Mod this should be an event providing high quality musical entertainment.

Oban Former Pupils annual dinner dance

THE ANNUAL dinner dance of the Oban High School Former Pupils will take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 7.30pm on Saturday March 12.

For tickets, cost £30, please contact Isabel Byers at 0141 563 9729 or Anne Byers at 0141 943 0281.

The committee would be delighted if as many as possible former pupils could support this event.

Aye Write Festival

FOR THE sixth year Aye Write, Glasgow's Book Festival, will take place in the Mitchell Library from tomorrow, Friday, March 4, until Saturday, March 12.

Some of the events are already sold out but for the full programme consult the website www.ayewrite.com or for tickets telephone 0141 287 2999.

Diary dates

Thursday March 3: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jim Malcolm.

Friday March 4: Aye Write Festival - see above

Saturday March 5: Glasgow Islay Association Annual Gathering and Dance - see above.

Thursday March 10: Comun Taobh an Jar Ceilidh, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm Sarah McQuaid. RSAMD, Scottish Music Year 2 Concert, 7.30pm.

Friday March 11: Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Annual Concert - see above.

Saturday March 12: Uist and Barra Association Annual Piping Competition, College of Piping, Otago Street, 9am-6pm. Paisley and District Highlanders' Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Oban High School Former Pupils' Annual Dinner Dance - see above. Blaz'n Fiddles, MacLaren Hall, Killin.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by Parting Glass on Friday and Counsellor Out on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Ballochmyle on Friday, Monach Islay on Saturday with Sunday still to be confirmed.

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

Months of turmoil on Islay

Sir, Along with other Argyll and Bute communities, we have been through a tough time in recent months as our primary school appeared on the council's proposed list of school closures.

As parents we were thrown into turmoil as we saw our youngsters in tears over the thought of losing their school. We dared to imagine the worst scenario and how it would impact on our children's education and on our community.

Over the past few years the children at Keills Primary School, encouraged and led by the staff, have taken ownership of their school and its surroundings. They enlisted the help of parents, members of the local community and local businesses and we soon found ourselves involved in their planned days of action. The children worked with the community painting, digging, fencing, planting to turn the grounds into a large, welcoming space for imaginary play.

An active learning area was also created where the children now grow their own produce. As parents we are regularly invited to workshops with our children, to participate in their learning, as they guide us through presentations and scenarios on topics such as first aid and healthy living.

A number of our fathers are volunteers for the lifeboat crew; one father is the coxswain. The close proximity of the school to the lifeboat station means these dads are able to participate fully in their children's education, carrying their papers with them, they attend assemblies and workshops, safe in the knowledge they can be at the lifeboat in a moment's notice.

We are incredibly fortunate. I was more than concerned to hear of Highland Council's intention to discontinue its free waste skip service to rural areas such as Ardnarmurchan. Over the years the sight of abandoned items including cars and caravans has been bad enough without adding the potential for household items such as TVs and cookers.

For that is exactly what will happen when people living in remote areas whose disposable income is very limited are asked to pay £5 per item removed.

We are currently trying our utmost to increase the incoming revenue from tourism, the largest employer in the Highlands. This will not be made easier if, because of a lack of affordable disposable services, we convert some of our most beautiful landscapes into fly tipping havens.

I suggest the council rethinks the real cost of this measure as cleaning up after fly tippers is going to be more costly than supplying the skip which currently comes to Ardnarmurchan once every three weeks.

Eric McVicar, Strontian.

Is SWT up to the job of management?

Sir, We are fortunate in this country to enjoy the right of free speech and Mark Foxwell of The Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) is perfectly entitled to air his views in the press along with the rest of us, *The Oban Times* February 17.

However, when these are being made on behalf of a major landowner and are out of step with the public it is surely time for trust members and neighbouring estate owners to ask if SWT is up to the job of management.

Mr Foxwell bases his case on there being too many deer in Scotland and throws in the old chestnut about the lack of natural predation.

Because counting deer in the wild is not an exact science no one knows what the total population is. What many stalkers and gamekeepers do know though, through observation and common sense, is that there are fewer deer now than there ever were and as the result, their jobs are at risk.

As for there being no natural predators, is Mr Foxwell not aware that the mortality rate among calves during the first few months of their lives can be as high as 33 per cent and, where foxes exist, it will be even higher?

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.

Don't blame Royal Mail

Sir, As an ex-Royal Mail worker and having read your story on the Christmas card that took eight weeks to be delivered to the island of Luing, I am astonished the people sending it even bothered to use Royal Mail.

At the busiest time of year for our fantastic postmen and women, the last thing they need is the extra hassle they are met with when people don't even bother with the most important part, the post code!

You would have thought that with the weather being so severe, and with the current economic climate, it would have been more cost effective to just hand deliver this letter.

Unfortunately, this story has been a tad embarrassing for the

hard workers of the Royal Mail who in fairness were not to blame as the address was extremely vague.

I don't think the senders should be criticising the Royal Mail but instead should be thanking them for managing to deliver it to the proper address with the little information they had.

C Campbell, Oban.

Overwhelmed by kindness

Sir, Myself and my mum Marliese would like to say a massive thank you to Pamela and the staff at Rutherford for all they have done over this past few weeks.

Their time, kindness and thoughts will never be forgotten. Thank you also to everyone who donated to the collection box, the raffle and helped out on the fundraising day.

A thank you also goes to Ewan and Lorraine at the Floorshop for their kind donation which is greatly appreciated.

We have both been overwhelmed by the kindness of you all and you will always hold a place in our hearts.

I would also like to thank *The Oban Times* for the kindness and compassion they have shown. Thanks again.

Louise and Marliese MacDonald, 3 Nelson Road, Oban.

School recycling makes sense

Sir, In response to the story you ran about Oban's Rockfield Primary School and RagBag, and as a member of this year's Castle Toward Fundraising Committee, I would like to thank you for publishing it.

With the recent council cuts and necessity for households to recycle more, would it not be better for the council to encourage more schools to do this and to make tenants aware that they have an easy way to recycle their textiles while helping local children?

Argyll and Bute Council is removing its funding to GRAB Trust, Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute, to save money.

GRAB's figures for our

council show kerbside waste collected in 2008/09 was just under 60,000 tonnes, a cost of £9 million for that year, of which five per cent was textiles that went to landfill at a cost of £450,000, not to mention the cost of collecting and transporting the waste. Instead of removing funding to GRAB, the council would save more money by encouraging all types of recycling, especially in Oban where all kerbside collections go straight to landfill.

RagBag encourages children to recycle by showing them that the textiles they collect go to clothe people in Third World countries or are made into industrial wipes.

If all the textiles that had been sent to landfill in 2008/09 had been donated to RagBag, and all the primary schools in Argyll took part, each school could have made an average of almost £19,000, as RagBag pay the schools £500 per tonne. So please, if you have any old textiles drop them into the RagBag bin at Rockfield primary campus.

With more budget cuts for schools, how much would they benefit from that income for collecting textiles at no cost to parents? How much would the council save from not having to collect it in the first place? How much better would the environment be when children learn the 3 Rs, - to reuse, reduce and recycle from an early age?

Our next uplift date is March 15 when the pupils will be helping to take the collected items to the RagBag lorry for weighing. Contact the campus for more information or if you need your textiles uplifted.

Lorna MacKenzie, Oban.

Passenger ferry service vital

Sir, It's reassuring to be told by Councillor Morton that the council 'will listen' in the course of fine-tuning their revised school closure proposals.

It's less reassuring to discover - on the council's website - that they're trumpeting their ongoing struggle to ensure a 'vehicle element' to any new ferry service between Gourock and Dunoon.

It states how they had 'worked tirelessly to ensure that the tender would allow the community's aspirations for a vehicle service to be incorporated...this service is vital for the economic and social cohesion and well-being of the two communities and their surrounding areas'. Rubbish.

It's the passenger service that's vital as Dunoon already enjoys an efficient, subsidy-free vehicle ferry service to Gourock.

I'm told a passenger only service would need heavy subsidy, thus vehicles must be carried as well to improve the economics, but ever since the link span was installed at Gourock, the ferry terminal there has been oriented at vehicles rather than passengers.

What is vital is that the passenger service is dedicated to just that, free of the need to dock at the Gourock linkspan, free of the need for extra boat crew and shore staff to marshal vehicles, free to provide a comfortable, fast, frequent, rapid turn-round service that really does provide the shortest possible sheltered cross-platform link to trains and out of the station into the street.

And, of course, a service that's disabled friendly.

As the existing CalMac boats are life-expired, the opportunity must be taken to provide boats fit for purpose in every sense - but not incorporating the space and paraphernalia for carrying vehicles.

Is the extra cost of providing new vehicle capacity really outweighed by the extra revenue from carrying vehicles? And if there's real commitment to the best possible service, and to encouraging people out of their cars and onto public transport, isn't there great potential for increasing passenger numbers

and thus revenue? I can't help thinking that it's just such commitment over the years that's been the reason for Western Ferries' success and that - perhaps unfortunately - this has led to people being lured away from public transport and into their cars for cross-Clyde travel.

This all leaves me wondering if our council isn't being led by the nose by someone who seems to be more interested in hot air than in what really is needed for the people of Argyll and Bute.

Robert Wakeham, Castleton, by Lochgilphead.

MP speaks up for his constituency

Sir, I refer to the letter you printed last week from Mr McCormack of the SNP.

I agree with Mr McCormack that political parties should work together.

That is why Liberal Democrats and Conservatives are working together to sort out the problems caused by the enormous burden of debt left behind by the previous government.

Thanks to the influence of Scottish Liberal Democrats in the Government, Scotland's share of the cuts is less than the rest of the UK.

When, however, another party takes a decision that is bad for my constituency I will speak out. I did just that when the SNP Government at Holyrood cut Argyll and Bute Council's grant by more than any other council in Scotland.

Our local SNP MSP said nothing in the Scottish Parliament. If I were a Member of the Scottish Parliament, I would have kicked up an enormous row about this scandal.

When Councillor Alison Hay was leader of Argyll and Bute Council she wasn't afraid to speak out against a Scottish Government that her own party was part of.

She got another £1 million a year for the council. We need people like Alison in the Scottish Parliament, not silent people like our current SNP MSP.

Alan Reid MP, Dunoon, Argyll.

The late Ada Andrews

Sir, I am attempting to contact the daughters of the late Ada Mary Andrews, nee Taylor, who lived for some time at Tower View, Villa Road, Oban.

I am helping an authoress who is writing a history of the craftsmen who worked for the famous furniture manufacturer Waring and Gillow in Lancaster.

The father of the late Ada Mary Andrews, one Joseph Taylor, who was their grand-father and also my great uncle, was one of the most skilled wood carvers employed by the company.

I would be most grateful if you could contact me with any recollections, photographs or drawings relating to their grandfather. I believe that at some time one or both of the daughters had a dental practice in the Oban district.

Alan Bland, 103 Chequers Avenue, Lancaster, LA1 4JA.

No vote

Sir, I refer to the letter written by Mr McCormack (Feb 24). He asks why I attended the CoSLA meeting of November 19.

I am one of six CoSLA spokespersons. My portfolio is Regeneration and Sustainability and part of this remit is Climate Change and if Mr McCormack had taken the time to check he would have seen that my attendance on November 19 was to speak to a paper on Climate Change (Report on Proposals and Policies) among other things I did on that day with regard to my spokespersonship.

To be crystal clear I have NO vote at CoSLA and therefore had NO vote on the 19th.

Councillor Alison Hay, Lib-Dem PPC for Argyll and Bute.

A view from the tower By McCaig

Unrealistic propositions

FEW would believe the thorny question of the closure of primary schools in Argyll & Bute can take so many unexpected turns as is happening currently.

First, we had an extravagant list, drawn up by officials on an arithmetical basis without any attention to the needs and rights of the children involved. This, overseen by Isobel Strong, the SNP education spokesperson - a retired teacher herself who surely could not have been serious in seeking the council's unanimous support. She knew that the closure of rural primary schools is a subject that one handles with the greatest care for such closures in the eyes of the communities concerned are the beginning of the end for them.

It was not surprising that her list of closures did not receive the support necessary for them to be ratified by the full council, leading to the withdrawal of the SNP group from being in 'government' to becoming a sniping opposition. Now, the new education

spokesperson: Councillor Ellen Morton, has produced a new list of just 11 schools which will become the subject of interim consultations prior to a full consultation going ahead. In my view, this seemed to be an admirable decision to take the heat out of what has become a thorny and emotive topic. However, in this summary I have not mentioned the part played by Councillor Dick Walsh, leader of the local authority.

While Isobel Strong as the SNP spokesperson on Education, has been vilified for the original list no mention has been made of Councillor Dick Walsh, the council leader, who turns out to be a strong supporter of closing small, rural schools in the name of saving money immaterial of the consequences to teachers, parents and pupils. But now we have a new scenario.

Mike Russell, the current Education Minister and SNP Prospective Candidate for this constituency, whom I understood to be in favour of the much shortened list of schools, this week announced that, in light of the fact that Argyll & Bute is one of the best funded councils in Scotland, there shouldn't be a need to close any schools. I wonder

where Mr Russell gets these figures and how many of his party's 'faithful' accept that statement?

The piping revolution marches on

LAST week, a very full Argyllshire Gathering Hall heard international quality piping from Willie MacCallum and a very high standard also from pupils of Oban High School and from various feeder primary schools, much to the delight of parents and friends as well as those who may have helped financially with the other part of the evening: the presentation of 12 sets of bagpipes paid for with a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery through its 'Awards for All' scheme and by private donations made through this column on behalf of the Argyllshire Piping Trust.

We should all rejoice that the art of piping has had a magnificent rejuvenation in the last few years thanks to the generosity of Argyll County Council and the Stewards Argyllshire Gathering who between them pay the tutors of the young people between them. It is no accident that two of the tutors,

Stuart Liddell and Angus MacColl, have been the driving force behind the Inveraray Schools Pipe Band and the Oban High School Pipe Band - the current world champions at this grade. We must not forget the sterling work done by the other tutor, James Carmichael, on Islay, where he has an astonishing number of pupils. What many people don't realise is that while a chanter may be within the reach of most parents' sporrans a set of pipes costs from £1,000 upwards. The pipes that were handed over will be made available to promising young pipers.

While the 'Awards for All' grant was wonderful on its own it was a 'one off'. To keep the buying of pipes for rent the Argyllshire Piping Trust still needs generous patrons to support their worthy aims. Donations, large or small, will be welcomed by Peter Forrester, Senior Steward of the Argyllshire Gathering, The Halls, Oban.

