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Mother's Day Madness MUMS GO FREE see page 12

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Inside this week

A83 long-term solution options 'unlikely' says Transport Minister



Teams ready for start of the new shinty season



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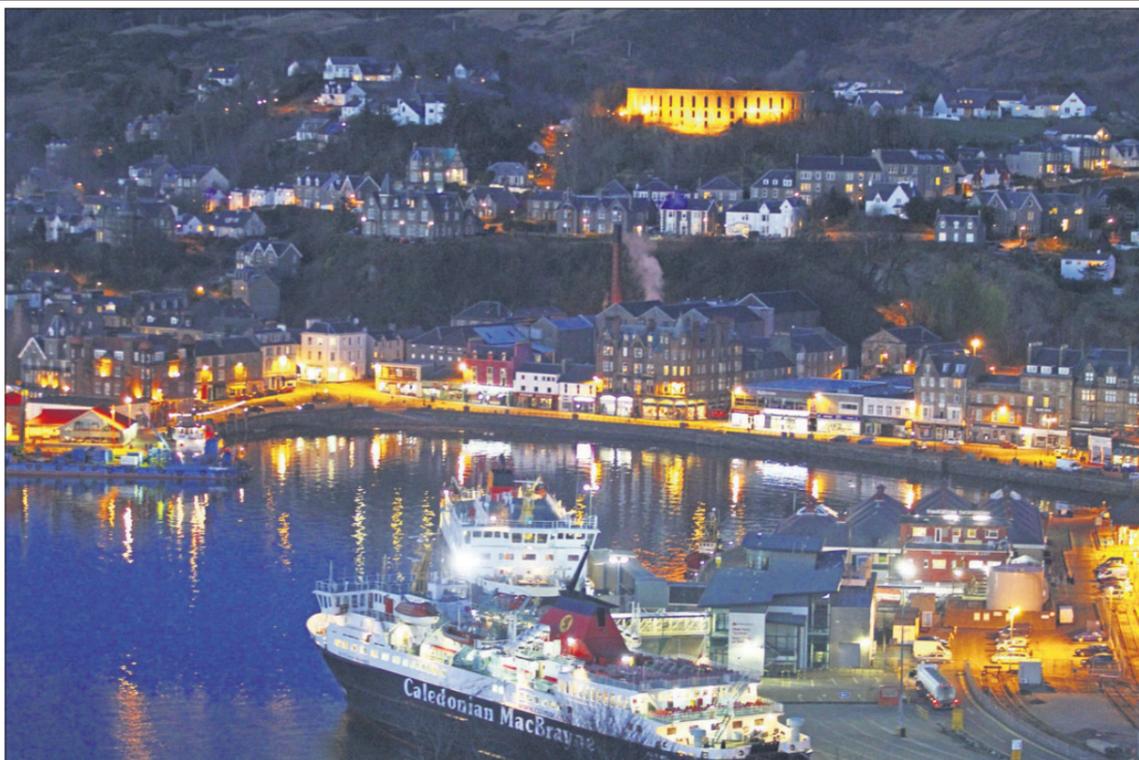
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Real sustainable economic growth could come to Oban via its terrific maritime assets and heritage. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Oban Bay development may gain public funding

'Marine facility will go ahead that will change Oban forever'

PLANS to install a marina in Oban Bay are almost certain to go ahead after a proposal to use public funds for the facility was put forward.

A project which will see Oban's North Pier turned into a 'marine leisure quarter' will be looked at by Argyll and Bute Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Lachie Beaton, senior development manager with HIE, described the news as a positive step.

He said: 'It has been going forward slowly but this is a stage where everyone has decided something can happen.'

'My understanding is that it will be a smaller scale than what Oban Bay Marine were putting forward, the number of berths will be reduced and it will be purely a summer transit facility with no winter berthing.'

It is understood funds from the council and HIE will be used to plan and construct the project with the day to day running then

being handed over to a community group.

This is most likely to be Oban Bay Marine, which has been working on the project since 2007. A spokesman for the organisation said: 'I'm confident that a marine facility will go ahead that will change Oban forever and enhance the commercial viability of the town centre.'

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee, chairwoman of the Oban CHORD project board which is working on the project, said: 'I

can say that all stakeholders have emerged from this exercise with a broader view on how best to secure real sustainable economic growth for Oban via its terrific maritime assets and heritage.'

The transit facility would provide accessible step-ashore provision and be linked to a redevelopment of the white building as an orientation point for visitors and visiting sailors including the provision of toilets and showers.

Graham MacQueen, whose

charitable trust currently has occupancy of the white building, has welcomed the plans to redevelop it.

He said: 'We have long recognised that this building is far too good to be a charity shop, it is one of the most fantastic sites in Oban.'

'We are really pleased that the council gave it to us free of charge for so many years but I think the marine facility would be a fantastic use of the building.'

Ex-bowling alley could be multi-storey car park says councillor

A DISUSED bowling alley in Oban could be the answer to Oban's parking problems, according to a local councillor.

Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader, Roddy McCuish, suggested the Harbour Bowl on Shore Street could be knocked down with serious interest in buying the building apparently limited.

Suggesting building a multi-storey car park on the site, he said capacity for 2-300 spaces could potentially generate up to £3million for the town over five years.

With buses already stopping adjacent to the site on a regular basis, Mr McCuish said the vacant building represented a missed opportunity for the area.

Speaking at Monday's meeting of Oban Community Council, he said: 'The bowling alley will never be resurrected. It's a white elephant. In my view that would be an ideal spot for a car park.'

The idea was well received by community councillors, but fellow councillor Louise Glen-Lee added that someone was looking at the possibility of buying the building (See page 2 for full story).

Meanwhile, Mr McCuish has said he thinks existing rates exemption for vacant premises should be capped to stop property developers making profit from empty buildings.

He said: 'Personally, I think that should last at most three to five years. It should never be profitable to keep a building empty.'

Man charged after near head-on crash with police car

A 21-YEAR-old man has been charged with reckless driving after allegedly travelling at excessive speed and having a near head on collision with a marked police car between Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy.



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Isle of Colonsay backs fish farm proposal at ballot box

'This decision will bring much-needed jobs'

RESIDENTS on Colonsay have voted to back a proposed fish farm development off the north east coast of the island.

Ballot

Results of a ballot were announced on Tuesday and revealed a majority of 60.9 per cent were in favour of the plan by Marine Harvest, which would create four new jobs.

But opponents had criticised the lack of detail in the impact on the environment.

The ballot, conducted by the Electoral Reform Society, asked

islanders: Are you in favour of Marine Harvest establishing a fish farm off the coast of Colonsay?

Of the 121 eligible voters, 110 turned out to cast their vote, with the 'yes' vote coming out on top by 67 to 43.

Colonsay Community Council has welcomed the decision. Secretary Mike McNicholl said: 'This decision will bring much-needed new jobs and the first big industry to the island.'

'We now hope to work closely with Marine Harvest to secure the maximum benefits for our

community from this exciting new venture.'

'The company are aware of the concerns of the significant minority who voted against the proposal and have already assured us they will address these issues so we can all work together for the greater good of the island.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'The important thing is that following a well conducted ballot and robust debate that the community can move forward positively to the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.'

Islay preacher had indecent images of children on laptop

A LAY Baptist preacher on Islay has admitting creating or permitting to be taken more than 250 indecent pictures of children at his home over two years.

James Sutherland, 61, appeared at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Tuesday and admitting having 266 indecent images or pseudo-images of children on a laptop found in his bedroom. Some of the images found were among the most serious category of child pornography.

The charges cover a period between March 7, 2009 and April 4, 2011.

His plea came as he was due to be tried in front of a jury.

Sutherland, of 12 Mansfield Terrace, Port Ellen, was not remanded in custody and returns to court on April 11 for sentencing. He has been placed on the sex offenders' register.

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Mull Lines



A youngster is delighted by one of Lydia's touch pool talks.

THE NEW Marine Visitor Centre in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull is to be officially opened by an award-winning wildlife cameraman.

Gordon Buchanan, who hails from the island, will cut the ribbon on the new centre on Saturday March 23.

The doors will be open from 12pm to 5pm with the official opening taking place at 2pm. The centre features tanks full of marine life, touch pools and a variety of exhibitions to inform and entertain young and old.

Manager Lydia Hosdell, who runs the centre for Tobermory Harbour Association, said she was looking forward to the day.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It should be really good. We're having touch pool talks and lots to keep the kids entertained as well as our celebrity guest Gordon Buchanan.'