Oban Common Good Fund

IT is a matter of deep regret to me and to all Obanites that the generosity of the Sinclair family in providing the

funds to set up the Oban Common Good Fund are being vilified in the name of 'political correctness'.

The terms of the fund are quite clear - it does not matter where a Trust member resides as long as he represents a ward with Oban in its name. Therefore, the attempt to unseat the current chairman is erroneous.

As far as those who claim that they don't know what the Oban Common Good Fund is and what its duties are they need not remain in ignorance any longer. They can apply to The Secretary, Oban Common Good Fund, c/o Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA43 4AR (tel: 01631 567902) to receive a full colour leaflet which explains the background, rules and details of how to apply for assistance; but it is no 'dripping roast' for those looking for easy handouts.

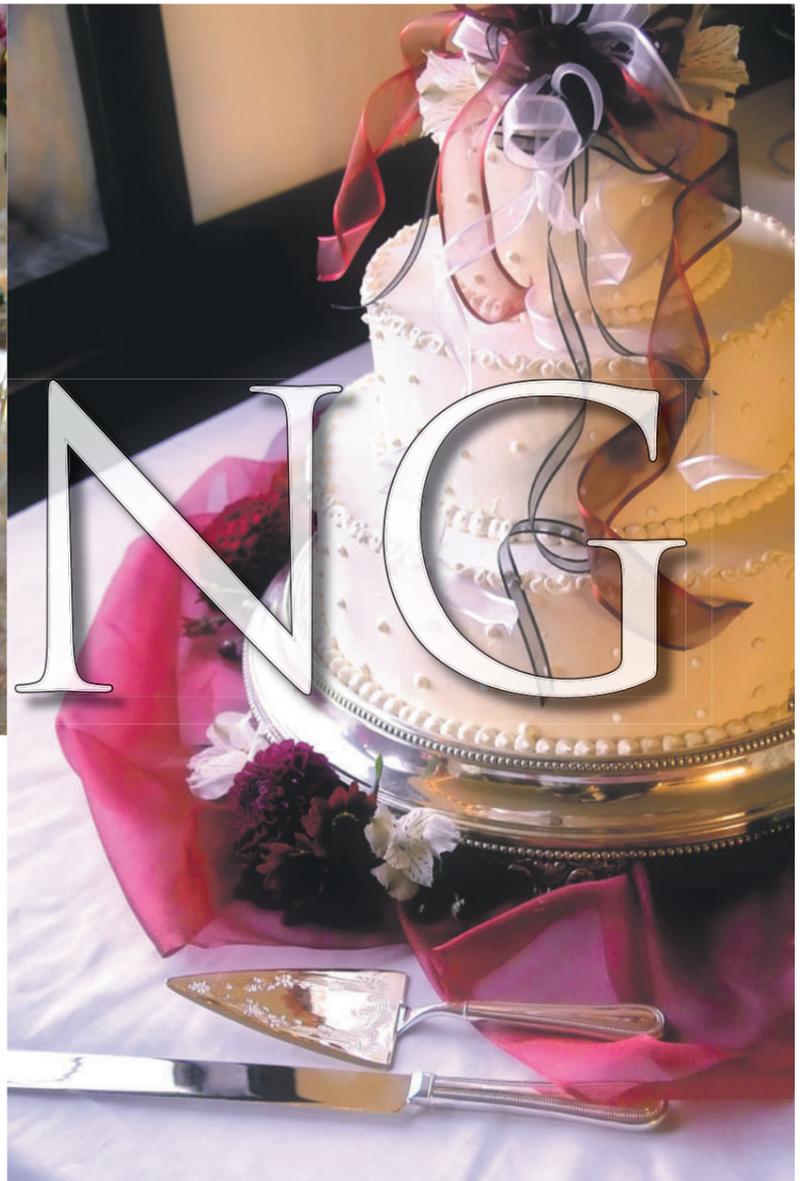
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THE BEGINNINGS of spring and the impending nuptials of HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton in April have signalled the start of the wedding season.

There seems to be no end to the options available when it comes to venues, dresses, bands, cakes and catering to help make the 'perfect day' just that. But time after time, the Scottish west Highlands and its traditional approach to the occasion proves too much of a pull for thousands of couples looking to tie the knot in some of the most romantic settings. The mouth-watering local food, world-class musicians and the famous Highland hospitality are known around the world. So, while many travel from all four corners of the globe to marry in Argyll, Lochaber Perthshire and the Western Isles, it is often couples from the native population that fill the wedding register each year. Through the search for greater life experience and employment, the majority of young people in the Highlands will leave the area. But the strong community structure and comradeship

they leave behind will continue to bind them to their 'home' into later life and this often plays a major part in the decision of where their wedding will take place. However, it has always been popular for couples - regardless of where they are from - to choose a Highland destination for the area's beauty and tranquillity and over the years there have been many modern twists on the traditional occasion. Everything you need for your wedding day is never far away from any location. Scottish law dictates couples can get married, or conduct a civil partnership, in any location, be it an island, a boat, a castle or gardens - some couples even choose landmarks such as McCaig's Tower. The only thing you can't book is a sunny day! One thing you can count on in the Highlands, whatever you organise for the ceremony, is a great party afterwards. So before you tick all the boxes on your wedding planner, check out The Oban Times' Spring Wedding Guide for everything you need to make your Highland wedding a day for you and guests to remember.

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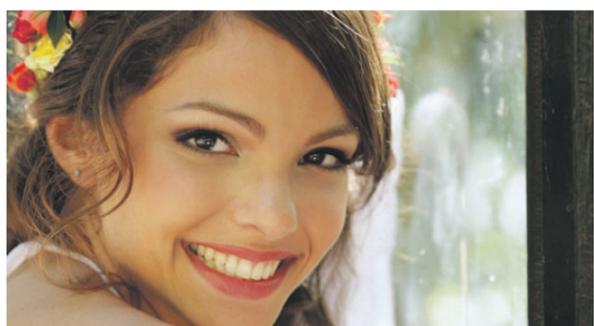
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Netherlorn takes delivery of 12 new sets of bagpipes

ARGYLL Piping Trust has handed over 12 sets of bagpipes to some of the most promising young pipers in Argyll after securing a £10,000 grant from Awards for All.

The pipes, which were designed by Campbeltown piper Willie MacCallum, were officially passed on at Netherlorn Piping Society's monthly meeting last Wednesday in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls, where Willie was the headline performer.

Instrumental
 The trust has been instrumental in reinventing the piping scene in Argyll by part-funding piping tuition in Oban, Lochgilphead and Islay high schools and their feeder primary schools.

Addressing one of the largest audiences the Netherlorn Piping Society has seen in recent years, Angus Nicol of the Argyll Piping Trust said: 'In the late 1980s it became noticeable there were very few up-and-coming young pipers in Argyll, Argyll being the home of piping for well over a century.'

Extended
 Since then the trust has extended its tuition funding to Mid Argyll and Islay.

The three tutors who are supported by the trust, Angus MacColl, Oban; Stuart Liddell, Mid Argyll; and James Carmichael, Islay, were also in attendance at the handover last week and James brought four of his pupils along with him.

He said: 'We have been given four sets of bagpipes, which will help us enormously.'

Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar said: 'We



Angus Nicol of the Argyll Piping Trust and Willie MacCallum of McCallum Bagpipes hand over pipes to some of the Argyll youngsters who will benefit from the trust's donation. 15_109pipe01

were asked by the piping trust to host the handover of the pipes and we were only too happy to do so because we recognise what they do for piping in Argyll.'

In 2010 the Argyll Piping Trust supported tuition in 17 primary schools at a cost of £23,908. Some 167 pupils received tuition during the year and tutors also teach 45 pupils on the pipes at high school level.

The activities of the trust are funded from charitable donations from the Argyllshire Gathering and its membership, from entrance fees for competitions and from sponsorship for both the tuition scheme and for the competitions.



A man of many parts - Mike Rowell has multiple roles in Spotlight Musical Theatre Group's production of Guys and Dolls.

Mike is a man of many parts in latest show

A SPARKLING performance of fabulous proportions is about to hit the Corran Halls when Spotlight Musical Theatre Group take to the stage with its much anticipated production of Guys and Dolls.

The lucky few who have managed to catch a glimpse of the performance through the stage doors have been impressed with the professionalism of the cast.

'It is like we have been transported to New York, the scenery, the costumes the accents and the singing all look and sound amazing - it is going to be a brilliant show,' said an onlooker.

Of course regular audience members would expect nothing less from the company which has brought us Kiss Me Kate, High Society and Crazy for You.

But one actor draws particular attention this year - for the sheer volume of roles he has managed to play.

Director Stephen Day said: 'Mike Rowell is a man of many characters in Guys and Dolls. He is a kind of Alec Guinness in Kind Hearts and Coronets, playing multiple characters. We had a requirement for lots of bit parts to be played and I could think of nobody better than Mike

REPORT
 by LOUISE LEE
 llee@obantimes.co.uk

"He is a kind of 1950s version of 24's Jack Bauer - but quite a bit nicer and less prone to shooting people. He does things by the book."

Stephen Day

role of owner and MC of the New York Nightclub where all the gangsters hide out.

'He also plays his brother in Cuba who owns a similar club and he plays his cousin who is a bit of a drinker in New York and so the list goes on.'

Mike is returning to Spotlight after a gap of several years.

His roles in the 1990s were characterised by variety in facial hair: a false moustache for Barney, the waiter in Sweet Charity; mutton chop whiskers for Henry Miller, saloon owner in Calamity Jane and Zoltan Kapatthy, the cunning linguist in My Fair Lady; clean shaven for Charles the butler in Me and My Girl and as the Ringmaster in Barnum.

'We can only hope with so many roles to play that he manages to get his costume changes in the right order otherwise Brannigan might end up undercover in the night club,' said Stephen.

Guys and Dolls begins its three-day run at the Corran Halls tonight (Thursday).

In addition to evening shows, there is a matinee performance on Saturday.

Tickets for the show are available from the Corran Halls on 01631 567333.

Race is on to raise more cinema cash

THE RACE is on to secure cash for Oban Phoenix Cinema.

The steering group fighting to bring the building into community ownership will need everyone who has thought about giving cash to the appeal to make a donation as soon as possible.

Campbell Cameron, vice chairman of the group, said: 'There are some really good ways to support the cinema and we are hoping that people who want to donate do not miss the boat.'

'People can buy a seat for the cinema - these cost £200 and £1,000. In doing so they will get the plaque on a modern seat when the cinema is refurbished. People can give a donation through The Oban Times newspaper - by giving money to a Times Ticket where they can purchase a gold, silver or bronze memorial ticket. People can go online to www.obanphoenixcinema.co.uk where there are details of T-shirts and other ways of raising cash for the cinema. Whatever people do it is important that they do it soon. We need to be able to measure how much support we have in the community. We are also encouraging people to have mini-fundraising events such as a cake sales or sponsored silences - every single penny we gather will make a remarkable difference to the future of the cinema in the town.'

f
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 www.facebook.com/obantimes

Have YOU joined in the debate on our Facebook page?

David Milner: Looking forward to heading back up to Oban soon. A lovely relaxing walk on Kerrera followed by an evening on Loch Awe with BBQ, seafood and few beers.

Jim MacKay: Ardchattan and Achaleven were two of the best wee schools I had the privilege to visit, with the highest quality teachers and amazingly talented children. Why doesn't Argyll and Bute Council look to within its ranks of overpaid councillors and 'managers' to make savings?

Susan Bland: My boys have done excellently at Ardchattan and we will be sorry to see it go.

Popular singer's debut CD has been well worth the wait

MORE than four decades after winning the National Mod Gold Medal in Oban, popular singer Duncan MacDonald has released his first CD.

Friends and fans joined Duncan at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban for the official launch of Càrn air a 'mhonadh, a collection of 12 songs, nine in Gaelic and three sung in English.

Duncan said the idea of recording some tracks had been put to him several years ago and, with a bit of persuasion from his family, he had completed the project.

Three of the songs were recorded at the parish church in Oban. The rest were recorded at Nutshell Music, on the Lochavullin Industrial Estate, with Finlay Wells.

'The choice of tracks is more nostalgic than anything else - it's been an indulgence to be honest,' said Duncan.

He said the actual recording of the



On song: Duncan MacDonald pictured with his debut CD, recorded 40 years after he won the National Mod Gold Medal, in Oban, in 1970. The CD features 12 tracks - nine sung in Gaelic and three in English. 15_109duncan01



Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society members at Ardgour, where they recorded their latest CD.

Gold medallist to guest at annual fiddlers' rally

LOCHABER Strathspey and Reel Society is holding its 25th Annual Fiddlers' Rally in Lochaber High School on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Appearing as a guest artist will be Mod gold medallist and TV and radio presenter Mary Ann Kennedy, whose partner, Nick Turner, produced the society's latest CD.

The album, titled 'Lochaber Gathering', will be launched on the night and has a strong local theme. Tunes include 'The Hills of Lorn', 'Belle Henderson's Reel' and Angus

Grant's 'Westcoaster Hornpipe'. Society members, joined by regular guest musicians from outwith Lochaber, travelled across to Nick and Mary Ann's Watercolour Music studio at Ardgour last November to record the CD.

Conductor at the concert will be Sheana Fraser, while the role of chairman is in the capable hands of Hector MacLean. Tickets, priced £8/£6 concessions, are available from members, at the door or on 01397 704062. Children/students free.

Heylipol Charolais sell to £940 at UA's Tiree sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual February sale of 326 head of cattle at Tiree Auction Mart last Saturday.

The 184 bullocks averaged £676 or 180pence per kilo, recording a drop of £46.47 on last year's high values.

The 142 heifers averaged £526 or 172pence per kilo, recording a drop of £32.49 on last year's values.

Bullocks sold to a top price of £940 for a rising one year old Charolais from Heylipol Farm, whilst heifers sold to £820 for

Limousin crosses from the same home.

Prices per kilo were led by Ruaig for Limousin bullocks at 219pence and Heylipol Farm at 204pence for Charolais heifers.

Breeding cattle sold to £1020 for in-calf heifers from Ruaig and cast cows sold to £860 from Ardmy and 125pence per kilo from Nol Kilkenneth.

A feature of the sale was the consignment of 72 rising one year bullocks and heifers from Heylipol Farm which sold to average £809 per head.