The centre also holds a zoo licence but Lydia believes they are the only zoo in Europe to rotate their animals.

She said: 'We change the animals in the tank every four weeks. We don't want a poor crab stuck in there for two years.'

'We are just borrowing the creatures from the sea. We have crab nets and the local kids help me rotate them. They offered to help.'



PUPILS at Bunessan Primary School have been sharing their thoughts on Mull with *The Oban Times*.

Primary seven pupil Iona moved up from London last year and thinks there is a 'big difference' between the two places and the 'breathtaking views' are her favourite part of Mull.

Jane from primary one likes Mull because she can go to the shop with her sister as the 'road's not too busy'. While primary three pupil James likes living on Mull for the fishing.

To see what the rest of the children think of their island, pick up the next issue of *Mull and Iona Life*, out soon.



Salen Primary School's budding writers.

PUPILS from Salen Primary School have been named winners and runners up in a national descriptive writing competition.

The children entered the competition, run by Scottish Ballet and the National Library of Scotland, last November. They were asked to put forward ideas for a new ballet production of Hansel and Gretel.

Primary six pupil Lily Hargreaves and Luke Grieve from primary five were both named winners in their age categories and took home family tickets to see the ballet, a copy of Anthony Browne's Hansel and Gretel and a goodie bag.

The school also received a copy of Grimm's Fairy Tales for the library. The children could hardly contain their delight. Lily said: 'Wow, that's amazing,' and Luke added: 'I never thought I'd win, I was astonished.'

But the school's success in the competition doesn't end there. An email arrived from Scottish Ballet which said 'your pupils were amongst the very best'.

It included news that primary four pupil Jay McWilliam, Isla Robertson from primary seven, Alex Downing, primary six, and Tanica Heyman from primary seven were all runners up. The children all won goodie bags and a copy of Anthony Browne's Hansel and Gretel.

The children entered the competition after a school visit from Scottish Ballet where they took part in workshops about the traditional fairy tale Hansel and Gretel.

The storyteller told part of the story but ended on a cliff hanger and left the children to finish it off. A ballet dancing workshop followed which was 'fantastic fun'.

Wetherspoon deny change of heart over Oban

A NATIONAL pub chain has denied rumours it is backtracking on plans to open in Oban.

J D Wetherspoon has received planning permission to convert the old Caithness Glass building into a pub and says it will be opening in the town 'subject to further permissions being granted'.

Rumours had been circulating in the town that Wetherspoons was not going to progress with the Oban site. Locals suggested that the company had applied for permission in a number of towns before selecting which sites to take forward.

But a spokesman for the company confirmed that it fully intends to open

in Oban. He said: 'We want to open in Oban, we are committed to Oban.'

Conditions
'There is still a way to go, planning has been granted with a number of conditions attached and our lawyers are looking at that.'

The news that Wetherspoons had been given the green light to come into the

town sparked fears of closures from local publicans last November.

The plan had 20 registered objections, including Oban and District Licensed Trade Association, although issues such as over-provision of pubs and increased competition were dismissed as immaterial to planning considerations. Allan McKie, chairman of Oban and

Lorn Licensed Trade Association, said at the time:

'It has been proven that places close down when a Wetherspoons comes into the area.'

Businesses

'I think there are people who would like to see a Wetherspoons in Oban but for businesses it is not the right time.'

Former Oban bowling alley goes on the open market

'Rare opportunity' to revitalise leisure or community facilities, say selling agents

THE FORMER bowling alley in Oban has been put up for sale following a failed attempt to lease the property last year.

Oban's Bell Ingram has been appointed to sell the Harbour Bowl building, currently partially boarded up following fire damage last year, and say it provides a 'rare opportunity' to revitalise leisure or community facilities in the town.

Gregor King, commercial property consultant at Bell Ingram, said: 'The Harbour Bowl occupies a key strategic site in the centre of Oban and offers an exceptional opportunity to provide much-needed leisure or commercial facilities in the town.'

'We have already had local interest from parties considering re-commissioning of the existing facility, but also anticipate enquiries from developers that recognise the enormous potential of the location.'

The building, constructed in the 1990s, comprises a purpose-built ten-pin bowling alley, bar/café and indoor bowls arena, with adjacent car parking, located on Shore Street.

The announcement came as Bell Ingram reported a growing confidence in Oban's property market.

'They said there had been a 'sharp rise' in the number of properties setting closing dates this year. In January, Bell Ingram set three closing dates for properties amid intense competition - an 'unprecedented' start to the year and a positive sign for 2013.

Steven Hornby, associate at Bell Ingram, said: 'There has been a noticeable turn this year as people start to think more positively about the property market which is illustrated by the fact that we have seen multiple parties bidding for properties and prices going for above offers-over-levels.'



The former Harbour Bowl building in Oban is up for sale.

Councillors to visit Stronelairg windfarm site

COUNCILLORS are to visit the potential site for a controversial 83-turbine 300MW windfarm south of Fort Augustus before making a decision on the plans. Highland Council planners had advised against the south planning committee making a visit to Stronelairg on Garroch Estate because of the difficult

nature of the terrain and high peaks that would need to be scaled.

But after a debate it emerged several councillors wanted to see the area for themselves before making a judgement on any possible impact to the area.

Lochaber councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'This is an area

I don't know. I really do think we need to go there so we can understand the site in context.'

Local councillor Margaret Davidson's suggestion to include Fort Augustus and Invermoriston in the visit to assess potential impact for the villages was also agreed upon. Scottish and Southern

Energy Renewables is seeking permission for the windfarm along with nearly 60kms of new roads and a number of new buildings, such as a sub station and a control building.

The Scottish Government will make the final decision on the windfarm and has consulted Highland Council. Planning

officers have recommended councillors make no objection if the number of turbines is cut to 67.

The application has attracted 138 public comments, the vast majority of which oppose the plans.

A date for the site visit will be set in coming weeks.

Provincial Mòd dates announced

DATES have been set for Gaelic provincial mòds to be held across the west Highlands and islands this summer.

This year's Isle of Mull Mòd will be held over September 13 and 14 while the Islay event will take place on June 8.

The date for Oban is yet to be confirmed. The Uist Provincial Mòd will be held on May 31 and June 1 in Sgoil an Iochdair, while Portree will host the three day Skye Mòd from June 13.

Lochaber Mòd in Fort William will be on June 6 and 7 while Ardnamurchan Mòd will be held on June 14.

Late lorry driver admits careless driving after speeding through Lochawe village

AN HGV driver who was trying to make up for lost time has admitted driving at speeds upwards of 48mph through the village of Lochawe.

Airdrie man Garry Cassells, aged 46, had been charged with dangerous driving but pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to a reduced charge of careless driving.

After overtaking a vehicle on the A85 between Taynuilt and Lochawe, on May 16 last year, police officers in a marked car observed Cassells gather speed on his approach to the 30mph speed limit in Lochawe village.

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'The police car had been calibrated and the officers were able to say the lorry didn't travel at less than 48mph [through the village] and was going at such a speed that it was unable to stay within its own lane while moving around corners and hill crests.'

Defence agent Heather Shaw said her client had only returned to driving after a five-year absence through illness.

She added: 'He had left Oban at 5pm and his driving time was going to run out at 8pm, so he was rushing to beat that. He accepts that was irresponsible.'

Sheriff Jack Davidson fined Cassells £175 and endorsed his licence with six penalty points.



'The lorry was going at such a speed that it was unable to stay within its own lane while moving around corners and hill crests.'

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Strontian hotel expands

AN AWARD-winning Strontian hotel will celebrate recent industry successes when it opens a new dining area tomorrow.

The Driftwood Brasserie at the Kilcamb Lodge Hotel forms the centrepiece of the revamped lounge bar. Whiskies on offer include cask strength whiskies from Adelphi, whose own distillery is now under construction at nearby Glenbeg in Ardnamurchan. Kilcamb Lodge further cemented its reputation as a leader in the luxury hotel sector when it won a Trip Advisor Excellence Award 2012/13. The establishment was also a Johansen's Romantic Hotel of 'The Year' finalist 2013.

Corpach marina project searches for funding

THE GROUP behind plans to create a marina at Corpach are still searching for funding to employ a project officer to move the development forward.

60-berths
Caol Regeneration Company (CRC) hope to build a 60-berth facility next to Corpach Basin to take advantage of an increase in yachting activity on the west coast. CRC company secretary Dr Su

Sen told *The Oban Times* he was currently applying to 'various places' in search of funds.