Sheep in demand at Dingwall as Texel cross ewes sell to £112

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,441 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Wednesday when all classes of prime and feeding sheep met an extremely strong enquiry.

Lambs averaged £58.97 and sold to £85 for Cheviots from Muirton, Munloch.

Ewes averaged £63.18 and sold to £112 for Texel crosses from Balnabual, Dalcross. Rams and feeding sheep averaged £60.15 and sold to £94 for a Texel ram from 12 Airdens, Bonar Bridge.

Cheviot in-lamb gimmer sells to £900 at Dingwall's registered female sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 36 registered Cheviot females at its Harbro sponsored show and sale at Dingwall last Thursday when well bred, quality sheep were keenly sought after.

Hill register judge Mr F S Renwick, Inverbrorn, Ullapool, selected as his champion the first prize in-lamb ewe, a homebred daughter carrying twins to Balnakeil High Hopes from Achentoul Farms Limited, Kinbrace, realising £800 to the judge.

The reserve award went to the first prize gimmer, a homebred daughter carrying a single to Amat Hustler, from A R Mackenzie, Heathmount, Tain, which realised £400 again to the judge.

The main register judge, Mr J H Cromarty, Roadside, Toab, Orkney, selected the first prize in-lamb gimmer as champion. Sired by Roadside Jack The Lad, from Messrs G. Cormack & Sons, Wester, Dunnet, she sold at £900 to the judge, with the reserve award going to

the first prize ewe lamb, sired by Smiddyquoy Monarch, from Messrs J and J Farquhar, Smiddyquoy, Watten, realising £300 to Mr N. Macleod, 7 Fleming Place, Stornoway.

Averages: Hill register - five gimmers, £288; twelve ewes, £274.17; two ewe lambs, £120. Main register - four gimmers, £500; 12 ewe lambs, £205.

Other leading prices:

Hill register
In lamb gimmers - Heathmount, £380; Inverbrora, Brora, £260; Brackside, Reay, £200 twice.

In lamb ewes - Achentoul Farms, £380, £280; Brackside, £300; Badanloch Estate, £250 twice; Heathmount, £250. Ewe lambs - Brackside, £130, £110.

Main register - in lamb gimmers - Muirton, Munloch, £450; Wester, Dunnet, £400, £250. Ewe lambs - Smiddyquoy, £600, £230; Tighnahinch, Conon Bridge, £280, Torravig, Stornoway, £250.

Market reports

TIREE United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £798 Hillcrest £722 (2) 13 Moss £685 13 Moss £680 and £652(5) Hillcrest £528 and £505 Benview.

British Blue X: £548 Ruaig CharolaisX: £940, £932, £912, £888(3), £878(2), £868, £855(2), £840(5), £822(2), Heylipol Farm £815 Hillcrest £812(2), £808 and £800 Heylipol Farm £755 Ardmy £668(4), £648(3) and £628(4) Hillcrest £558 Ardmy.

LimousinX: £890 and £880(2) Heylipol Farm £872, £853(3) and £842 3 Kenovay £832(3), £830(2), £822(4) Heylipol Farm £822 (2) 3 Kenovay £812 (2), £802 (3) and £792 (3) Heylipol Farm £792 7 Kilkenneth £788 (3) and £782 3 Kenovay £698 Skipinnis £698, £685 and £682 3 Kenovay £655 Ruaig £628 (2) 6 Crossapol £628 (2) Ruaig £625 Middleton Farm £618 Skipinnis £608 13 Moss £598 Ruaig £595 Middleton Farm £582 1 Kenovay £578 Druimfhaioich £572 15 Crossapol.

SalerX: £745, £635 and £622 Lochphuil £622 5 Balevullin £608 and £582 Lochphuil £550 Middleton Farm. SimmentalX: £868, £828(4), £778 and £745 Heylipol Farm £718 and £692 3

Kenovay £585 Lochphuil.

Heifers

Aberdeen Angus X: £612 and £585 Hillcrest £515 Benview. CharolaisX: £790, £738 (4), £728 (6) Heylipol Farm £688 and £642 (3) Hillcrest £618(2) Heylipol Farm £598 Ardmy £578 (3) Hillcrest.

LimousinX: £820, £705 and £692 Heylipol Farm £682 1 Kenovay £655 Heylipol Farm £648 Druimfhaioich £638 Heylipol Farm £608 7 Kilkenneth £588 1 Kenovay £582 7 Kilkenneth £578 Druimfhaioich and 7 Kilkenneth.

SalerX: £595 Middleton Farm SimmentalX: £578, £568(3) Lochphuil.

In-calf heifers
£1020, £1000 and £940 Ruaig.

Bulling heifers
£800(3) and £850 4 East Baugh.

In-calf cows
£785 3 Middleton.

OTM cows
£860 Ardmy £805 1 Kilkenneth £768 Whitehouse £702 Heylipol Farm £700(2) Druimfhaioich

Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: 190p 13 Moss 187p(5) Hillcrest.

British Blue X: 182p Ruaig CharolaisX: 214p(4) and 205p Hillcrest 203p Heylipol Farm 200p Ardmy

199p(2) Hillcrest 197p (5) and 196p (2) Heylipol Farm 195p Ardmy 194p Heylipol Farm (5) and Hillcrest (4) 193p (2) Hillcrest 192p Heylipol Farm.

LimousinX: 219p Ruaig 214p Cnoc Gorm 212p 6 Crossapol 204p (2) Heylipol Farm 203p(2) Ruaig 202p 8 Barrapool 198p Skipinnis and 15 Crossapol 196p 5 Barrapool.

Heifers
CharolaisX: 204p and 192p (4) Heylipol Farm 189p (2) Ardmy.

LimousinX: 202p and 194p 9 Barrapool 188p 5 Barrapool. SimmentalX: 187p 17 Balevullin.

OTM cows
125p 1 Kilkenneth 124p Hillcrest 118p Ardmy 111p Druimfhaioich 109p Whitehouse 105p Druimfhaioich.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
SuffolkX: Aberchaldy, Invergarry, £83; Cheviot: Achentoul Farm, Kinbrace, £80

TexelX: Lochdu, Natim, £79; Cross: Aberchaldy, £79; BeltexX: Brae-edge Farm, Castletown, £67

CharollaisX: Garthbeg Farms, Gorthleck, £65.50; Blackface: Camusterrach, Applecross, and Balmagaster Farm, South Laggan, £65.

Ewes:
Suffolk: Strathskiach, Evanton, £110; TexelX: Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, £106

Blue De MaineX: Tighnahinch, Conon Bridge, £105; Cheviot: Tighnahinch, £102; SuffolkX: Lairgandour, Daviot, and Wester Craiglands, £100;

CharmoiseX: Wester Craiglands, £100; Texel: Teanluick, Beauly, £98; BeltexX: Wester Craiglands, £94; Mule: Balnabual, £84;

Cross: Charleston, North Kessock, £80; Zwarble: Muirton, £80; Blackface: Lairgandour, £70.

Weddars:
SuffolkX: Rhevackin, Kiltarity, £75; Blackface: Abersy, Torness, £72; Cheviot: 185 Migdale, Bonar Bridge, £60

TexelX: 17 Englishtonmuir, Bunchrew, £56.

Rams:
Cheviot: Tulloch, Bonar Bridge, £82; Suffolk: Culbin Farm, Dingwall, £68; Texel: 66 Farr, Bettyhill, £67;

Blackface: 13 Peinchorran, Portree, £66; Charollais: Teanluick Croft, Muir of Ord, £64.

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CUSTOMER SERVICES – ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

THE CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 – SECTION 17
MAXIMUM FARE STRUCTURE FOR TAXIS

Argyll and Bute Council, in terms of Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, have fixed from 21 March 2011, the following scale as the maximum fares and other charges in connection with the hire of taxis in public places within Argyll and Bute.

Tariff 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 7am and 10pm Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 200 yards or part thereof)	£2.70 20 pence
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 170 yards or part thereof) Tariff 2 also applies to hirings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January	£3.20 20 pence
Tariff 3	Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January Initial Charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent Charge (each 120 yards or part thereof)	£3.70 20 pence

Soiling Charge – £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence)
Waiting Time – 30 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rata basis per second
Taxi called by mean of telephone – 30 pence additional charge
Large Mini – bus type vehicle (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request) –
a) Where Tariff 1 would apply – charge Tariff 2
b) Where Tariff 2 would apply – charge Tariff 3
c) Where Tariff 3 would apply – surcharge £1.00

Fees by negotiation – for all journeys commencing within but finishing outwith Argyll and Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her.
Ferry Fares – The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT

OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held in Glencruitten Church Main Hall, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Tuesday 8th March 2011 at 2pm
Members of the public are welcome to attend.
Any enquiries should be directed to: Kenneth Macdonald, Area Corporate Services Manager (Tel: 01631 567902).

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or e mail – mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or e mail – gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e mail – donaald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by e mail – donaald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE – DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 10/01857/LIB
Applicant: Islay Estates Company
Proposal: Conversion of former stone store to picture framing workshop.
Site Address: Islay House Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA44 7PA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend

● Ref No: 10/01858/PP
Applicant: Islay Estates Company
Proposal: Conversion of former stone store to picture framing workshop.
Site Address: Islay House Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA44 7PA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend

● Ref No: 11/00118/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Pettit
Proposal: Re-development of dwellinghouse and associated works.
Site Address: Keils Caravan Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XG
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 24/03/2011.

● Ref No: 11/00120/PP
Applicant: Mr Andrew Knowles
Proposal: Installation of air source heat pump
Site Address: Land West Of Shed Kilmelford Yacht Haven Kilmelford Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

● Ref No: 11/00124/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Stephen Thomson
Proposal: Re-development of agricultural building to new dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land North East Of Store Farm Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1BB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally

● Ref No: 11/00180/PP
Applicant: Dr and Mrs Simon Curran
Proposal: Alterations to windows and cladding and erection of conservatory and decking.
Site Address: Staffa Cottage Gribun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA68 6EJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull

● Ref No: 11/00279/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs N Evans
Proposal: Extension to dwellinghouse and erection of outbuildings
Site Address: Coille Grianch Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6QR
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig

● Ref No: 11/00280/PPP
Applicant: MacDougalls Of Oban Ltd
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land South East Of Dungrinach (Plot 1) Crannag A' Mhinisteir Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00286/PPP
Applicant: MacDougalls Of Oban Ltd
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land South East Of Dungrinach (Plot 2) Crannag A' Mhinisteir Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.
Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's website.
The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 24/03/2011.

● Ref No: 10/02126/PP
Applicant: Mr David Webster
Proposal: Erection of single storey 3-bedroom traditional-style cottage and detached single garage.
Site Address: Consoby Conisby Road Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.
Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's website.
The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY ; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/04788/FUL	Achnacon, Glencoe Ballachulish PH49 4LA	Construct deer larder and vehicle store	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Section 60 Affecting Setting of Listed Building (21 Days)
1/00281/FUL	Allt Peilreagh Hydro Scheme Glen Quoch, Invergary	Formation of hydro scheme	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00282/FUL	Allt Mheil Hydro Scheme Glen Quoch, Invergary	Formation of hydro scheme	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00283/FUL	Easter Alltbeith Hydro Scheme Glen Quoch, Invergary	Formation of hydro scheme.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00417/FUL	Plot 4 60m South East of Rowan Lodge, Coopers Knowe Roshven, Lochalort	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00530/PIP	Land 25m East of Matenderere, Omsaigbeg Kichloan	Erection of house (Plot 1)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
11/00531/PIP	Plot 2 Land 60m East of Matenderere, Omsaigbeg Kichloan	Erection of house (Plot 2)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
11/00532/FUL	Barn East Of Taigh Breagh Achnabonane, Spean Bridge (renewal of 05/00504/FULLO)	Demolition of Existing Barn and Erection of House	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00538/FUL	Land At Croft 11 And 12 Onich	Erection of wind turbine	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00564/FUL	Land 130m SE of Oronsay Back of Keppoch, Arisaig	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/00566/PIP	Land 100m South West of Torran, Letterfinlay Spean Bridge PH34 4DZ	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00567/PIP	Land 90m NE of Ardlarach Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00575/FUL	Land 100m North of Unit 5 Glen Nevis Business Park Fort William	Proposed Office Building	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/00586/FUL	Tigh Na Feidh, Achintore Road Fort William PH33 6RN	Porch	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Direction has been granted:
Part Croft
10 Maolbuidhe, Creich, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon
Direction dated 23 February 2011 granted to Iain MacDougall.
Area ext to 0.075 ha.
Conditions:
1. The land is used for a house site.
2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.
3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Case Number: 4.86.27477
The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Scottish Land Court.

GLENCOE & GLEN ETIVE COMMUNITY COMPANY
Tenders are invited for work associated with administration of path construction
Full details available from:
The Secretary
Torren
Glencoe
Argyll
PH49 4HX
Charity No: SC035068

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

TSL Contractors of Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY are applying to change an existing licence to add an operating centre to keep 3 Goods Vehicles and 3 Trailers at A.N Cameron Ltd, The Garage, Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NN. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

KILMALLIE HALL COMMITTEE

Is inviting expressions of interest for the following two tenders:

1. Carry out the upgrade of the building's roofs
2. Installation of a wood pellet heating system with radiators and relevant pipe work

For further information and detailed drawings which can be emailed to applicants by contacting: dmee@davidmee-architect.co.uk

Closing date for return of tender March 18, 2011 to:
Mr J MacDonald
(Chairman Kilmallie Hall Committee)
Merchiston, Banavie
Fort William PH33 7LX
Tel 01397 772443

This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community
Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme

Proposed Let of a Croft
Isle of Rum Community Trust is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Croft No.1, Isle of Rum, Inverness-shire, PH43 4RR to Miss Lesley Watt.
If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Inverness IV3 8NW by 31st March 2011, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Instead of reading this 40,212' readers could be reading your advert.
Telephone: 01631 568000 **The Oban Times**



Public Meeting – Port Ellen Pier Reconstruction

Prior to the reconstruction of Port Ellen Pier, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) would like to invite you to attend a public meeting in Port Ellen to provide an update on the project which will deliver improved berthing facilities to accommodate the new vessel MV Finlaggan.
Public Meeting:
**Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen
Wednesday 9th March 2011 19.30hrs**

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

Treatment Operative

Mull, Argyll – 18 hours, flexible working
£14,540 - £22,915 pro-rata Ref: SW/002637

You will work within the Mull Multi-Functional Team from Bunesan WTWs but also across the Mull area. You will be responsible for the day to day running of various Water Treatment Works, must be physically fit, have a full driving licence and be able to take part in the standby rota and weekend working rota for all sites based on Mull. You must have good team working and problem solving skills.
You must be willing to work in confined spaces, use breathing apparatus and be competent in the safe handling of chemicals and substances. The post will require candidates to locate/repair water mains and services in the networks.
Full training for this post will be given to the successful candidate.
Application packs are available from Human Resources, tel: 0131 445 6330 during office hours or e-mail: HRConnect@scottishwater.co.uk
Closing date for receipt of applications: 12 Noon, Thursday 10 March 2011.