In 2011 the group commissioned a 350-page report and business plan, which laid out estimated costings for the project and any obstacles it may face along the way.

It also included a possible design for the marina located at the Caledonian Canal's southern entrance.

Young Vikings to film at Loch Leven

THE VIKINGS are coming to Kinlochleven - but only for an educational trip.

In a boost to the Lochaber village's international profile, a group of Danish media students are making seven short video documentaries on the Loch Leven area and its people from March 11 to 18.

And the youngsters from Oerestad High School in Copenhagen, who will be staying at the local Blackwater Hostel, want to feature local people in their video shorts.

Per Helmer Hansen, who heads

the schools' media department, said Kinlochleven volunteers from all walks of life and ages were needed.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The film projects could be anything - describing a certain job and following some people through the week, a project, a specific group or organisation.'

Camera crew
'The people involved should be ready to accept that they will be followed by a small camera crew of four young, well-behaved, interested, eager and highly professional people

from Oerestad High School.' Mr Hansen added: 'Oerestad High has a very strong media profile and Denmark's biggest and most professional media department.'

Positive
Moira Hartley, development officer with Kinlochleven Community Trust, said: 'I think it's really positive and keeps Kinlochleven on the map. There's obviously a lot of history here they might be interested in' Anyone interested in helping the young Danes can email Mr Hansen at phh@oegnet.dk.

A85 resurfacing will slow Oban -Tyndrum traffic

MOTORISTS are being asked to leave extra time when travelling between Oban and Tyndrum as road surfacing is due to take place.

The work, on the A85 five kilometres east of Dalmally, is due to take place from 7am to 7pm, February 25 to March 8.

During this time the carriage-way will be reduced to one lane with temporary traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system in place.

Man arrested after speeding at Bridge of Orchy

POLICE arrested a 33-year-old man at Bridge of Orchy after he was stopped from driving at almost double the legal speed limit.

The man is alleged to have travelled at 57mph in a 30mph limit.

Councillor Scoullar did vote on care home issue

IN LAST week's Oban Times it was indicated that Argyll and Bute councillor Len Scoullar had abstained in the vote over proposals for a conditional closure of Struan Lodge care home.

Councillor Scoullar had in fact voted with the opposition's unsuccessful amendment, against the administration, and was one of the 16 votes to its 17.

The Oban Times would like to apologise to Councillor Scoullar for this error.

Motorcycle rider charged after failing to stop

A 19-YEAR-old man has been charged with driving a motorcycle recklessly at speeds in excess of 65mph and failing to stop for police on Glengallan Road, Oban on February 22.

Important visitor to tourism summit

ONE OF Scotland's foremost figures in tourism will travel to Bute next month to address delegates at Argyll and the Isles Tourism Summit.

Stephen Leckie, chairman of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, will visit the event on the last day of Scottish Tourism Week.

Mike Story executive director of the summit's organisers, Argyll and the Isles Tourism, will be master of ceremonies at the event, which takes place at Mount Stuart on March 13.

The theme of the event is 'Turning Assets into Experiences' and the programme will consist of a showcase of local tourism activity to date, including the launch of the 'Uniquely Argyll' website, followed by a networking lunch, featuring regional produce.

Driver allegedly caused Kilmelford accident

POLICE have charged a 43-year-old man with reckless driving after he allegedly drove into oncoming traffic near Kilmelford. Another vehicle took evasive action and ended up in a ditch.

Two charged with drink driving

TWO MEN were charged with being drunk in charge of their vehicles in the early hours of Saturday, February 23 near Dalmally.

The men, both aged 28, have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Fire and rescue call handling questioned after Benderloch incident

THE WAY Strathclyde Fire and Rescue responds to emergency calls in the Lorn area has been questioned after crews in Kinlochleven and Bridge of Orchy were called to a shout in Benderloch instead of the nearby Appin crew.

The call to Lochnell Primary School at 8.38pm on February

14 turned out to be a false alarm and was quickly attended to by an appliance from Oban.

But questions have been raised over the mobilisation of the two support crews - the retained Kinlochleven station, which is not part of the Strathclyde region, is at least 40 minutes from Benderloch, while Bridge

of Orchy, which has only been given retained status as part of a trial, is around one hour away.

Meanwhile the volunteer crew based at Appin, 15 minutes away, was not called to the incident.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Fire and Rescue said: 'This was part of a trial programme of

dynamic mobilisation whereby Bridge of Orchy was acting as a regular pump.

'Appin was not mobilised because they are a volunteer crew. Volunteer crews won't have the same skill set, so the most appropriate resource was mobilised, rather than the closest.'

Asked whether the extreme travel distances were considered in this instance, the spokesman said: 'Our mobilisation policy is constantly subject to review, so we will be looking at that.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor Iain MacDonald: 'Rural fire services are always a difficult one but Benderloch is a special

case; we have two care homes and a school and has the 'unknown' of Connel Bridge.

'I will be looking to clarify the priority response for Benderloch, because as a former community councillor for the area, it was always in mind that Appin would be the next call in line after Oban.'

Kerrera finally gains ferry funding

THE FERRY to a small island off Oban is to receive public money for the first time to help improve the service, Transport Scotland has confirmed.

The Kerrera ferry is to be boosted with government grant funding to help provide a longer operating day and a freight service for residents in the north of the island.

Duncan MacEachen, Kerrera ferry operator, welcomes the news and looks forward to working with Transport Scotland.

He said: 'This has got to happen. Kerrera has been left to its own devices for too long and has never been included in public plans.'

'Most people assume the ferry receives public money but it doesn't and this is the way we need to go. We need to get something up and running for the long term.'

David Keys, director of Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, said: 'We fully embrace it and it is a step in the right direction, extending the ferry day and providing a guaranteed freight service for the north of the island.'

'We are still trying to sort a passenger solution for north end but it is a big step forward and long overdue, Kerrera has been limping along with no support for a long time.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson added: 'As part of our recently published Ferries Plan, the Scottish Government has committed to improving ferry services right across Scotland, including looking at private commercially run services like those at Kerrera.'

'Ministers have agreed to provide grant support to allow planning work on a package of short term measures for the Kerrera ferry service to be taken forward.'

'We have facilitated discussions between the operator and Kerrera residents to draw up a community agreement outlining short term improvement plans. It is hoped that these improvements will be implemented at the beginning of March.'

'The proposed improvements include a longer operating day and a freight and vehicle service for residents in the north of Kerrera. A study looking at the long term solutions is also underway.'

Have you updated your driving licence?

POLICE are warning motorists to ensure their driving licence is up to date or face a penalty of up to £1,000.

Brian Auld, chief inspector of Oban police, said he was shocked by the volume of people failing to update their licences.

He said: 'Every 10 years the licence must be updated with a new photo and people are failing to do so. I would ask everyone to look at their licence and make sure it has an in date photo and a current address.'

'Drivers will not necessarily receive a reminder from the DVLA, the onus is on them to update their licence.'

Oban Fairtrade Fortnight event is cancelled

ONE OF the main events in the current Fairtrade Fortnight celebrations in Oban and Lorn has been cancelled.

Ready, Steady, Cook at The Olive Garden has been scrapped by the Fairtrade steering group, which gave no reason for the schedule change.

On the opening day of Fairtrade Fortnight (February 25) International Development Minister Humza Yousaf announced that Scotland has become one of the world's first Fair Trade Nations.



Ernie Ripley, with his dog Laddie, pictured on Shuna Island.

Survivor Ernie remembered Navy training

A 74-YEAR-old shepherd who was pulled from Loch Linnhe after his boat capsized called on his National Service training to stay alive before his dramatic rescue.

Shepherd Ernie Ripley, who was in the Royal Navy between 1957 - 59 was hauled from the freezing water on February 1 by Nicky Zvegintzov, who worked at the nearby Linnhe Marine, after his boat capsized.

He had been taking four Cheviot tups from Shuna Island to the mainland near Appin, alongside colleague Niall Bowser and their dogs - a journey Ernie has made regularly over the past nine years.

As the sheep drowned, Niall and his dog were able to get ashore but Ernie and his dog, Laddie, were trapped underneath the boat.

Ernie, who returned to work on Mon-

day, told *The Oban Times*: 'Laddie and I had found a pocket of air but I knew that wasn't going to last. I tried to get out from under the boat but I failed at my first attempt. I told myself I would only have the strength for one more attempt and that would be my last chance - I've been working all my days but I am 74 now and I was gasping for air.'