SCOTTISH WATER
www.scottishwater.co.uk

THE SCOTTISH SALMON COMPANY

We are currently recruiting for a **MARINE SITE MANAGER** at West Loch Roag, Uig, Isle of Lewis
Salary: £35,020 - £38,110

Our Marine Site Managers are responsible for managing and developing their salmon sites to the highest standards and must therefore be experienced and enthusiastic salmon farmers with excellent fish husbandry skills, strong management and leadership qualities and proven organisational skills.
We currently have a vacancy at West Loch Roag to continue with the development of the Vuia Mor and Gousam sites.
Applicants must have experience of automated feed systems, fish health, growth curves and feed management. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate commitment to the safety and welfare of the staff for whom they are responsible, to the livestock within their control and to limiting any environmental impact of farming on the local community and beyond. Current driving licence essential.

Job descriptions and application forms available from
The Scottish Salmon Company, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS2 0DB.
Tel: 01499 600622/600601 E-mail: sandra.macrae@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date Friday 18 March 2011

MACARTHUR STEWART
Visit our website at www.macarthurstewart.co.uk

Receptionist/Clerical Assistant

Lochgilphead Based

The successful candidate should be computer literate and numerate.
Part time may be considered.
Please e-mail your C.V to fiona@macarthurstewart.co.uk

the National Trust for Scotland
a place for everyone
CRARAE GARDENS VISITOR CENTRE/SHOP ASSISTANT
Seasonal Part Time Position.
Required End March to mid August. 20 hrs p.w.
For job description and application form, please telephone 01546 886614, or write to the Visitor Centre Manager, The National Trust for Scotland, Crarae Garden, Minard, Inveraray, Argyll. PA32 8YA

TELFORD CONSTRUCTION
requires **FOREMEN AND SKILLED LABOURERS** for contracts in Inverness-shire & Argyll

Apply to: Telford Construction, Old Manse, Onich, Inverness-shire, PH33 6RY
Tel: 01855 821202 or e-mail: margaret@onich.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Isle of Rum Community Trust Development Officer
Full-Time 37 hours per week
Salary £24,000 pa

The Isle of Rum Community Trust is looking to recruit an energetic and self motivated individual to act as a catalyst for innovative and sustainable community development.
Closing date 15th March 2011
For a job description and further information
Email: info@isleofrum.com
Web: www.isleofrum.com
Phone: **01687 482404**
Company No. SC321870 / Registered Charity No. SC039637

argyllholidays

Caravan Sales Advisor
Argyll Holidays have a vacancy for a proactive and experienced Sales Advisor based in our Loch Awe Caravan Park. Please note a full UK driving license is essential.
Please send your CV by 8th March, to hr@drimsynie.co.uk or telephone Iain Gibbs on 0845 459 7427 www.argyllholidays.com

ENCOMPASS COUNSELLING & SUPPORT
(Bute, Islay, Mid Argyll and Oban)
Are currently **RECRUITING VOLUNTEER ADDICTION COUNSELLORS**
No experience necessary as full training will be given to successful applicants.
For Further Information and/or an application pack please contact **Colette MacLachlan**
ECS Oban Market St Centre, Market St
01631 566090 – ecsoban@talktalkbusiness.net
Closing date for applications 4pm Friday 11th March
Successful applicants will be subjected to an enhanced disclosure check
ECS is a registered charity No SC037908

new car index

TOYOTA
Helensburgh
5 John Street,
Helensburgh
Tel. 01436 672779
www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

RENAULT
W.D Semple
Inveraray &
Lochgilhead
Tel. 01499 302150

ISUZU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 /
880440

SUBARU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292
880080/880440

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SUBARU CAR OF THE WEEK



Subaru Forester, 2008, 2.0
£14,595.00
35,000, Dark Grey.

AIRD MOTORS
HIGH STREET, BEAULY, HIGHLAND, IV4 7BP
TEL: 01463 782266 WWW.AIRDMOTORS.CO.UK

STATIC CARAVAN



Customised, pot belly stove, 32ft, must be seen, must be off site by Dec 2012, suit housebuilds.
Telephone: 07758 735855
Tyndrum

£2000 o.n.o.

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

NEW PLATE. NEW MODEL. NEW REASON TO ORDER A SUBARU. ORDER YOUR 11-PLATE VEHICLE TODAY.

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SUBARU range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 19.5 (14.5) to 40.4 (7.0). Extra urban from 29.1 (9.7) to 54.3 (5.2). Combined from 24.6 (11.5) to 47.9 (5.9). CO₂ emissions from 270 to 155 (g/km). Prices correct as listed in print.

KIA SORENTO X5 2.5 CRDI (MODEL WITH TIMING CHAIN)



2006, Mot and Taxed December 2011, Black, Full electric pack, FSH, 47,000 miles, 2WD and 4WD, Cruise control, Air con, Climate control, Heated leather seats, Very good condition, CD player, Can tow up to 3.5 tonne, New car forces sale.

Telephone: 01546 603298

£9500

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Needs T.L.C.
On good trailer
(included in sale)

Telephone: 01880 740272
or
07796 575737

£600 o.n.o.

WILLERBY STATIC CARAVAN, 2003



28' x 12', 2 bedrooms, open plan kitchen living area, very good condition, currently situated in Benderloch.

Tel: 01631 720626

£4800 o.n.o.

STATIC CARAVAN



32ft, large decking area, must be seen, must be off site by Dec 2012, suit housebuilds.

Telephone: 07758 735855
Tyndrum

£2000 o.n.o.

RENAULT LAGUNA SPORT TOURER, 2.0 LTR



12 mths MOT, 6 mths tax, full service history, 1/2 leather, new tyres, alloys, park sensor, cruise, lovely condition, 57,000 miles.

Telephone: 01546 605324

£3200

HONDA TRX 500 & LOGIC NFP 150 FLAIL MOWER



Honda TRX 500 manual 2007 and Logic NFP 150 flail mower with flotation tyres for sale together or separately Honda £1800 Logic £1800 or £3450 for both together all prices plus VAT.

Tel: 01880 770232

Honda £1800 Logic £1800 or £3450 for both together

18FT 6 BERTH TOURING CARAVAN



Twin axle
Fitted with fridge, cooker and fire

For further details telephone 07818 827945

VOLKSWAGEN T25 CAMPERVAN



Automatic, 1987, Taxed, MOT, Very Good Condition.

Telephone: 01397 704824
(after 6pm)

£4500

RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION



5 door hatchback, auto, petrol
53 reg 54688 Miles
1 years Mot Good condition.

Telephone: 07500 786612

£1700 o.n.o.

1996 SUBARU LEGACY SALOON 4WD



N Reg, 2.2 ltr, good condition, MOT - April 2011, Taxed - Oct 2011.

Telephone: 01586 552703

£790 o.n.o.

FORD FIESTA FLIGHT



1.3, petrol, 5 door, 51 Reg, 57,000 miles, MOT'd Oct 11, Taxed till end Sept 11. Good condition.

Telephone: 01586 552963

£1100 o.n.o.

WANTED

Motor Homes or Caravanettes, any age or condition.

We also buy damaged or damp ones. Instant Cash.

Telephone: 01250 884 306 or 07885 203032

VAUXHALL COMBO CDTI 16 VALVE VAN



55 reg.cd player, Mot'd till Feb 2012, 49,000miles, very good condition.

Telephone: 01855 831530 or 07771642174

£2600 plus vat.

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WANTED for cash, caravans, caravanettes, motorhomes, any make, model, condition, instant pick-up and payment.

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31,715 miles, 5 Door Sportback, Alloy Silver, Audi Roof Rails, Audi front Fog Lamps, Audi Mot, Full Audi Service History, 1 Owner, Petrol, Electric windows, Black Cloth seat trim, Audi CD Player, Air Con, Immaculate Condition

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£9250 o.n.o.

NISSAN NAVARA KINGCAB



03, silver, mot till dec, one years tax, 108k miles, remote lock and alarm. Call for more details.

Telephone: 07917 420506

£3700

VAUXHALL VECTRA CLUB



1.8 petrol. MOT till Nov 2011, taxed April 2011.

Telephone: 07747 760669

£200 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 DESIGN



05 reg, 1 year MOT, 9 months tax, Immaculate condition, Very fast and economical, 6 disc CD player etc

Tel: 01546 602134 (Lochgilhead)

£3395 o.n.o.

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Quarry Road MOT Centre
Quarry Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 564614

Motoring Times

For the latest local deals on new and used cars

The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE

FLIT

RECRUITMENT

Caledonian MacBrayne

Crewing (Guernsey) Limited

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Seasonal Port Assistants (fixed term contract)

40 hours per week
Rate of Pay £7.43 per hour

Mallaig Ferry Terminal
Lochaline Ferry Terminal
Tobermory Ferry Terminal
Craignure Ferry Terminal
Armada Ferry Terminal
Oban Ferry Terminal

Ref: 359-SB
Ref: 362-SB
Ref: 363-SB
Ref: 364-SB
Ref: 365-SB
Ref: 368-SB

Applications are invited for the position of Seasonal Port Assistant based at the above Ferry Terminals. Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include mooring operations, customer enquiries, sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels. You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care. The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Ferry Terminal on a daily basis.

Seasonal Nightwatchman (fixed term contract)

Mallaig Ferry Terminal
12 hour shifts on a week on / week off basis
Rate of Pay £6.35 per hour

Ref: 372-SB

Applications are invited for the position of Seasonal Nightwatchman based at the Mallaig Ferry Terminal. Reporting to the Port Manager you will be responsible for the security of the pier buildings and vessels connected to the port, for the call-out of crew in the event of an emergency or bad weather, overseeing a telephone watch in case of emergency call-outs by Fire, Police and Ambulance, monitoring and adjusting the gangway as necessary to maintain a safe access to the vessels. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as the shift pattern will be variable and dependant on local circumstances. The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Mallaig Ferry Terminal on a daily basis.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please respond by sending your CV quoting the appropriate reference number no later than 11th March 2011 to:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourcock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268
CalMac Ferries Ltd is an equal opportunities employer.

BIDWELLS

Part-time Estate Warden

Required for the maintenance, security and upkeep of the main residence of a Highland Estate in the Lochaber area.

Minimum 5 years' required in the following duties:-

- Security and maintenance of house and garden
- (Basic maintenance skills required include general building knowledge).
- Duties include chauffeuring and on-call weekend and evening work required.

Ideal candidates should be self-motivated, adaptable and experienced. Accommodation can be provided as part of the employment package. Clean driving license essential. Fluent command of English language necessary. A vehicle is provided for estate duties only, applicants will need their own car. References required.

Please apply with C.V and covering letter to Bidwells, Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP

Experienced Marine Engineer

required for small cruise vessels operating on the west coast of Scotland from Holy Loch and Oban from end of March to end of October.

Further details and CVs from/to
Andrew@themajesticline.co.uk
01369 707951

Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

pkc.myjobscotland.gov.uk

Gaelic Development Officer

Education & Children's Services
£28,362 - £31,909
Blackfriars Development Centre, North Port, Perth
Closing date: When sufficient suitable applications received.
Online applications only at pkc.myjobscotland.gov.uk

PKC2445

If you have a disability which prevents you applying online, please call 01738 475000 to discuss any reasonable adjustments.

Perth & Kinross Council is committed to equality and diversity and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community

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ANTIQUE COUNTRY KITCHEN CHAIR old country style kitchen chair, waxed oak 4 struts to each leg, can sell set of 4, £49.99 Telephone 01631720369.

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LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE brand new, ridden once, lights, pump etc helmet and lock available, £49.99 Telephone 01546 810201.

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CAR ACCESSORIES

CAR RADIO Motorola, push button suitable for classic car, £15 Telephone 01499 500216.

GREY ROOF BOX Halfords grey roof box. Full roof width, key secure and sold with roof bars included. Rarely used so good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564483.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

PEUGEOT 306 turbo diesel, spares or repair, m reg, £249 ono Telephone 01838 200720.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

BEN 10 DVDS BOXED SET 12 DVDS containing all 4 seasons (52 episodes)vgc no scratches or marks, £30 Telephone 07868 481242.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

DRESS & BOLERO Jacques Vert, fully lined, worn once, colour shell, dress size 10, bolero size 12, cost £278 (receipt available), will accept 150ono Telephone 01631 564686.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

LCD MONITOR ACER AL1716, 17 inch, Silver, £30 Telephone 01631 770311.

PRINTER & SCANNER HP Deskjet 710, old style 36 pin connection. HP Scanner 5400C, USB connection. Instructions/drivers for both, £10 each Telephone 01397 772361.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

C O O K W O R K S BREADMAKER in good working order, hardly been used. Instruction book and measuring cup included, £10 Telephone 07867 558304.

DEEP FREEZE box type 4ftx2ft x18in, £49.95 Telephone 01852 200500.

FITTED WARDROBES (one mirrored), Maple, German made, ex cond, £350 Telephone 01397 704349.

GRILL Carl Lewis health grill (CLHG10), instructions, £10 Telephone 01397 772361.

DOMESTIC PETS

BLACK LABRADOR PUPPIES, K C Registered, from excellent working stock. Worked and Vet checked. Dogs and bitches available, ready April 1. Telephone 01880 740636

FURNITURE

3 PIECE SUITE, £49 Telephone 07780 548512 evenings.

BEDROOM UNIT suitable for TV, books, CD's etc, £15 Telephone 01546 605278.

BEDSIDE CABINET child's, pine with pink drawer fronts, good condition, £15 Telephone 01546 605278.

BROWN LEATHER SUITE 3+2 Seater, Good Condition, £300 Telephone 07828 024617.

CORNER SUITE DFS, brown leather, immaculate condition, £500 ono Telephone 01880 820585.

ERCOL PLATE RACK Golden Dawn Ercol Plate Rack in excellent condition, £45 Telephone 01567 820521.

MAHOGONY STAINED DINING CHAIRS set of 4, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562750 evenings and weekend.