Relieved to get to the surface, an exhausted Ernie could do nothing as the cold took hold.

'I could feel the cold coming up my legs and I just lay back in my lifejacket buoyancy aid looking at the sky,' he said. 'I was just hoping someone would come but I was surprisingly calm.'

'At that moment I remembered my National Service training for the Royal Navy. Back then you didn't get your

ticket unless you could float in the water for three minutes with a boiler suit on, so the whole thing came naturally to me and I was just trying to conserve energy.'

'By the time Nicky reached me I couldn't see but I could hear the boat engine and I heard his voice. He saved my life.'

The Doune man, who had never been in hospital until that day, was rushed to Lorn and Islands Hospital to be treated for severe hypothermia.

As he regained his sight, hospital staff told him Laddie had been found alive on the shore at Knap Point, still underneath the upturned boat, having survived the cold water for around one hour.

Ernie's wife, Isobel, said: 'I don't know how either of them survived. I think there were two miracles that day.'

Majority of Oban businesses back BID with levy payment

NINETY per cent of businesses in Oban are complying with the requirement to pay the Business Improvement District (BID) levy.

Of the 487 businesses required to pay the fee a total of 385 have either paid in full or are entitled to relief while a further 53 are paying by direct debit.

But court action has been initiated against 49 businesses with the debt being passed from Argyll and Bute Council to Sheriff Officers for collection.

John Forteith, chairman of the BID board, has deemed the first round of payment collection a 'success'.

'Very, very pleased'

He said: 'It is always a nervous time but we are very, very pleased with the uptake.'

'We know, having looked on the list that there are a significant number of those businesses that haven't currently paid that are in the process of paying so that number [of business debts passed to sheriff officers] should drop dramatically.'

More trains - and better rolling stock

THE DOUBLING of the number of rail services operating to-and-from Oban could mean new trains - with working heaters.

Planned improvements

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said Scotrail was considering moving some of the carriages currently serving the Edinburgh-Glasgow route to the west coast line when the number of stops increases from three to six next year.

The current stock is ageing badly, with customers repeatedly complaining of discomfort when using the services - particularly during cold weather.

After saying there were plans to electrify the line at Cumbernauld, Mr MacIntyre told Monday's meeting of Oban Community Council: 'Not only will we have more trains but we will also have the possibility of better rolling stock.'

were warmly welcomed by the community council, saying not only would it be better for business, but for school pupils travelling from communities along the railway.

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee said: 'Councillor MacIntyre has worked tirelessly for many years on this and I think he should be formally thanked by the community council,' - a comment that sparked a round of applause.

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Gleaner's - local to you

Morvern Lines

The story behind the name

THE MAJORITY of Morvern's placenames are topographical in nature, although often there is more to some of them than meets the eye.

Eilean nan Eun – a small island at the west end of Loch Arianas – can be translated as 'the island of birds'. True enough it is a favourite roosting place for cormorants, shags, gulls and divers but it was given that name because it was here long ago that gamekeepers on the surrounding estates used to put down poison for ravens, hooded crows, golden and sea eagles, peregrine falcons, hawks and other birds of prey. Being an island meant humans and domestic animals would not be at risk.

Carn na Cailliche - 'the Old Wife's Cairn' - stands on the hillside overlooking Rhemore beside the Sound of Mull. It is a Bronze Age burial tomb – one of the largest of its kind in the area – and was built several thousand years ago. The more colourful explanation of the name is that a local witch who wanted to build a bridge across to Mull, gathered a creelful of stones among the Morvern hills. She walked down with them to the Sound but before she reached the shore the creel rope snapped, the stones fell out and the result – Carn na Cailliche!

Tor na Cabar – near the Kingairloch-Lochaline crossroads at the head of the Black Glen - means 'the knoll of the poles or sticks'. According to local history, a great battle took place in the locality in the early 12th century between Somerled and the Norsemen and was so named because most of the fighting was reputed to have been done with sticks or wooden clubs. Bodies wrapped in hides and crude tarbans have been found in the surrounding peat bogs.

Close by is 'the Bishop's Apron', an area of land in the shape of a pointed apron formed by the boundaries of Laudale, Kingairloch and Ardnornish estates. Here, in the olden days it is said that when they weren't at loggerheads, the lairds of all three could stand on their own property and have a drink together on New Year's Day. Overlooking both is 'Donald's Lookout' – a knoll with a finely carved stone on its rocky face recording that it was the favourite spying place of Donald MacNiven – a stalker in the employment of the MacFie family who owned Airds Estate, Appin, and nearby beach in the 19th century. Mr MacNiven died on May 29 1892.

Lochan Sgurr na Greine lies in a hollow on a high plateau north west of Lochaline. The Ordnance Survey mapmakers obviously took down the wrong spelling - not uncommon if they weren't native Gaelic speakers - as the original translation was 'the little loch of the eye of the sun' on account of its surface shimmering with light as the sun sets over it on Midsummer's Eve. Tom Aonghais Ruaidh - 'Red Angus's Knoll' - situated near the head of Glen Laudale is named after Big Angus Maclan of Ardnarnurchan who was killed on the spot in a battle with the Camerons and the Macleans in 1625 following the murder of Cameron of Lochiel's son. Maclan's body was carried down to Laudale House before it was taken by boat to Kiel, Lochaline, for burial under a massive tombstone which can be seen to this day.



Fingal's Cave with Iona beyond.

CELEBRATIONS taking shape to commemorate the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival on Iona later this year, brings to mind another large gathering which took place there on June 9 1897.

On that occasion a large number of church leaders came together for a special service in the ruins of Iona Abbey to remember the 1,300th anniversary of the death of St Columba - the first public worship to be held there for more than 300 years. On their return to the mainland the following day about 300 pilgrims and clergymen called at Staffa and went into Fingal's Cave. As they stood inside this world renowned 'cathedral of the sea' the minister of Morvern, the Rev Donald MacFarlane, inspired by the surroundings, began singing the Psalm of Thanksgiving, the 103rd, to the traditional tune of Colsehill.

The effect of the voices through the arches according to a contemporary account was 'wonderfully striking and touched a sympathetic chord in every heart'. Donald MacFarlane's name is commemorated in a fine marble tablet in Kiel Church, Lochaline, and in the parish church on Gigha where he went after leaving Morvern in 1907. *Iain Thornber.*

March opening for Mull airfield as fears for future take off

THE AIRFIELD on the Isle of Mull is to re-open at the end of March but fears over its future remain.

Brendan Walsh from Glenforsa Hotel, next to the airstrip, has offered to lease the airfield from Argyll and Bute Council but says he doesn't think the authority has 'any intention of leasing it out'. The decision to re-open

Glenforsa, subject to successful inspections, was made at a recent meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.

Chairwoman Louise Glen-Lee said: 'There has been a review of operations at Glenforsa. In the short term a new safety management system will be introduced as well as a programme of training for

island-based staff to assist with airstrip inspections.

'There will be a subsequent advert for the post of Glenforsa Attendant.

'In order to secure the long term safe and sustainable future of the airstrip, further analysis and consultation will take place in respect of a potential leasing model.'

But Mr Walsh, who has previous experience of operating an airfield, believes the council won't lease Glenforsa out as they fear it would take business away from Oban Airport.

He said: 'They are trying to avoid doing anything sensible with it. I submitted a business case to the council to run the airfield.

'It wasn't going to make money but it wasn't going to cost the council money.

'I was willing to subsidise it as 90 per cent of the people coming to the airstrip use the hotel anyway.'

Glenforsa airfield has been closed since September after a light aircraft crashed with two people inside leaving the pilot

with minor injuries. Mr Walsh added: 'The council closed it down after the accident because they panicked.'

'I have flown on most of the grass airstrips in the UK and it is one of the best.'

'What I want to know is who is going to inspect it?'

'Who in the council knows how to inspect a grass runway?'



Groundworks for the new Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church hall in Fort William are underway. 20_f09kirk01

Church hall work starts after burial survey proves negative

Fort William archaeological search finds no historical artefacts at site

WORK began last week on a new church hall for Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church in Fort William after an archaeological survey found there were no historical artefacts or burials on site.

The new building will stand next to the existing church and hall while the large rear garden of the manse will be reduced

in size to provide much-needed additional parking.

The development will improve accessibility to the existing building and provide a new hall annexe, where services can be held alongside a new kitchen and toilets.

It is also hoped the development will allow the church to open up the building to the wider

community. Local property consultants Bidwells helped secure planning permission and listed building consent and are acting as architects for the building works.

Local practice Samuel and Partners are quantity surveyors for the project while R E Campbell of Spean Bridge has been contracted to carry out the

construction. Mike MacGruer, architect at Bidwells and designer of the new church hall, said the development would provide important new facilities for the church and the local community.

Modern
He added: 'We have designed the new hall to be modern and bright, with plenty of flexible

space for the various uses it will have, while complementing the existing architecture of the area.'

The project, which has been part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Highland LEADER 2007 - 2013 Programme, will cost £426,000 and will hopefully be completed in 26 weeks.

Mull Community Council meeting hears fears over NHS 24 service

CONCERNS have been raised by Mull residents following the roll out of NHS 24 on the island.

Residents were told they would have to dial the NHS 24 service from February 11 instead of previous local arrangements where they directly contacted health professionals out of working hours.

But at a recent meeting of Mull Community Council Joanne MacDougall raised concerns about the use of this service on the Ross of Mull.

She said: 'If someone has a heart attack, for instance, because of the distance for the ambulance to come to the Ross of Mull, the person could be dead by the time it got there. If we are going to have NHS 24 we are going to have to do something down that end of the island – an ambulance or something.'

There are also worries that islanders will be forced to phone NHS 24 out of GP hours, even if they travel to the hospital – a concern confirmed by the NHS.

A spokesman said: 'If someone turned up at the hospital and it wasn't an emergency then they should really contact NHS 24 for advice and if they require to be seen by the GP then NHS 24 will organise the visit which will either be at the hospital or GP surgery, whichever is closest. If a patient is having a heart attack on Ross of Mull then NHS 24 would call for an ambulance and also call out a GP at the same time.' NHS 24 is available on 0845 424 2424.

Tax credit claimants must report changes, say HMRC

TAX CREDIT claimants throughout the west have been warned to report any change in their circumstances to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

The 5,400 claimants in the area are being reminded to tell HMRC if their income, working hours, childcare costs or living situation varies otherwise they may face a financial penalty.

From April this year, any income increase for a household of more than £5,000 for the tax year will reduce a claimant's tax credits award for the 2013-14 tax year. This amount has

fallen from the previous figure of £10,000.

HMRC's director general of benefits and credits Nick Lodge said: 'Many people forget or fail to tell us about important changes – such as having a partner move in or an increase in income – which will affect the amount of money they receive.'

'This could mean that they don't get all the money they are entitled to. Or they could receive money that they have to pay back. We urge them to report changes promptly and make sure all details are accurate.'

Dunbeg man accused of indecent assault

A DUNBEG man appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday accused of an indecent assault.

Stanley Jeffery senior, 63, of Lorn Road, Dunbeg, is also accused of lewd or indecent practices. He made no plea or declaration during the private hearing and was committed for further examination. He was released on bail.

Theft from car

CASH and electrical items amounting to a four figure sum were stolen from a car parked at Argyll Cottages in Ballachulish sometime between the evening of Friday February 10 and the following Monday morning.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397702361 or the confidential line on 01397702000.

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Highland Council taken to task over budget

Cash could have been used as preventative spend on roads

HIGHLAND Council has been criticised by a Lochaber councillor for not agreeing to a deal which would have seen an extra £3 million allocated for road maintenance.

The administration's new budget – which included £2 million for road spend - was passed by 40 votes to 29 at a recent meeting in Inverness.

An alternative budget plan from Independent councillors, which included increasing roads funding by £5 million using money kept aside by the council for unforeseen events, was not agreed upon.

Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson said: 'This was a proposal to use ageing balances of cash, over and above the three per cent kept for contingencies. These balances currently gain little interest and have been squirreled away in obscure coffers of Highland Council.'

'The proposal was to use them as preventative spend on our roads before the bill becomes intolerable.'

With the council aiming to slash nearly £24 million over the next two years, education, culture and sport will have its budget cut by almost £6 million over the next two years, while health and social care will be cut by £6.7 million.

An extra £1 million has been made available for children's services and a living wage of £7.50 will be implemented for council staff.

Council leader Drew Hendry told *The Oban Times* he was 'pretty pleased' with the deal.

He said: 'There's some positive stuff in there. We've put £2 million into road spend with a further £1 million potentially available. We've put 1,400 workers on the living wage who weren't there before and we've done it all without a single compulsory redundancy.'



Fort William taxi driver Manuel Costas signs the Scottish Independence declaration last Saturday in Fort William as 'Yes' campaigners Brenda Grant and Charles Duncan look on. 20_f09yes01

Campaigners take to streets of Fort William ahead of referendum debate in Lochaber

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander MP to speak at third Fort William Chamber of Commerce event

LOCHABER 'Yes for Scotland' activists were out in force in Fort William High Street last Saturday for the second time in a month as the independence referendum campaign begins to gather pace.

Referendum debate
Corpach couple Donald Grant, a Green Party backer, and wife Brenda, who has no party affiliation, were among those signing up supporters.

While the 'No' campaign may not yet have made its presence felt on the streets, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander MP will make the case for the Union at the third Fort William Chamber of Commerce referendum debate on March 29.

'Undecided'
Kinlochleven man Charles Duncan a retired distillery worker formerly of Dufftown,

was also out with his clipboard on Saturday.

Mrs Grant, originally from Gateshead, Newcastle, said enthusiasm for independence appeared to be growing, with more than 80 local people signing the declaration on Saturday compared with 60 four weeks previously.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I would say there were slightly more people for than against

but there was also a significant number undecided.'

She added: 'The 'No' side has not got any ground force here and their effort seems to be centred around Alastair Darling. It's all to play for.'

Several nationalities signed the independence declaration, including Fort William taxi driver Manuel Costas, a native of the city of Vigo in Galicia, in northwest Spain.



Transport Minister Keith Brown, left, with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Martin Hill following the opening of the Old Military Road as an emergency diversion on Monday. 07_109rest4

The convoy test on the Old Military Road went according to plan with HGVs and cars able to navigate the route safely. 07_109rest3

A83 long-term solution options 'unlikely' says Transport Minister

Extra £4million for landslip work on existing road

A REQUEST for the Scottish Government to pursue two options as long-term solutions to landslides on the Rest and Be Thankful is set to be refused. Argyll and Bute Council previously said it wished to see two of the options outlined in the Jacobs report on possible solutions go ahead. While it said the red option - to enhance drainage on the existing road - was preferable as the quickest option, it should be carried out alongside proposals to develop another road on the opposite side of Glen Croe. However, transport minister

Keith Brown said that was 'unlikely', before announcing an extra £4million to carry out additional landslip mitigation work on the existing road. Speaking just after a successful convoy test at the newly-available landslide diversion route on the Old Military Road on Monday, Mr Brown told *The Oban Times*: 'We have to take into account the impact the various options will have on the routes during construction. It is unlikely we will have two different responses.' After confirming the Old

REPORT

by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Military Road was now available for use should a landslide close the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful, Mr Brown said he was 'delighted' to announce an extra £4million for further landslide prevention work.

'[This] will take forward a raft of improvements, including further mitigation work at the Rest and Be Thankful like netting, drainage and planting works and

more safety improvements at key points on the A83.

'This is in addition to the £3.7million already provided to tackle landslides at the Rest and Be Thankful.'

Confirming the Old Military Road was now available in the event of a landslide, he added: 'Just to see the road open now after all the challenges there have been is testament to the work that has been done.'

'While some cosmetic works will continue in the coming weeks, the Old Military Road is now operational and we are

running test vehicle convoys to ready the team on the ground should we face another unwanted closure because of a landslide.'

Welcoming the opening of the new emergency diversion route was Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Martin Hill, station commander at Oban Community Fire Station.

He said: 'Obviously, from the emergency services' point of view, we very much welcome the opening of the diversion route. From now we're able to get our resources where they need to be even if the main A83

is compromised. We've now tested the road and there's no problem whatsoever. The main thing for all emergency services is we are able to get to where we need to with minimum delay.'

Raynesway Construction was appointed by Scotland Transerv to carry out the upgrades to the Old Military Road. As part of the upgrade, 32 culverts were replaced, two bridges repaired and several sections of the road widened. A temporary bridge has been built on the track while repairs to one of the stone arch bridges continue.

Lorn Lines

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club learnt about subjects as diverse as 'Trawling the Seas', 'Burj Khalifa Dubai' and 'Oscar Marzaroli' at their meeting last week.