MAHOGONY STAINED DINING TABLE 80 x 120cm(extendng to 180) seats up to 10, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562750 evenings and weekend.

ORTHOPAEDIC DIVAN by Hypnos, 4ft, vgc, £40 Telephone 01880 760356.

PARKER KNOLL BEDROOM CHAIR with custom made loose covers, £45 Telephone 07733 365290.

PARKER KNOLL WING CHAIR high backed, in good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07733 365290.

PINE DOUBLE BED slight damage, £30 Telephone 01294 324137.

SOLID WOOD DINING TABLE with walnut effect finish and six beige leather chairs, only 2 months old. Excellent condition, £500ono Telephone 07971 815248.

TABLE AND CHAIRS pine kitchen table with four chairs, chairs store inside table, good condition(Campbeltown), £40 Telephone 07411 059440.

TODDLER JUNIOR BED suitable from 18 months-5 years. Wooden, excellent condition, mattress included, ideal transition from a cot, £35 Telephone 07796 407886 Oban.

TWIN SINGLE BEDS 2 single beds with blue divan bases and quality padded mattresses. Excellent condition, £30 Telephone 01546 600408.

FIVE DOOR FITTED WARDROBES, (one mirrored), Maple, German made, ex cond, £350. Telephone 01397 704349.

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

ANTI-FOULING PAINT 2.5 litres International Micron extra blue, £25 Telephone 01397 772604.

ANTI-FOULING PAINT 3-litres Navy CX Cruising Anti fouling paint, 2-litres Navy CX Cruising Anti fouling paint, £35 Telephone 01397 772604.

SHOE MAKERS LAST cast iron, £10 Telephone 01499 500216.

SAUNA BLANKET infrared sauna blanket, complete sauna experience, never used, £200 ono Telephone 01681 700340.

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PERSONALS

I would like to thank family and friends who helped me enjoy my retirement celebrations at Lochnell Arms Hotel.

A big thank you to Colin and Joan for a fantastic buffet, to Rosie, Peter and boys, George Noble for the music they provided, for gifts and cards I received, to the committee, residents and staff for my retreat gift at North Argyll House.

Once again thank you. Verona Watson

Romano would like to thank family and friends for the great surprise party at Dolce Vita for his 21st birthday. Thanks also to all for the wonderful cards and gifts. A great night was had by all.

"From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?"

In the wilderness of this world of sin and shame the Lord Jesus is the Bread of Life. What think you of Christ, Whose Son is He?

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Caravans for Sale advertisement for Loch Awe Holiday Park, featuring prices from £8,950 and £1,095.

CARAVANS FOR SALE

Table listing caravan specifications: 2007 28 x 12 Willerby £7,400, 2008 38 x 12 Caravan £28,000, New 38 x 12 Caravan £33,000.

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Advertisements for HAMISH HOEY & SON Joiners & Funeral Directors and D & A MUNN Joiners, Builders & Funeral Directors.

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Advertisement for Chris Craft window blinds, offering free measuring and free estimates.

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Advertisement for ALBA TRANSPORT AND TRADING (Argyll), offering household removals and light freight.

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Advertisement for TARMAC Road Surfacing Ltd, offering road surfacing services and a 50% discount on contract through-out.

The Oban Times ADVERTISING RATES table, listing private classifieds, line rates, and trade classifieds rates.

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

DEATHS

CORSON - On January 28, 2011, David Hamilton, 67 years, son of the late Dr Thomas and Kathleen Corson of Connel, loved brother of Ann, Christine and John, and for many years a villager of Camphill, Newton Dee, Aberdeen.

GORDON - Alasdair Seton died suddenly on February 17, 2011, aged 86 at his home in Vancouver BC. Only son of the late Seton and Audrey Gordon of Upper Duntuilin, Isle of Skye. Scots Guards 1944-46. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and uncle.

LYNN - Adrian Gowans, Chartered Surveyor (Retired), died suddenly on February 21, 2011, at Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride, beloved husband of the late Janice (nee Blacker) Lynn, loving brother to Frances Rosemary and friend to many. Will not be forgotten. The funeral service will be held on Friday, March 4, at Linn Crematorium at 12 noon. Donations to the 'Diabetics Diagnostic Dog Training Programme' and 'The Princes Trust'

ROBERTSON - Peacefully at Moss Park Nursing Home on February 18, 2011, Tom Robertson, Hazelwood, North Ballachulish. A loving husband and father.

STEWART - Donald, of Achnadrish Lodge, by Tobermory. On February 27, 2011, quietly after a long illness. Husband of Nancy and father of Fiona, Angus, Susan and Jennifer. Funeral Private.

TYE - Peacefully after an illness courageously borne on February 27, 2011, Marion, beloved wife of David, treasured mother of Sally and Mike, cherished mother-in-law of John and Sheila and adored grandmother of David and Susie. Sadly missed but never forgotten.

WHEELER - On February, 23, 2011, peacefully at Dumfries, Rita Wheeler, formerly of Taynult. Much loved wife of Harry, mum to Andrew and Linda, mother-in-law to Chris and Lawrence, Granny to Kathryn, Joanne, Ewan, Megan and Hazel and sister to Wilma (Paterson).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Duncan Cameron would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown to them at this sad time. Special thanks to the Reverend Jeff McCormick for his comforting words, to Sheila Clark for her wonderful eulogy, Billy McClymont for the quiet and efficient way he conducts his services, Elizabeth Jack for playing the organ, and Catherine McIver for the flowers. We would also like to thank Bowmans coaches for providing a special bus service. To everyone that came from near and far to be with us to celebrate Duncan's life, thank you. The magnificent sum of £944.70 was raised for the Dunaros Comfort Fund.

FORBES - The family of the late David Forbes would like to thank family and friends for their kind messages of sympathy. A special thank you to the staff at Moss Park Nursing Home, for their care and dedication and to Rev D MacQuarrie for his comforting service. Thanks also to Mike McFall Funeral Director, for all his support and arrangements and to BA Club catering staff. The sum of £323.04 was raised for Moss Park Residents Fund.

MACCORMICK - Coll, Dugie, Dorothy and family would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and kind expressions of sympathy following their very sad loss of Jill in New Zealand.

MACDONALD - The family of the late Sadie MacDonald would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support shown to them by way of cards, letters, flowers and phone calls and baking etc, following their sad, sudden loss. Special thanks to staff at Belford Hospital and Raigmore Hospital, Tweeddale Surgery, the district nurses and the home carers for their care of Sadie over the years. Grateful thanks to Ewen and the staff at John MacLellan Funeral Directors for their support and excellent help with the funeral arrangements.

Grateful thanks also to Rev Dr Richard Corbett for a lovely service. Thanks to all who attended the church service and thereafter to John Kilmallie Cemetery. Thanks also to the staff at the BA Club for the buffet. The sum of £307.84 was collected on behalf of the Belford Hospital. Thanks again to all.

MACINTYRE - Netta and the family of the late Jimmy Macintyre wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent bereavement. Many thanks to the carers from Independent Living Services, and to the doctors and staff at the Fairfield Medical Practice and Royal Northern Infirmary for all their support and care.

A special thanks to the Rev. Dr Peter Donald for his comforting service, to William T. Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, for their dignified and sympathetic funeral arrangements, and to the staff of Craigmonie Hotel for their catering. Very grateful thanks to all those who attended the Crown Church and Old Petty Cemetery, and so generously contributed £1450 to CLIC Sargent.

MACKAY - Amelia, Peter and family wish to express their sincere appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbours for their calls, cards and flowers, following their sad loss. Special thanks to the staff of Moss Park Nursing Home for the loving and sympathetic care my mum received there, to Norma MacKay and Alistair MacLennan and staff for such efficient, comprehensive yet very caring funeral arrangements and to the Reverend Susan Brown for her comforting service. Finally, our sincere thanks to all who showed their respects at the church and graveside and for their generous donations towards Moss Park Staff Fund.

ROBERTSON - Jean and the family of the late Tom Robertson, would like to thank all the people who helped Tom in the last few months, the staff at Abbeyfield and to all who sent cards and messages of sympathy. Special thanks to Ewen, at John MacLellan Undertakers and Rev Malcolm Kinnear for comforting service.

RODGER - The family of the late Emily MacIntyre Rodger (Fort William), would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and telephone calls, following their recent sad loss. To sit and talk to you a while To be together in the same old way Would be our dearest wish today You went so suddenly We did not say goodbye

loss. Thanks to all staff at the Mackintosh Centre in Mallaig, for their loving care and to all staff at the Belford Hospital. Thanks to John MacLellan & Co Ltd Funeral Directors, for their very efficient arrangements and to Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting services.

IN MEMORIAM

BEATON - In fond and loving memory of Hugh, a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who died March 6, 1999. Loved and remembered every day.

- Inserted by his loving wife Bella, Hugh, Mary, Lorna and David.

BEATON - In loving memory of Calum, a sadly missed husband and dad, who died suddenly on March 2, 2010.

- Inserted by Dorothy, Lesley and Niall, Alness and London.

BURTON - Paul Gordon Burton and David Campbell Burton. Always in our hearts and minds.

- Mum and Dad, Kevin, Eilidh and Chris.

GALBRAITH - In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Finlay Neil, who passed away March 5, 2010. To us you were someone special, someone set apart. Your memory will live forever, engraved within our hearts.

Remembering you is easy, we do it every day. It's just the pain of losing you, that never goes away. Loved and missed so much - Mum, Dad and Christine.

GILLIES - In loving memory of a wonderful mum, Marion died March 2, 2000 (late of 1 Fasseifer). Time goes by and life goes on.

But in our hearts you are never gone. - Cathie, Isobel and Marina.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of John who died March 2, 2002. You are still always fondly remembered.

- Love Morag and family.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of Dugie, a dear husband, father and grandpa who died March 2, 2002. Loved and missed every day Margaret and family.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love Celia, our dear mum, granny and sister, who died March 7, 2010. To hear your voice, to see you smile To sit and talk to you a while To be together in the same old way Would be our dearest wish today You went so suddenly We did not say goodbye

MACQUEEN - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana Veronica, who left us suddenly on February 25, 2000. You were the best mum in the world And always will be. Love you always - Yvonne, Richard, Michael and Innes.

MAXWELL - In loving memory of Alex, a much missed husband and dad passed away March 7, 2009. No farewell words were spoken No time to say goodbye You were gone before we knew it And only God can tell us why It broke our heart to lose you But you didn't go alone For part of us went with you The day God called you home. Always in our thoughts.

- Margaret and Colin.

MAXWELL - Remembered always my dad and grandad Alex, passed away March 7, 2009. Your presence we miss, Your memory we treasure, Loving you always, Forgetting you never.

- Diane and Ryan.

MCCRAE - Margaret (Daisy) McCrae died March 6, 2008 in Ontario, Canada, aged 100. Wife of the late Robert (Bob) Nicholson and Joseph (Joe) McCrae, darling mum of Mairi Morris (nee Nicholson) and Margaret Vernon (nee McCrae). Sadly missed by her family in Oban, Inverary, Wales and Canada.

MCCRAE - Remembering with love Alasdair, a dear husband, dad and grandpa, who died on March 7, 2001. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal - But love leaves fond memories no one can steal, Easing the pathway and soothing the pain Till in God's love we meet again.

- Eleanor.

WEATHERALL - In memory of a dear uncle Jack, who died March 6, 2010. Who left a place no one can fill. Always in my thoughts. - Baldy.

WILSON - In loving memory of a dear brother, Duncan Wilson who died March 6, 2010 aged 46, peacefully at home. You closed your eyes and passed away In our hearts you'll always stay. A loving brother, uncle and great uncle who will never be forgotten.

But families can never be parted. Precious memories never die. With all our love. - Mary, Helen and families and your loving sister Mary. Also remembering Donald, our dear dad, Seanair and brother in law who died on April 20, 2003. Your name is often mentioned. Our thoughts are with you still. You have never been forgotten. And dad, you never will. All our love.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear brother and our uncle Dian, who died on March 7, 1977, remembering also loved ones who have passed away before and since. Loved and remembered always.

- Freena and family, Lochdar, Bunnassan, Mull.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents, Hamish, died March 5, 1997 and Mary, September 20, 2004. Not just today But everyday. In silence we remember.

- Love from your girls, Johan, Annie, Marion and families, Killin, Lawers and Fersit.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of my darling husband, Calum, who died suddenly on March 1, 1992. RIP.

Calum you are always in my thoughts and will forever be in my heart. With all my love. - Chrissie xx.

MACLEOD - Fond memories of a dear mum and granny, Sheila, died March 2, 2003. Love and miss you always. - Flora, John and family.

MACLEOD - In memory of Captain Donald MacLeod, Kilchoan, who died on March 1, 1996. Always remembered.

- Inserted by nephew Hugh.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of a much loved son and brother, Fraser, who died tragically in an accident on March 8, 2002. In God's hands but forever with us and in our hearts.

- Mum, Dad, Catriona, Niall, Ruairidh and Arran.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of my dear husband Ian who died on March 7, 1984. Not just today but every day Ian.

In silence I remember you. - Your loving wife Theresa.

MACQUEEN - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana Veronica, who left us suddenly on February 25, 2000. You were the best mum in the world And always will be. Love you always - Yvonne, Richard, Michael and Innes.

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Pupils turn to OAPs for memories of Oban



Primary six and seven pupils from Park Primary School took a trip to Dunmar Court residential home in Oban as part of their project on the bicentenary of Oban. Pictured are pupils Cameron MacMillan and Rachel MacGregor, who quizzed Oban's Myra MacLachlan about her childhood memories. 15_t09dunmar01

The big match has plenty of specs appeal!

Aulay's Bar has become the first in Oban to show football matches in 3D and punters were only too happy to wear special 3D specs to enjoy Sunday's Carling Cup Final. Pictured with their specs on are 'Aulay's Dollies', bar staff Lorraine Douglas, Coireana Gillies and Angela Byrne. 08_t09aulay01



Mums bag a bargain at NCT nearly new sale



Little Lucy Campbell picked up some bargains from volunteers Lyndsay Elliott and Sally Weaser at a nearly new sale organised by the Oban branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT). The NCT group holds a Bumps and Babies session on a Monday morning at Dunmar Court at 10.30am - new members always welcome. The group also provides a cushion service and a breast-feeding counselling service.

Alison appointed Guild convener

AT THE February meeting of the Church of Scotland Guild's National Executive committee, it was announced that Alison Angus, from Lochcarron and Skye, is to be the incoming national convener of the Guild. Alison was born and educated in Glasgow and trained as a teacher at Jordanhill College. She lived for many years in Aberdeen, and was ordained as an elder in Culter.