The speakers on these subjects were Bill Leech, Martin Wilson and Frank Walton and their critics were Roy Wood, Malcolm Black and Willie Melville. The chairman for that part of the evening was a founder member of the club, Donnie Graham.

A humorous topics session followed under the control of Tom Clegg. Speakers answering his topics were Guido Faccenda, Alex Clark, Peter Mills, Malcolm Black, Roy Wood and Willie Melville.

Timekeeper for the evening was Jim Fraser and an entertaining general evaluation was given by John Maclean.

The next meeting will be held in the Ambo Room, Church Centre, at 8pm on March 7.

□□□



Paula Cameron helps Nicola Jamieson raise money for Comic Relief at the table top sale. 16_109lions01

A TABLE top sale raised £220 for Oban and Lorn Lions Club at the weekend - as well as helping support other good causes.

The event, held at the Bay Great Western Hotel on Saturday, was the first table top sale carried out by the Lions but it hopes there will be more to come.

Brian Reed, fundraiser with the club, said: 'It has been a really good turnout. There is a lot of mixed things for sale and lots of local people around. This is the first one we have ever done but I think we could do a couple more this year as it has gone really well. Our thanks to the Great Western Hotel for providing us with the room and refreshments free of charge.'

Stall holders varied from locals having a clear out, to small business and even people raising money for charity.

Nicola Jamieson, from The Purple Penguin Cupcake Company, was busy baking cakes and cupcakes last week for Saturday's sale. She donated the profits from special Comic Relief themed cakes to the charity.

□□□

TREVOR Davies from Seil was the latest speaker to address the local Scottish Wildlife Trust group when he spoke recently at the marine institute about a visit to 'Alaska's Inside Passage'.

His photography was excellent and his account of the wildlife on and below the seas and around the islands in this area of scattered communities most interesting.

Thanks went to Trevor for an entertaining and educational evening and, of course, to the ladies who bake!

The next local Scottish Wildlife Trust meeting will be on Thursday, March 21 at 7.30pm when speaker Craig MacAdam from Buglife will reveal the secret of '4,000 years of Mayfly recording'. Judging by previous experience of his lectures, this will be a lively and enjoyable evening. Everyone welcome.

□□□

LORN Garden Club was treated to a special presentation recently when David Rankin, of Kevock Nursery in Lasswade, gave an illustrated lecture entitled 'Wild, wet and woodland gardening', just what is needed in this part of the world.

His knowledge of plants and the conditions they need is remarkable, much enhanced by his plant-spotting travels to various parts of the world, and the audience learnt a great deal.

The group's thanks went to the speaker and to everyone who helped out on the night and treated the audience to home baking. The next Lorn Garden Club evening talk is 'Alpines, Meconopsis and Lilies' by Matt Heasman, member of the RHS meconopsis and lily groups. Go along to hear him at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 19 in St John's Cathedral Hall.

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Laura Whittall, Seona Millar, Vaila Whittall, Joan Howarth and Christine MacLennan at the quiz. 16_109cancerquiz01

A QUIZ night held in the Royal Hotel, Oban, last Friday helped raise £380 for Cancer Research UK.

The annual event, held by the charity's Oban local committee, was well attended and a 'good fun night', according to chairwoman Glynis Dewar. The quiz master was Tony Cave and the winners on the night received £10 worth of lottery tickets.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Where are you really eating out?

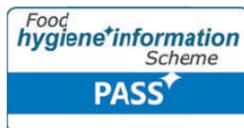
It seems you can't judge hygiene on appearance alone

These days we're all more conscious of what we're eating and making the right choices. But how can you do the same when you eat out? You can't tell the hygiene of an eatery by the food, interior design or even the cost. That's why the Food Standards Agency in Scotland, in partnership with local authority environmental health teams, has developed the simple Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS). Think of it as a way to see inside the restaurant kitchens and take a look behind the scenes. And you might be surprised by some of the results. It's possible that a cheap takeaway might have better hygiene standards than a smart, expensive restaurant.

Food Hygiene Information Scheme

Local authority inspectors assess each business as either a 'Pass' - confirming the business has met food hygiene legal requirements or 'Improvement Required' - where standards need to be raised. These results are now available for you to search and check online and via a free app.

Why not check out your local restaurants now at food.gov.uk/ratings



How is hygiene assessed?

Being confident of good food hygiene is important whether you're meeting friends for a leisurely pub lunch, grabbing a quick snack in a cafe or planning a meal for a special family occasion. The FHIS scheme gives you easy access to the results of environmental health enforcement officers' checks at each outlet to ensure it meets food hygiene law. They look for:

- Food handling skills: how is it prepared, cooked, cooled and stored.
- Condition of the premises: cleanliness, layout, lighting, ventilation and other facilities.
- Procedures: how the business manages its operations to make sure food is safe.



Scan the QR code to download the free food hygiene app.

Check before you choose

- Look out for the blue Pass certificate and sticker on the doors and windows of food businesses.
- Go to www.food.gov.uk/ratings to make sure your choice has achieved a Pass.
- Download the free FSA app that allows you to search when you're out and about by your current location.

Look up your local restaurants and takeaways now - it's quite addictive - and share what you find with your friends.



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LISMORE

COMANN Eachdraidh Lios Mor held a second informal archaeological walkover on Sunday February 17.

Eleven locals and two visitors set off from the museum to explore and record notable sites at Killandrist, the Chapel of St Andrew.

First stop was Samuel MacColl's school, a once solid two story building, where he taught many a Liosach in the first half of the 19th century. Next was St Andrew's Well, ancient but origin unknown, still flowing freely from its picturesque spot overlooking Balnagowan Loch.

Higher up, and with an equally imposing view, was what remains of the childhood home of Alexander Carmichael the distinguished Scottish writer and folklorist, best known for his multi volume work Carmina Gadelica. Douglas Thorburn organised the walk, Bob Hay provided an informative commentary and Beth Campbell a welcome hot drink and baking afterwards at the café.



VALENTINE'S dinner at the Isle of Lismore cafe on February 15 was an evening of excellent food, drink and company.

A welcoming glass of cassis got the evening off to a good start followed by delicious beetroot soup, a roast salmon and tomato salad and a squash of venison, pork cutlets or chicken with stilton and mozzarella, all cooked to perfection.

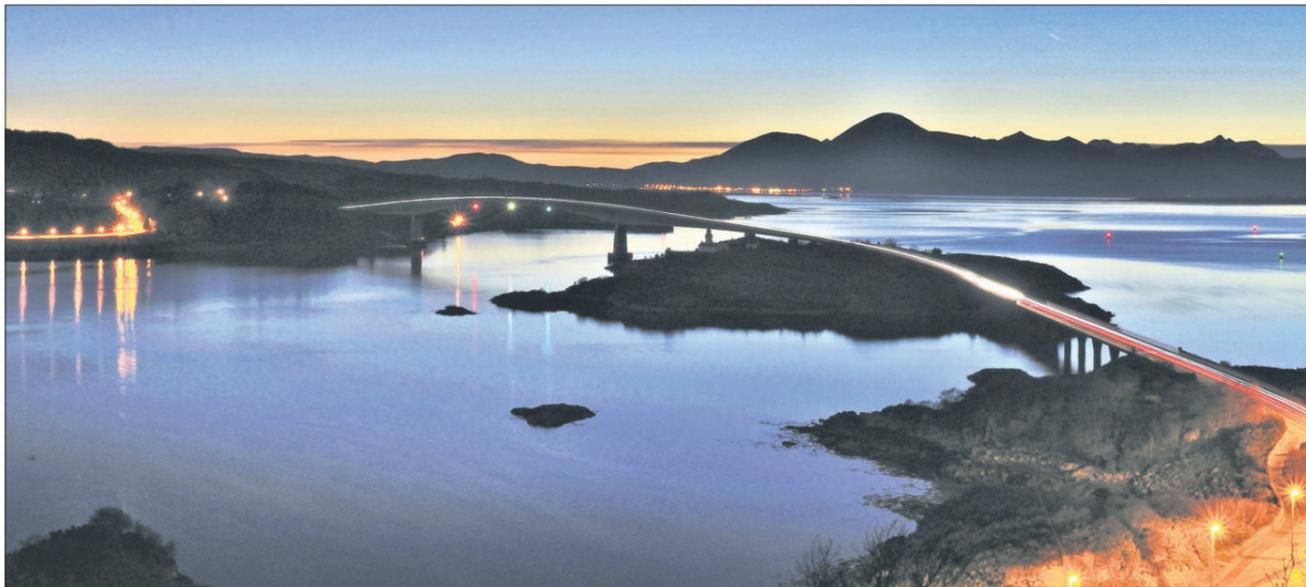
The desserts did not disappoint being chocolate fondue, strawberry panna cotta and lemon mousse. Beth is to be congratulated for producing food of such a consistently high standard and so much of it sourced locally.



THERE were plenty of astonished faces of all ages and gasps of disbelief as magician Sam Fitton displayed his many skills in Lismore Hall at a magical evening which included a screening of the excellent film 'The Illusionist'.

Sam Fitton has been described as 'a unique and extraordinary young man, providing baffling entertainment for the most sceptical' and there were plenty of those.

Sam specialises in close up magic and to watch him entertaining the individual tables as the evening got under way was to see his brilliance, or not to see it, close up. He then



Portree *Oban Times* reader and photographer Billy Duncan, aka The Tartan Lens, was heading home last Tuesday to be met with a glorious scene before crossing the Skye Bridge. Billy nipped up the Plock above Kyle to take this spectacular image at 6.46pm, which shows Broadford in the distance and Beinn na Caillich behind, pictured centre above the bridge, with the road into Kyleakin on the left.

Photograph by www.TheTartanLens.com.

did an hour on the stage mainly astonishing with his 'mind reading' and deft tricks with objects. The evening was enhanced by the delicious and original snacks served throughout.

KILMELFORD

THE ANNUAL curry quiz night in Kilmelford Village Hall will be held on March 15 - with six bottles of wine up for grabs for the winners.

The event, which starts at 7.30pm for the quiz at 8pm, is increasing in popularity every year with the 2012 night seeing a packed hall and more than £750 raised.

Quizmaster Antoinette Mitchell promises there will be tasty curry and questions with something for everyone this year.

She said: 'There will be five rounds of questions with a break for curry after three. We will have separate subjects each round with three different levels of questions so that means everybody can have a go.'

Teams of up to six are allowed to enter the quiz with the winners receiving six bottles of wine.

Organiser Christine Roberts is encouraging everyone to come

along. She said: 'I'm really looking forward to it. It should be good fun.'

Tickets are currently on sale from Melfort Village, Kilmelford Village Stores or by contacting any hall committee member.



MEMBERS of the newly formed Kilmelford Coastal Rowing club had their first go at building their skiff last week and hope to have it in the water for July.

A total of 11 people attended the first build night at Kilmelford Boat Yard and successfully got the whole St Ayles Skiff kit cut out and most of it sanded.

Club treasurer Christine Roberts said: 'There has been a lot of interest. We have sold over 45 out of 64 shares.'

'The main thing is just the fact people will be able to take the boat out and have fun on it. They don't have to buy a share to be involved. When it's ready we plan to have a website so local people can book to go out on the skiff.'

With lots of other skiffs either already built or in progress around Scotland, Christine said there was 'lots of scope' for regattas and the group is

'hoping to get some going'. The club hosted its first fundraiser last weekend, a soup and sandwich lunch in Kilmelford Village Hall, and will also be organising a dance in the hall at a later date.

If you are interested in joining the group, buying a share or helping build the skiff, please contact kilmelfordcoastalrowing@hotmail.com.

GLENGARRY

THE FIRST of four weekly evening workshops on genealogy will be in Glengarry Community Hall on Wednesday March 6 from 7pm to 9pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend the free sessions, which are being funded by Highland Council.

SKYE

THE SKYE district heat of the Scottish Community Drama Association (SCDA) One-Act Play Festival will be held in Aros, Portree, on March 1-2 at 7pm.

Taking part are: Kilmuir Drama Club (Caught on the Hop, by David Foxton); Dunvegan Players (Simply

the Best by John H Newmeir); Kilmuir Gaelic (Am Foisaidhe (The Fortune Teller) by Iain MacDonald); Portree Amateur Drama Club (Last Respects, by Colin Calvert); Carbost Village Drama Club (Grave Matters, by Peter Stallard); Portree High School (The Pardoners Tale, adapted by Martin Riley).

Tickets from davidhammond@aol.com. Winners will go through the Highland Divisional Final at Nairn Community and Arts Centre on April 5-6. Meanwhile, the SCDA South West Ross District will stage its Highland Youth Festival at Plockton High School on March 4-5 at 7pm. Competitors: Plockton High School (Plockton Y) (A Midsummer's Night Dream, Adapted by Sue Russell); Poolewe Primary School (Kids in Tights, by Bill Sivittier); Kyleakin Primary School (Macbeth, by Geoff Bamber). Tickets £4/£2 concessions.

STRONTIAN

A YOUTH club in Strontian is planning an X-Factor-style talent show for local youngsters. The event is due to be held at the Sunart Centre on Thursday March 21.

MORAR

MORAR Women's Rural Institute heard a talk on the geology of the local area by Kate Mundell at its latest meeting.

Eleven members attended the meeting in Lady Lovat Primary and after hearing from Ms Mundell the competitions were judged. Painted stone was won by June Foxwell, with Eileen Macphie second. Orange marmalade winner was Eileen Macphie, with Rita MacDonald second and Mary Ferguson third. Anne Currie won the raffle. Next meeting: Thursday March 7 from 8pm.

CORPACH

RESIDENTS of Corpach and Banavie are being invited to help with a community tree-planting project which starts this weekend.

An area north of the Caledonian Canal at Banavie will be planted on Sunday, while a stretch along the canal side south of Gairloch will be planted on Monday. Sessions will run from 10am-3pm each day.



Plant project boosts Marie Curie funds

Glencoe and Duror primary school youngsters have been growing plants over the winter as part of Marie Curie Cancer Care's 'mini pots of care' campaign. Each child was given a plant to look after and was able to decorate their plant pot before taking them home to their parents. Head teacher Marilyn MacDonald said: 'The children learned how the monies raised will help Marie Curie Nurses care for people with terminal cancer and other illnesses in their homes and provide emotional support for their families.'

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THE GRAND FINAL - A photo finish

THE FINALISTS for our Photo of the Year have been decided after a deluge of votes from readers - and it looks like it will be close.

Scores of stunning photographs from amateur snappers from across the country sent us their images showing us why west is best, and there's certainly diversity among the entries.

But there was no doubt as to what our readers liked, and the race for the People's Choice prize is likely to go to the wire.

You can now vote for your favourite to win the top prize from the entries below. With voting so tight, resting on your laurels isn't an option.

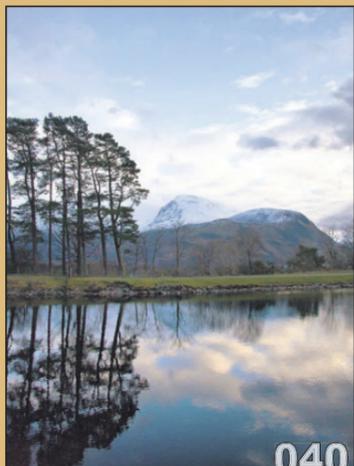
You can vote for your favourite entry by sending us a text to 88010 using the key word POY followed by the code beneath your picture of choice. For example, if the number below your photograph is 123, your message would read POY 123.

You can also vote by completing the voting form on page 21. Photocopies will not be accepted.