Married with three daughters and five grandchildren, Alison moved to Lochcarron with her husband when she took early retirement as head of geography at Dyce Academy. A former Guild Council convener, Alison was convener of the Guild's marketing and publicity committee before becoming vice convener last year. Alison has an interest in hill walking and sailing, passing her interests in outdoor pursuits on to young people via her church youth work and Scripture Union. Alison is currently a Trustee on the Management Committee of COOL (Christian Outlook on Lochalsh) which supports an interdenominational youth worker working in the churches and schools.

Commenting on her appointment, Alison said: 'I am deeply touched and humbled by the trust being placed in me by the Guild and shall seek, with God's help, to serve it faithfully. 'The Guild is an inspiration to all in the church and I feel greatly honoured and privileged to have been invited to serve it in this way.'

At the same meeting, Mary Ford, from Glasgow North, was elected as national vice-convener. Mary was born and brought up in Glasgow. Married to Alan, minister at Springburn, they have two daughters and two grandchildren. Mary was a bank teller until taking early retirement and now works part-time for Crossreach in the Glasgow Day Opportunities service.

Mary is a former council convener and is currently the convener of Finance and General Purposes committee. Mary likes reading, walking and visits to the gym. She also likes to keep up with family and friends on Facebook.

Alison and Mary will take up their posts following the General Assembly in May.

CHARITY DONATIONS

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Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer) Oban Hospice Ltd The Croft Kilmore

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Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 6 March 2011
Sunday before Lent
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School and Crèche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost.
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....10.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 6 March 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

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Main Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
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LONDON QUARTERLY GAELIC SERVICE
Will be held in Crown Court Church
Russell Street
Covent Garden
London WC2
On Sunday 13th March, 2011 at 3.30pm
Preacher..... Revd Angus Smith
Church of Scotland
Edinburgh

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WEDDINGS

CAMPBELL - McCORMICK
On October 31, 2010, Fiona, daughter of Graham and Liz Campbell, Motherwell to Jeff, son of Fiona and Jeff McCormick, Ardchattan, Argyll.

MILNE - JOHNSTONE
Julie Milne and John Johnstone were married at St Oran's Church, Connell on December 18, 2010. They celebrated their wintry wedding with family and friends at Barcaldine House Hotel.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban

ROE - McGRATH
Amy Roe and Brian McGrath were married at the Holly Tree Hotel in front of spectacular views at Kentallen on February 19, 2011.
They celebrated here with family and friends at this beautiful venue.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

FRIDAY, March 4, is the date for World Day of Prayer 2011. Women, men, old and young from around the world are invited to share in this service which will take place from sunrise in the Tonga Islands until sunset over Alaska many hours later. People in more than 180 countries make time to come together to sing, think and pray around a common theme every year at this time. Bearing in mind the horrific earth-

quake which occurred just off the coast of Chile on the February 27 last year, it is highly appropriate that the world-wide service has been written by Christian women of Chile. Buildings bridges and roads were destroyed in many parts of Chile at that time and yet the resilience of the people looking ahead to a restored nation is echoed in the service which they have written. Taking as its theme 'How many loaves

have you?' the service of 2011 looks at those in countries where food and possessions are in abundance, and sets that against places where the people are poor and starving. World Day of Prayer's main service in Oban will be held in St Columba's Cathedral, Esplanade at 3pm, when you, like other people throughout the world, will be asked to consider the question: 'How many loaves have you?' A warm welcome to all.

Cup heartbreak for Argyll Schools

RUGBY

National Bowl Argyll Schools U16 15 Firhill High School U16 19 ARGYLL Schools lost out in the Quarter Final of the National Bowl competition with a narrow 19-15 defeat to Firhill High from Edinburgh last Friday.

The home side took an early lead with Rory Tait combining well with fellow back rower Magnus Bradbury at the back of a scrum resulting in Bradbury scoring the first try of the afternoon.

Firhill hit back soon after with a score of their own to level at 5-5.

Firhill continued to press before half time but were denied by a superb try saving tackle from Ruaridh Aitken, allowing stand off Cianan Whyte to eventually clear the Argyll lines.

The first 20 minutes of the second half saw no notable passages of play with both teams failing to turn pressure into points.

Argyll went ahead after 65 minutes with a try from Oban's Alistair Fothergill.

A quick penalty was taken beneath the posts and passed quickly to 'Foggy' who found himself with a short run to the line clear of any defenders. Whyte was again unlucky with the conversion and Argyll were leading 10-5 with 15 minutes of the game remaining.

Firhill again hit back with a converted score to lead 12-10 while Mull's Stuart Tomison scored the try of the game with a superb finish out wide that meant Argyll again took the lead at 15-12 with time running out.

Luck proved not to be on Argyll's side with Firhill scoring at the death and despite a huge effort in the last few minutes Argyll could not rescue the game.

Sponsorship and shirt deals for Argyll and Bute RFC

THE development of rugby throughout Argyll and Bute received a boost this week. AMP Electrical services are sponsoring £500 towards youth rugby at Argyll and Bute RFC, an agreement which will continue at this level annually for five years.

David Sturrock Yachting is providing a further £1,000 towards youth rugby development and will display the company and partners' logos on rugby development officer Billy Thomson's car.

Both of these deals have been supported by Sportsmatch Scotland, which means the club will receive a further £1,700 of funding.

The club has also agreed a shirt sponsorship deal with the following businesses: Cuan Mor, Oban Bay Brewery and the Isle of Mull Brewery.

The shirts have been ordered and will be delivered in time for the club's next match, which is away to Greenock Wanderers on April 9.

Unbeaten run ends at five for league leaders Liverpool

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LEAGUE leaders Liverpool lost for the first time in five games when they were beaten 3-2 by a resurgent Caley Jags side at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Caley Jags, who were bottom of the All Young indoor football league until last week, have now won their last four matches.

Liverpool remain top of the league but their lead has been cut to two points as second-placed Lochaber Leisure defeated HW Energy 3-1. Goon Squad are keeping up the pressure in third place as they got back to winning ways with a 3-0 win against NGTW.

Achintore FC slipped two places to sixth after losing 3-1 to Funky Five, who moved into fifth. All Trades are in fourth position after a 3-0 against bottom side Crazy Crofter.

Biggest win of the weekend went to Ballachulish, who notched up a 7-2 victory against Caol.

All to play for at top of the league

FOOTBALL

Over-35s League	P	Pts
Trialists	6	18
Taynuilt	6	16
Hydro	6	15
Spartak	7	12
WCM	8	10
Teachers	7	10
Emergency	8	10
Seil	8	9
Clan Trees	8	3
Owen Sails	6	0

Results: Owen Sails 2, Seil 5; Clan Trees 0, Emergency 3; Emergency 1, Spartak 4.

Records tumble at final of Sports Hall Athletics

THERE was an entry of 90 athletes at the final of the Sports Hall Athletics at Atlantis Leisure in Oban last Saturday. The final was the last in a series of five competitions held during the winter months and promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

After almost five hours of intense competition the overall awards were distributed to most parts of the county with athletes from Mid Argyll winning four out of the 10 titles.

Kintyre dominated in the girls competitions claiming three out of five titles. Oban won two of the boys age categories and Mull won the remaining title in the boys contest.

Outstanding

Five Argyll age records were broken. Three of the records were set in the boys under-9 events and two set by an outstanding champion William Brock, from Ardrishaig Primary.

He won the high jump, clearing 1.12metres, adding 2cm to the Argyll age record - but he only won the event on countback, recording fewer failures than Angus Milne, from Tobermory, who cleared the same height and now shares the



Alasdair Murphy (left) and Gordon Thomson accepted the boys schools trophy on behalf of Oban High School. 15_109boyschamps

record with William.

William then moved across the hall for the two-lap time trials and set the fastest time of

26.2secs improving the record by over half a second. He also won the standing long jump and vertical jump, reaching up to

42cm just below the record.

Shaun Doy, also from Ardrishaig Primary, was runner up in this age group just ahead of Sam Coates, of Park Primary. Shaun excels in the javelin and in winning the event he broke his own Argyll age record set last year with a new mark of 17.75metres.

Shaun also won the standing triple jump. Sam Coates won the speed bounce and Cameron Reid from Castlhill Primary, in Campbeltown, won the 4lap race in 59.7seconds.

Dominated

Paddy Dunne, from Rockfield, dominated in the under 11 contest winning four events - the two-lap race, vertical jump, triple jump and javelin, throwing 20.25metres. Another Rockfield boy Hector MacDonald was runner-up thanks to wins in the high jump and four-lap.

Other winners in this age category were Fraser Mitchell from Tobermory, who won the speed bounce, and Joseph Harper, from Kilmartin, winner of the long jump.

Ben Coates, from Park Primary, was the under 13 champion

thanks to an impressive all round performance.

Ben won six out of eight events and dominated the two and four lap time. Ben also won the standing long and triple jumps, high jump and speed bounce recording 84.

In the same age group Alasdair Murphy, Oban High School, won the vertical jump and Ross MacCrone, from Tobermory, won the shot putt throwing 7.87metres.

Clean sweep

Cullen McClymont, from Craignure, won the under-15 age contest ahead of Gordon Thomson from Oban and Darren Conley, from Campbeltown. The Mull boy almost completed a clean sweep winning seven out of eight events and recorded excellent marks in every one. Gordon Thomson won the shot putt throwing an impressive 10.16metres.

Erik Riddell, from Tayvallich, was the under-17 champion with Alan Lazarus, from Campbeltown, runner-up. Erik won six events to Alan's two and continues to improve in the high jump, winning with 1.53metres.



Under-11 boys champion Paddy Dunne, from Rockfield (centre) with second placed Hector MacDonald (right) also Rockfield and David Cameron, from Bunesan, third. 15_109under-11boys



Under-13s boys champion Ben Coates (centre) from Park Primary, Alasdair Murphy (left), Oban High School, second and Scott Black, Oban High School third. 15_109under-13boys



Under-15s girls champion Kate Cameron (centre) with second placed Sian Henderson, Tobermory, left, and Oban's Alison MacVicar third. 15_109under-15girls

Eilidh and Nicola are simply the best in girls' competition

THE girls events provided two new Argyll age records with the first falling to the under-11 champion Eilidh Anderson from Dalintober Primary, in Campbeltown. Eilidh won the long and triple jumps, javelin and vertical jump. It was in the latter event she broke the age record reaching up to 49cm and adding 1cm to the old record.

In the same section Chloe Fairman, Lochgilphead Primary, completed a fine double in the running events recording 25.6seconds in the two-lap and 57.4seconds in the four-lap. Three girls shared the same points for second overall - Jenny Semple and Emma Lazarus, both from Dalintober, and Chloe Fairman. Jenny won the speed bounce and Emma was the winner in the high jump.

Jodie Robertson, from Lochgilphead, was the under-9 champion ahead of Grace Thompson, from Rockfield.

Jodie won the high jump and vertical jump and was first equal in the standing long jump with Katie Edmundson, from Bunesan, on Mull. Grace won the javelin and the standing triple.

Holly Robertson, from Easdale, completed a double in the running, winning the two-lap in 28.4 and the four-lap in 62.9seconds. In the same section Emma Curtis, from Lochgilphead, won the speed bounce.

Two girls from Lochgilphead High School were first and second overall in the under 13s just ahead of Ashleigh Connor from Campbeltown. Freya Corner, Inveraray, was champion ahead of Olivia Kerr, Ardrishaig, with Freya winning the high jump, clearing 1.28metres, and the 2lap race, recording 24.5seconds and just missing the Argyll age record.

Olivia excelled in winning the speed bounce with 81 jumps and the 4lap race in 55.5seconds. Ashleigh Connor won the standing triple jump leaping out to 6.34metres, a distance further than the under-15 and under-17 girls and not far off the long standing age record. Also in the under 13s Daisy Williams from Fionnphort won the standing long jump and shot putt and Iona Young from Oban had an excellent win in the vertical jump reaching 55cm and just 4cm below the record still

held by Sara Lopez from Oban.

Kate Cameron, of Campbeltown Grammar, won five events to secure first overall in the under-15 contest ahead of Sian Henderson from Salen on Mull. Kate won the two running events in addition to the long, triple and vertical jumps. Sian won the speed bounce and high jump and another Tobermory High School pupil Natalie McDowall won the shot putt throwing the ball an impressive eight metres exactly, and the best mark for several years.

The under-17 champion, Nicola Paterson, from Campbeltown, was another record breaker. Nicola won six out of the eight events and excelled in the two-lap race winning in 23.9seconds and shaving a fifth of a second from the record held by Eilidh Campbell. In the same age group Rachael Cameron from Tayvallich won the shot putt and Ruth Semple, from Southend, won the speed bounce with an incredible 91 jumps in 30seconds.

Campbeltown Grammar retained the schools trophy for the girls and Oban High School won the boys trophy.

Sadly there are no follow up competitions after the Argyll final. In the past Argyll teams would be selected in the under-13 and under-15 age groups to compete in a regional final and then hopefully the Scottish or even UK final. The sports' governing bodies Scottish Athletics withdrew support for this version of indoor athletics in 2007 denying many young athletes in rural areas the incentive to compete at higher levels. Wales and Northern Ireland and all the regions in England continue to participate in Sports Hall Athletics for under-13s and under-15s.



Fort's Duncan Rodger, Daniel Cameron of Oban and Kilmallie captain John Stewart with the league trophy. 10_09shinty02

Teams line up for start of 2011 shinty season

SHINTY

SHINTY makes its long-awaited return this weekend, with heavyweights of the shinty world officially launching the Scottish Hydro Premier Division on Monday.

Fort William will be hoping to go one better than last year and win the Premier Division, and joining them in the top tier will be their fierce local rivals Kilmallie.

There's no love lost between the two sides and the derbies are sure to be among the highlights of the season for supporters.

Kilmallie's John Stewart told *The Oban Times* they are looking forward to their first game. He said: 'As long as we stay in the league we'll be happy.'

'We're excited about the new season and we've got a few young players who've never played in the Premier League. We're confident, at home especially.'

As well as finishing second in the league, Fort took home the Camanachd Cup last year, and Duncan Rodger says the team are confident they can build on last season's success. He said: 'We, like a lot of teams, have got lots of young players coming through this year, and we're optimistic about our chances in the league.'

Fort take on Glenurquhart at An Aird on Saturday.

Oban Camanachd managed to escape relegation in the final game of the 2010 season. They start their season away to Kilmallie, and Daniel Cameron is looking for the team to improve and steer clear of any relegation battle.

He said: 'We're hoping for mid-table really. We've got some young boys coming through so hopefully they can do well.'

Newtonmore, who won the league for the first time in 28 years last season, start their season with a trip to Inveraray. Captain Norman Rodger said winning the league was a good foundation for future success.

He said: 'Winning the Premier League was a great day for the club. 'We've got a good squad but it can all be down to two or three bad results. 'The groundwork needs to be done by everyone and we're looking for the younger boys to come in and step up to the mark. 'We also want to challenge in the Camanachd Cup and bring it back to Newtonmore.'

Opening day fixtures

Camanachd Association fixtures, March 5

Scottish Hydro Premier Division: Fort William v Glenurquhart (Colin MacDonald); Inveraray v Newtonmore (Graham Irving); Kilmallie v Oban Camanachd (Ron Kennedy); Kingussie v Lovat (Graham Cameron); Kyles Athletic v Glenorchy (Billy Witherspoon).

Marine Harvest North Division 1: Inverness v Lochcarron (Deek Cameron); Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh (Innes Wood); Lochaber v Beaully (John Angus Gillies); Strathglass v Skye (Donald MacRae).

Marine Harvest South Division 1: Aberdeen v Bute (David Mitchell); Lochside Rovers v Kilmory (Tide MacDonald); Oban Celtic v Kyles Athletic (Dunkie Kerr); Taynuilt v Ballachulish (Robert Baxter);

Marine Harvest North Division 2: Glenarry v Kinlochshiel (Jock Matheson); Glenurquhart v Fort William (Ronnie Campbell); Lovat v Kingussie (John MacLeod); Newtonmore v Lochaber (Evan MacRae); Skye v Kilmallie (Graeme MacMillan).

Marine Harvest South Division 2: Ballachulish v Strachur (Gus Campbell); Bute v Tayforth (Dougie Cameron); Col Glen v Inveraray (Jim Innes); Glasgow Mid Argyll v Aberdeen (Iain Kennedy).

Marine Harvest North Division 3: Beaully v Lewis (Charles Young); Boleskine v Inverness (Kevin Cheeseman); Caberfeidh v Aberdeen University (Willie MacRae); Lochbroom v Ardnarnachan (Robert Morrison); Lochcarron v Strathglass (John Stroggie).

Donna earns Scotland squad call-up

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne's try machine Donna Smith has been called up to the Scotland women's training squad in the middle of the Six Nations championship.

The 24-year-old was only recently selected for the West

Region squad but impressive performances have been noticed by Scotland selectors. Scotland play England next weekend.

Table-topping Saints and Warriors settle for a share of the points

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

LOCHGILPHEAD have had some tough encounters against Galaxy in the last few weeks but the boys from Mid Argyll breezed past the stars of the Galaxy team by putting away three in either half to make the final score 6-0.

Goals were courtesy of a brace each for Tyler Robertson, Rhys Casci and Euan Finlay. Stars of the match for Galaxy were Kenni Gray, Rory Johnson and Calum Warnock who made some fine blocking tackles to keep the score down.

Lochgilphead doubled their tally of points as they sought to overtake the Pumas in second place in the league with a fine 2-0 win. A great display in goals from Kyle Macdougall kept the score respectable for Pumas who are deserved of third place.

Over on pitch two, the Saints U9s started their day with a tough looking encounter with Benderloch. The opening minutes saw an intriguing midfield battle and it was the Saints who broke free first to set the opener from Cameron Clark who ran on to a through ball from Jude Bain and slotted the ball past the oncoming Benderloch keeper Dougie Macdonald.

Jamie Turner was on hand to save a couple of Benderloch long range efforts before Cameron scored a second, with the ball squirming over the line. Brandon Petrie came on and immediately made a huge impact, smashing in the third and fourth goals to seal the points.



Action from Lochnell against Stoddarts, which was a closely fought encounter that finished 1-1. 08_109foot01

The U9s then played the high flying Pumas and after some really close encounters between them lately, the Saints U9s were in the mood to get started. Lewis Campbell opened the scoring for

Saints followed by the excellent Euan Logan who hit the crucial second. Aiden MacPhee and Gavin Forgive followed suit with a goal apiece to put them in command.

James Beaton looked dangerous up front, keeping Ross MacCaskill on his toes. Lennan MacKechnie and his two goals were magnificent at the back for Pumas who stemmed the flow from Saints.

Galaxy and Saints U8s then served up a tight goalless draw with chances going a begging at either end. Struan Macdonald went close with a looping shot but didn't trouble the ever impressive Innes Horne in goals.

Some solid defending from Ewen Morgan and Kirsty Macarthur held Fergus Carmichael and Cameron Carmichael from Galaxy breaking through. Adam Munro was unlucky to see his cross-cum shot whizz past Alik Aleynik in the Galaxy goal.

Thwarted

Some strong running from Daniel Baird and Ellis Hunter tormented the Saints but Ross Campbell was on hand to thwart the black and yellows.

Saints U8s then came up against the mighty Benderloch who continue to improve week after week. Laura MacEachern was on hand to score the first for Saints who came out of the blocks the fastest. Benderloch hit back quickly through John Macleod and then doubled their tally after a fine move and goal from Ryan Henriksen.

The mighty Saints never gave up and equalised deservedly through Adam Munro. The sucker punch came in the form of a goal from Dougie Macdonald to send the boys from over the bridge into raptures.

Indoors, the fun of the fours continues with an avalanche of goals for the PIs and P2s. David Hutton and Mathew Pollock were the stars for Spartak whilst Cameron Boag and Jordan Mackintyre shone for Swifts.

The tight affair of the senior league continued with the Lochgilphead derby between the Warriors and Wolves with the older lads of the Warriors coming out on top with a double from Cammy McCallum and further goals from Cianan McPhie and Aaron Whitefield without the Wolves being able to register a reply.

The Wolves got back on track with a fine 2-0 win over Lochnell with Lorne MacFarlane scoring both goals. However in their match against Thistle neither side could find the winner in a game that raged from end to end.

Solitary strike

Lochnell went on to win against Stoddy Boys thanks to a solitary strike from Patrick MacIntyre then looked as if they were about to cause a major upset against league challengers Stoddarts when a fine move from the back starting with Euan Gibb stealing the ball and feeding Finlay Bennett on the right wing who's cross into the middle was finished by Patrick MacIntyre.

Some resolute defending kept Stoddarts at bay for long periods but with almost the last kick of the ball Evan MacLellan snatched a late equaliser.

Stoddarts did record three points against Tralee with Lomond MacPherson and Andy Ritchie netting without reply.

Tralee were also unable to find the net in their match with Stoddy Boys and were on the receiving end of a hat trick from James MacAllister to seal the points for the Boys. The luckless Tralee went down by the same scoreline

to the high flying Saints Boys with Martin Rennie and Lewis Buchanan finding the net.

Saints Boys went one better in their match against Thistle scoring four without reply with Rennie (hat-trick) and Buchanan finding the net again.

Thistle fared better against Oban Saints but still left the park empty handed when Duncan McAllister scored the only goal of the game.

Unstuck

Oban Saints came unstuck however against the Warriors with Cianan McPhie and Aaron Whitefield scoring the all important goals.

A top of the table clash between joint top Saints Boys and Warriors drew a large crowd who were treated to the opener from Danny MacCuish who rifled home a left foot drive. Warriors battled away and got their reward when Cammy Simpson angled a low right foot effort across goal and into the far corner leaving Saints excellent goal keeper Cameron MacMillan with no chance.

The game was there to be won but with both sides almost settling for a share of the spoils the ball dropped to MacCuish again and he made no mistake from close range and had the ball nestling in the corner for what would be the winner and open up a three point gap at the top for the Saints Boys.

Another enthralling weekend of football with all age groups showing real progress in their respective formats will continue at the high school next week on Sunday morning.

Double delight for Banavie at keenly contested festival



Banavie Primary School: P5 and under winners of the Gilmour Sports First Shinty Festival. Banavie captain Victor Smith and his team hoist the P5 and under trophy. 10_f09cup04

SHINTY

BANAVIE Primary School swept the boards at the Gilmour Sports First Shinty Festival at Fort William on Saturday.

Hundreds of supporters, friends and families packed into the Nevis Centre and Lochaber High School to watch two thrilling 12-team P6-7 and P5 and under competitions, organised by the Camanachd Association.

Both tournaments – effectively all-Scotland and world championships – saw the teams split into two groups of six for the round-robin games, with the top two going through to the semi-finals.

At the high school, Banavie overcame Glasgow Gaels 4-0 to reach the P5 and under final, while Glenurquhart edged out Portree 3-2 in a thriller to go through.

Glens took the lead in the final, but gradually Banavie gained the upper hand and ran out 4-2 victors. Glengarry won the 'Fair Play' award, while Portree gained some consolation by beating Glasgow Gaels to finish third.

Camanachd Association coaching and performance manager Graham Cormack praised all involved in making the tournament a huge success, before director of youth shinty Calum Duff told the youngsters he was 'very impressed' with the standard of play.

'It is obvious to me today that you are listening to your coaches,' he said. 'Parents and coaches both have put a lot of time in and without you we would not be here.'

He told gallant losing finalists Glenurquhart: 'You can walk away today with your heads held high.'

At the Nevis Centre semis, Banavie lined up against North End from Skye, whose players are drawn from Kilmuir, Staffin and MacDiarmid schools.

Angus MacDonald opened the scoring for North End and Marcus Ross doubled the lead before Lorne Ross pulled one back for Banavie.

Iain MacIntyre then made it 2-2 before Cameron Ross edged Banavie ahead only for Gus MacDonald to snatch a dramatic equaliser right on full time.

The Skye boys almost snatched the 'golden goal' in extra time, but had their final hopes shattered when Lorne Ross slammed home the winner.

For North End coach John Gillies, it was so near yet so far. 'This is their first year as a six-a-side team so it was a great achievement to get to the last four,' he said.

'Generally I am very happy with the boys, but we are a bit disappointed.'

North End went on to score a narrow 1-0 win over the Kiltarlilly team to finish third.

In the final, St Columba's were



Good finish: North End came third in P6-7 tournament. 10_f09cup03



Above, St Columba's, Oban, were P6-7 runners up (10_f09cup02), while Portree Primary (right) were third in P5 and under competition (10_f09cup06).



Banavie's opponents after the Oban side defeated Tomnacross 4-3 in another cracking semi.

In a fast and furious final St Columba scored early but Banavie roared back for a 3-2 victory with goals from Lorne Ross, Cameron Ross and Iain MacIntyre. St Columba's scored in the last second.

Delighted Banavie coach Victor Smith told The Oban Times: 'The performances by the teams both in the P5 and P7 competitions were fantastic – as was the standard of shinty on show.'

The 'fair play' award went to Kinlochberrie.

Kinloss prove just too strong for improved Lochaber

RUGBY

RAF Kinloss 34, Lochaber 15.

LOCHABER were knocked out of the Bowl despite an improved performance against RAF Kinloss on Saturday.

The RAF men racked up more than 100 points when the sides met at the beginning of the season, but Lochaber surprised their opponents by taking the lead within the first five minutes. Liam Allan's mazy run led to a lineout in the twenty-two, from which centre David Harvey burst through two tackles to score under the posts.

Kenny Turnbull converted the try, but the home side hit back soon after with a try of their own.

Lochaber saw plenty of the ball during the first half, with both Ally Revitt and Rory MacKay going close to scoring and Turnbull kicking a penalty. But Kinloss were able to score three further tries to make the score 24-10 at the break.

Good defensive work from Lochaber restricted Kinloss to two tries in the second half, and the away side managed to claw back some points when a move involving Stan Whittaker and Turnbull led to a Revitt try. The RAF side won the game 34-15, a scoreline that didn't fully reflect the close encounter.

It's back to league business for third-placed Lochaber this Saturday when they take on the team directly above them in the league, Moray, at Banavie.

Lochaber: N Craik, R MacKay, K Garrick, A Revitt, D Maclean, P Fronczek, S Whitaker, C MacPherson, T Baxter, K Turnbull (Capt), L Allan, D Harvey, S Trail, J McCook, R Wallace, C Simpson, Gary Hendrie, D Macdonald.

Basement clash as Fort take on fellow strugglers Wick

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM will look to move off the bottom of the league when they face fellow strugglers Wick Academy at Claggan Park on Saturday.

Wick are three places ahead of the Lochaber side, who took on second-bottom Strathspye United on Tuesday night. Mark Gillespie, Stephen Hendry and Chris Macleod all missed the midweek game. Gillespie will be available on Saturday but the other two are still doubts.

Manager Calum Maclean told The Oban Times these games were a chance for his side to gather some momentum for the end of the season.

He said: 'We have done well against Wick before, especially at home. It should be a tight game but hopefully we can get a result and our season can kick on from there.'

Fort were scheduled to play Forres Mechanics and Turiff United last week but both games fell victim to heavy rain, adding further congestion to Fort's fixture list.

But MacLean said: 'Games will be Wednesday-Saturday for the rest of the season, and that's just the way we like it.'

It's four in a row for Caol's cross country running team

CAOL Primary School's recent success at the Lochaber Primary Schools Cross Country Championships continued as they won the team event title for the fourth year in a row.

This year's event, held at Nevis Range, saw 16 teams from as far as Mallaig, Lochaline and Invergarry taking part with each school entering a team of three boys and three girls.

Twin sisters from Caol took first and second in the girls' race, with Abbie Blackhall finishing in first in 10m and 50s and Robyn 10 seconds behind.

Third place went to Invergarry's Chloe Macdonald.

Ewen MacLean, of Banavie Primary, won the boys' race after finishing second last year. He fin-

ished in a time of 10m 9s, just four seconds ahead of St Brides' Stephen Dent and Ian MacIntyre, who finished level in joint second.

The overall team event was Caol in first, with Banavie second and Upper Achintore and Inverlochly finishing joint third.

Environmental conservation students from West Highland College marked out the course and marshalled the Active Schools event.

Active schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas said: 'Thanks go to Samuel and Robyn and Partners for their ongoing support, to the Primary PE and Active Schools staff for organising and running the event and to the many teachers and school staff who help train the teams and helped on the day.'



Caol celebrate winning the team title for the fourth year running with individual winners Ewen MacLean from Banavie and Abbie Blackhall from Caol. 10_f09schools01



Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

WIN £700

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
M McFarlane, Bridgend, Isle of Islay and L Dunn, McKelvie Road, Oban

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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I enclose £1 (note) 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.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Last-minute try leaves Oban Lorne stunned

Scottish Hydro Electric West Division One

Oban Lorne 10, Lenzie 11
 A LAST-gasp Lenzie try denied Oban Lorne an eighth successive league win at Glencruitten last Saturday in a closely fought game.

Oban welcomed back player/coach Corrie Louw from suspension as well as Jamie MacMillan, Chris MacDonald and Angus MacCallum.

The home side started the game knowing that a win would extend their advantage in second place in the table.

Oban made a couple of notable breaks in the first 10 minutes, first from Chris MacDonald then out wide with Gus Munro. This gave Oban the ball on the Lenzie line but were denied with some good defensive work from the visitors. Lenzie suddenly broke away

RUGBY

raced up the touchline in numbers and Oban had fullback Robert Wright to thank for a good tackle to stop Lenzie going forward. The away side continued to press and were unlucky not to score with a knock-on near the Oban line.

Oban suffered a blow when scrum half Fergus Matheson was replaced by Mark MacQueen, due to a head knock.

Lenzie continued to press the Oban 22 but were denied by a good lineout steal from Jamie MacMillan. Both sides missed a penalty attempt before the break in an otherwise uneventful first half as neither team recorded any points before the interval.

Oban took the lead early in the second half with a penalty being awarded for Lenzie illegally tak-

ing the maul down. The points were kicked by MacCallum with a roar from the sizeable home crowd. This was followed with another penalty attempt by MacCallum, but unfortunately his effort touched the wrong side of the uprights.

Lenzie hit back with a penalty of their own with an Oban player offside, levelling the scores after 55 minutes.

The match became scrappy with no notable passages of play and both teams missed further penalty attempts.

Oban then kept the ball through several phases, working their way towards the try line. Several attempts at the line were made from the Oban forwards with the away defence keeping them out.

Oban prop Robin MacQueen, however, refused to be stopped and managed to ground the ball

giving Oban Lorne the first try of the afternoon and a 10-3 lead with a successful conversion.

This score eased the pressure on Oban and they were now keeping the ball for longer periods to try to see out the game.

Second row Craig Nicholson was replaced due to a knee injury by Lorne MacLauchlan on 70 minutes and Lenzie narrowed the lead with a penalty.

Gary MacEwan also entered the game replacing Angus Munro.

With two minutes of time remaining Oban had the ball on the Lenzie line and were looking comfortable.

The referee blew for a penalty against Oban and Lenzie forced their way into the Oban 22.

Again another penalty was conceded and with the game into overtime Lenzie dived over on

the blindside from a ruck.

This proved to be the last action of the game leaving the Oban players stunned at conceding so late on when they deserved so much more for their hard efforts throughout the game.

The result now means Oban slip into third place in West Division One but still have aspirations of finishing in the top two.

Oban Lorne play away at Uddingston on Saturday, kick off 3pm.

Oban Lorne: M Downie, K Kennedy, R MacQueen, J MacMillan, C Nicholson, S Smith, A MacDougall, C Louw, F Matheson, A MacCallum, A Munro, C Smith, C MacDonald, C MacLauchlan, R Wright.

D Williams, A Park, L MacLauchlan, R Teodoru, G MacEwan.



No way through: Oban's Jamie MacMillan is brought to the ground by two Lenzie defenders during Saturday's closely fought encounter. 15_109rugby03

Saints youth results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results for Oban Saints Youth teams were: Helensburgh 5, Under 13s 7. Scoring for Saints were Jamie MacPherson (2), Kieran Hendry 2, Louis MacGuire, Ally MacLean and Ross MacMillan.

League Cup: Under 14s 2, EDFC United 0. Netting for Saints were Paull McFadrigue and Stewart Twort. The Under 14s now face Clydebank at home in the quarter final.

Under 15s - game postponed. Ardencaple 5, Under 16s 1. Scoring for Saints was Dylan Cooke.

Next weekend's fixtures at the Community 3G Pitch: Saturday - Under 14s v Clydebank, kick-off 11 am; Under 16s no game. Sunday - League Cup quarter final: Under 13s v Westerton, kick-off 1pm; Under 15s v Strathleven, kick-off 10.30am.

Islay results

GOLF

WINTER league played on Sunday, February 27: 1 Ruaraidh MacIntyre 37pts; 2 Neil Johnston 35pts; 3 John Ferguson 34pts. Magic 2s: Alistair MacMillan.

Connel's Smith races to victory

ATHLETICS

WITH a hint of spring in the air, Lochaber AC's annual Winter League Glen 10K attracted 63 runners, many competing in their first 10K race.

Tom Smith took the honours in a time of 35 mins 38 secs with John Binnie only one second behind but clocking a personal best. Tim Brand followed in third in 36 mins 16 secs with Oli Blomfield in fourth in 36 mins 25 (also a personal best).

In the ladies race Lucy Prins was first in 43 mins followed by Laura Barbour who also secured a personal best in a time of 44 mins 17 secs. Third lady and also second Female vet 40 was Aileen Duncan, also in a personal best time of 46 mins 27 secs.

It was good to see so many Jogsotland runners competing and all of them running excellent times. Lochaber AC would like to thank Northern Constabulary for seeing the runners safely across the main road into the Glen and all the marshals for their help. Next Race is the Larig Mhor on March 12.

Top 20 results, LAC unless otherwise stated:
 1. Tom Smith 35:38; 2 John Binnie 35:39; 3 Tim Brand 36:16; 4 Oli Blomfield 36:25; 5 Paul MacLean 36:46; 6 Ryan Stewart 37:12; 7 Tark Gunn 39:14; 8 Alan Smith (Dee) 39:15; 9 Owen Bass (Dee) 40:02; 10 Andrew Ferguson (u/a) 40:51; 11 Ronnie Turner 40:59; 12 Bruce Davie 41:22; 13 Ben Dodman 41:41; 14 Bert Bindels 42:18; 15 Lucy Prins 43:00; 16 Ritchie Collins 43:53; 17 Laura Barbour 44:17; 18 Scott Langan 44:28; 19 Andrew Cameron 44:39; 20 Jim Treasurer 44:52.

Preview of the new shinty season plus opening day fixtures - page 20

Nothing to choose between the sides

Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division

Cambria 0, Oban Saints 0
 THE superb Strathclyde University playing field at Stepps was the venue for an entertaining encounter despite the goalless scoreline.

The Glasgow side are currently enjoying no luck in their league programme, having lost all six games by the odd goal in every match apart from a 4-2 defeat at the hands of Arkleston.

However, Cambria are through to the last 16 of the Scottish Cup and with a group of former Saints players in their ranks, the Oban club wishes them well in their cup run.

Only two Oban lads were in the Cambria squad for this game - keeper Daniel Cassells and midfielder Scott Johnstone. Calum Hill was injured and Joe Lopez and Eddie Swift were unavailable.

Saints started the better of the teams and had the Cambria defence on the back foot in the early exchanges.

Ross Maitland had the first chance, when he cut inside but his right foot shot sailed over the bar. Mattie Rippon then had a reasonable effort that flew past the post.

The home side, urged on by skipper Sinclair Patience, came back into the game and the big central defender had a great chance from a corner, but headed wide of the target.

Both teams were playing some good stuff but found the defences on top form. Saints came close in the 24th minute when they were awarded a free kick 25 yards out, but Ross Maitland's effort flew inches over the bar.

The visitors had the best of the early exchanges, but Cambria had come storming back into the game as referee Mark Cameron, who had a good game, blew for half time.

Saints created a good chance in the 56th minute when their Bulgarian striker Asen Gay-

FOOTBALL

dardzhiev beat his man out wide before whipping a great cross into the box. Unfortunately it was just behind Mattie Rippon and the wee man could not direct his header on target. At the other end Scott Johnstone came close with a good effort that flashed past the post.

The game was flowing from end to end, with both teams playing some excellent football, but there was no end product.

Manager Iain Jackson freshened up his side by taking off Asen and Mattie Rippon replacing them with Myles McAuley and Craig MacEwan and with his first touch of the ball Craig turned and hooked a shot goalwards, but Daniel Cassells was happy to see it flash over his crossbar.

Cambria, eager to pick up their first points of the season, pushed forward, but they never really troubled the Saints rearguard too much.

With seven minutes remaining the visitors thought they had taken the lead when Willie Gemmell fired in a great free kick that looked to be heading into the bottom corner, but Cassells dived full length to deny his former team with a tremendous save.

With the 90 minutes almost up Marc MacCallum was unlucky when the Cambria defence failed to clear a corner and the Saints defender's effort hit the bar.

Manager Iain Jackson was quite happy with the performance.

'It was a good game of football although scoring opportunities were few and far between. We may have just edged it on chances created, but a draw was about right. I can't understand why Cambria are struggling in the league as they're a good side.'

This Saturday the Oban team travel to play 2008-09 league champions St Joseph's FP in the league. The game will be played at William Street, Duntocher, with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is Jim Pearson from Glasgow.

Camanachd cruise but Lochside crash to Fort

Oban Camanachd 3, Kilmory 0

SHINTY

CAMANACHD started the match combining the majority of possession with some great passing moves up front.

They could have gone ahead early on when Aiden Macintyre ran onto a pass from Ian 'Scally' Macmillan and hit a great low shot that rebounded off the post.

Aiden again could have opened the scoring when he hit a near perfect shot only for the Kilmory keeper to turn it out for a corner.

Camanachd then seemed to do everything but score with shots flying over the bar and round the posts, while the Kilmory keeper was on great form and proving very hard to beat.

Then in the 42nd minute of the first half, Lorn Dickie received a pass from Lewis Cameron which he hit first time, drilling it past the keeper - a great goal.

At half time Camanachd changed their formation up front which seemed to pay off straight away with Scally going into the D and his slick play and great ability to bring defenders onto him making space for young Lewis Cameron who shot straight into the top corner of the Kilmory goal.

However, Camanachd's celebrations were cut short when referee Billy Wotherspoon blew for offside from a decision by the

goal judge - a correct decision but hard to swallow under the circumstances.

Camanachd continued to pressure the Kilmory defence and took full control of the match when Scally dribbled the ball round three defenders before converting the chance to make it 2-0 on 65 minutes.

Kilmory's keeper made a string of three fine saves before the game was stopped late on when a spectator was struck on the face from a Kilmory clearance. Both benches provided first aid and made sure the gentleman was okay before the match continued.

Aiden Macintyre was last on the score sheet when he turned his shot straight past the keeper to make it 3-0 Oban in the 86th minute.

Oban managers Diarmid Macmillan and Andrew Pearson were pleased with the result but more pleased that they could try everything they needed to do before the season starts on Saturday with an away fixture to Kilmallie.

After the match, Macmillan and Pearson said they were pleased with the results from all three pre-season matches.

'We have been trying different players in different positions and different formations up front. It was important for us to try this to allow us to see what was best or



Fergus Walker shields the ball from Ian 'Scally' Macmillan. Camanachd cruised to a 3-0 win. 15_109obankilmory04

what would work for us. We are confident that we have the right mix of players to make 2011 a better season than the last.

'We would like to thank our players for the commitment they have shown so far with regards to training and making allowances to turn out for our pre-season programme. We know it's not easy with work etc.'

The club also wished to thank sponsors SEC Joinery.

Lochside Rovers 0, Fort William 11 3

LOCHSIDE Rovers suffered a disappointing defeat to North Division Two club Fort William in their final pre-season friendly at Ganavan on Saturday.

The home team got off to a decent start in the opening 10 minutes with Craig MacDougall forcing the Fort William keeper to make an excellent save from a close-range effort.

David Lafferty also came close to getting the opening goal for Lochside with a shot which went just high of the target.

However, it was Fort William who opened the scoring in the 11th minute when Josh McGhee's shot from 15 yards went in off the post.

Close

David Devine came close to an equaliser for Lochside in the 18th minute but his long-range shot went high over the bar.

Fort William then dealt the home side another blow three minutes later when they took advantage of some sloppy home defending. Ewan Campbell putting his side 2-0 up.

After this, Fort William contin-

ued to dominate the centre line and Campbell scored again in the 28th minute.

The Oban side were struggling to cope with a Fort William team in full flow at this point and their woes continued when Devine failed to take advantage of a great chance in the 40th minute.

His shot went wide from all of five yards after Daniel MacKinnon put in a great ball across the goal mouth.

Lochside went into the half-time break three down and after stern words by managers David MacInnes and Tony Howlett, they started the second half a bit brighter.

At the same time though, Fort William continued to play well and were obviously the more comfortable side with the benefit of a substantial lead.

Fort William came close to their fourth goal when a shot went over the bar in the 49th minute.

Moments later, they were awarded a stonewall penalty by referee Peter McCuish but they put it just wide of the right hand post.

Lochside goalkeeper Robert Dunning helped keep the deficit down to three with two great saves, firstly in the 63rd minute from a 10 yard shot and then in the 80th minute from a close range effort.

Having impressed away to Inverness the previous weekend, the Lochside management team would have been hoping for a similar performance.

But they saw none of the passing and urgency that had been so prominent in their play seven days earlier.

Howlett said: 'Fort William played very well and deserved their win but I was disappointed with the all-round performance of my team.'

'We will need to improve in training this week for the first game of the season this weekend.'

Lochside, sponsored by Cuan Mor, open up their South Division One campaign at Ganavan against Kilmory on Saturday with a 2.30pm throw-up.

Weather
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Thursday
 Light rain.
 Winds light, easterly.
 Temperatures 6°C to 7°C

Friday
 Light rain.
 Winds light, easterly.
 Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook
 Drizzle.
 Winds light, south easterly.
 Temperatures 8°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
 Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - Moderate
 Kennacraig to Islay - Moderate

Tides
 Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler**
 Telephone: 01631 562550

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 3, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.59 3.7 11.28 1.1 17.19 3.6 23.39 0.9	
Fri	05.32 3.9 11.59 1.0 17.47 3.8 *** **	
Sat	00.11 0.8 06.04 4.0 12.29 0.9 18.15 3.9	
Sun	00.43 0.8 06.35 4.0 12.59 0.9 18.42 3.9	
Mon	01.12 0.9 07.04 4.0 13.28 1.0 19.08 3.9	
Tues	01.38 1.0 07.32 3.9 13.55 1.1 19.34 3.8	
Wed	02.00 1.2 07.57 3.7 14.19 1.2 20.00 3.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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