023

Lucy Thornhill, Oban: Sunset from Pulpit Hill, Oban. T52lucythornhill1no 023



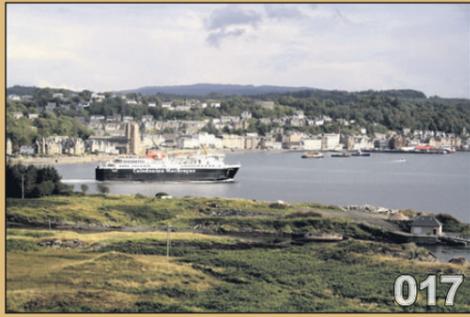
040

Elsbeth Gordon, via email: Ben Nevis looking over the Caledonian Canal in January snow. T02elsbethgordon1no 040



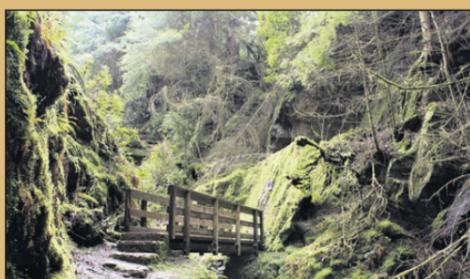
051

June Macintyre, Campbeltown: Time off for Bob and Jim at Gleneherve Shore. T03junemacintyre1no 051



017

Adam Brown, Oban: A view of Bonnie Oban Bay taken from the Isle of Kerrera at the end of Summer 2012. T52adambrown1no 017



022

Linda Anderson Kerr, Oban: A spring walk through Puck's Glen. T52lindaanderson-kerr1no 022



062

Wayne Lee: Highland Coo, late October, near Kilmartin. T05waynelee2no 062



006

Hazel Moran, Appin: Pine Martin in the wild Argyll, summer 2012. T49hazelmoranpine1no 006



028

Fay Rowantree, Acharacle: Whilst running my tour business, we came across this exceptional Ardnamurchan stag just coming out of velvet. T01fayrowantree1no 028

Terms and conditions: Editor's decision is final. Competition is for amateur photographers only. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photographs not of a high enough resolution to appear in print will be disqualified. By submitting to the competition, including but not limited to digital video and images, mobile text messages, blogging, message boards, emails and audio submissions, you automatically grant Wyvex Media the royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, exclusive right and license to use, reproduce, modify, edit, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such material (in whole or part) worldwide and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in such content. Prizes are as stated, no cash alternative. Employees of Wyvex Media and their immediate family are prohibited from entering. Text votes cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

COLONSAY

COLONSAY Community Development Company (CCDC) will hold its annual general meeting on Saturday March 23. The meeting will be chaired by Keith Rutherford and Councillor Robin Currie will talk about the company's achievements so far. Plans include the planting, by local schoolchildren, of the first of many trees in the new community garden; funds raised by CCDC and the Cornerake newsletter will be presented to Kilchattan primary schoolchildren and to the Heritage Centre. There will also be a prize draw, along with refreshments and updates on CCDC work, including the crofting project, the huge achievements of the community pub and the successful launch of the island's new website www.colonsay.org.uk.

PLANS are underway to hold a debate on Colonsay on the issue of Scottish independence on Wednesday April 3.

Mike Russell MSP, who represents the island's residents at the Scottish Parliament, has already agreed to speak in the debate.

He will also hold a surgery for voters on the island.

The 'Better Together' campaign, which will, of course, be speaking for the maintenance of the status quo, has promised to provide a speaker, although her or his identity is not yet known.

TIREE

SCHOOL pupils in Tiree will be treated to tasty treats as the island's school prepares for an exciting Red Nose Day.

Mrs Malcolm and the S3 class will sell tray bakes during breaks and at lunchtime to kick off the tasty fundraisers in good style, before the canteen hosts themed tables overflowing with samples of foods from various countries around the world.

The S2 class has chosen to show off foods from America, Italy, Scotland and India.

Aspiring clowns and acrobats will be delighted to hear that local performers Polly and Duncan will be on hand to teach their craft for £1 per session.

Best of all, pupils can dress in red for the day to demonstrate their support for the charity effort.



Easdale British Legion branch book sale boosts forces charities

The Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland raised £360 last Saturday through a book sale. The event, in Seil Island Hall, Ellenabeich, was held to help forces charities. Branch secretary Jean Alexander thanked everyone who supported the sale.

ST FILLAN'S

ST FILLAN'S Mill in Killin is in for a revamp after Historic Scotland approved a near £40,000 grant as part of its Building Repair Grants scheme. Announced among £587,049 of grants nationally, the £38,703 for St Fillan's Mill will help restore the building to its best using traditional materials and specialist craftsmen.

Regarded as 'very unusual' in Scotland, the mill was built around 1840 by the Marquis of Breadalbane and designed for milling grain. Purchased by the former Stirling District Council in 1988, it was converted to a tourist information centre. From 1994, it was run as Breadalbane Folklore Centre but this closed in 2011 when the lease to Stirling District Tourism Limited expired. Located next to the water's edge at Bridge of Dochart, just off the main street, it was built on the site of a succession of grain mills which date back to ancient times. Killin and Ardeonaig Community Development Trust hope to bring the building back up to standard and into use for the benefit of the community.

LOCHGILPHEAD

THE LADIES of Lochgilphead SWRI were joined by friends from Ford and Kilmichael as their annual mystery film afternoon got underway last Tuesday.

Settling down to watch the movie in the Mid Argyll Youth

Centre, after a few technical glitches, the women were delighted to discover the movie was The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. A blockbuster movie released last year, the film, featuring Judi Dench, Celia Imrie and Maggie Smith, created great laughter amongst the audience. Linda Tighe, president of

Lochgilphead SWRI, thanked the youth centre for use of their cinema and their technical expertise. This week the group hopes to see locals at the Mid Argyll Rural Group coffee morning. Kicking off in the Red Cross Centre at 10.30am, the event will feature craft competitions and delicious homebaking.

INVERARAY

INVERARAY jogscotland has started a new daytime group for all levels.

The running group launched a Friday class recently, which includes a new beginners Walk to Jog group, led by a jogscotland leader.

A second group for others, who may be further advanced, will run at the same time and see runners enjoy a social jog in the trails and pathways around Inveraray.

The new group meets on Friday mornings at 9am at Inveraray Primary School shelter shed. For more details contact Fiona on 01499 302160.

DUROR

A DUROR teenager is asking the local community to help her raise the funds she needs to work with disadvantaged children in Malawi for a year.

Kinlochleven High School student Rhomi Malcolm has been selected to take part in Project Trust and will fly out to southeast Africa in August.

The 17 year-old told *The Oban Times* she needs to raise £6,000 to fund her trip, plus money for medical injections and a visa.

She said: 'I'm going out there for a year and I'll be working in primary schools, hospitals and orphanages setting up extra curricular activities and things for the children.'

'I wanted to take a gap year but instead of just working I wanted to do something worthwhile.'

'But living in such a small area is making it quite hard for me to raise the £6,000 needed for me to go.'

Malawi is one of the world's poorest countries and the Project Trust sends volunteers from the UK across to help local organisations who provide education, health care and HIV/AIDS awareness. Volunteers also help in local orphanages and schools.

Rhomi has raised about half her total by holding events across Lochaber over the past few months.

She said: 'I held a onesie and pyjama day at school and I climbed Ben Nevis, which is the main fundraising event I've done so far. I did it with my sister and my dad and we made it to the top in quite good time.'

Rhomi has also signed up Kinlochleven band The Shine to perform for free at a dance at the school, which will likely be held after the exam period, and has organised a pub quiz in the Laroeh Bar in Ballachulish, where she works, on April 26.

ROY BRIDGE

A ROY Bridge couple will be providing food and drink to bikers at Laggan Wolfrax mountain biking centre after signing a deal to run their mobile kitchen on the site.

Davey and Cheryl Irons founded The Billy Can service last year and will be operating in Strathmashie Forest in time for Easter holidays next month.

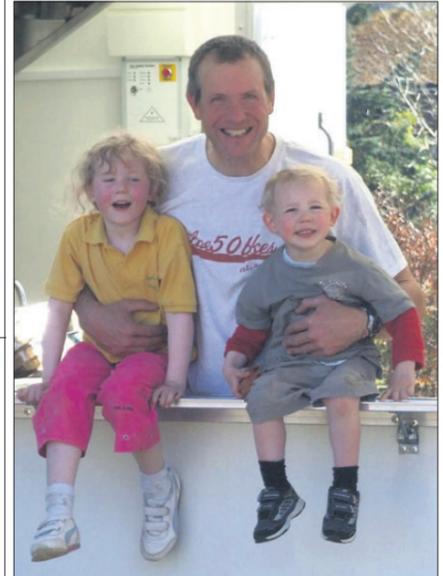
Mr Irons said: 'We have a love of good food and of the outdoors, both of which provide the inspiration for The Billy Can.'

Laggan Forest Trust (LFT) development manager Robin Jackson said: 'We are extremely pleased to welcome The Billy

Can to Laggan Wolfrax and we wish them every success in their new venture.'

The mobile kitchen will be sited next to the LFT offices and will have a pop-up marquee with picnic tables to provide cover for customers.

Forestry Commission Scotland, which runs the centre, has been looking for a business to take over a franchise since last October when the bike rental shop and café Basecamp closed. They are currently in talks with interested parties about providing a bike rental service.



Davey Irons and his children Charlotte and Douglas in their mobile kitchen.



Fynn the collie: looking for a home.

THE SCOTTISH SPCA in Inverness is seeking a peaceful home in the countryside for a dog terrified of noise and cars.

Fynn, a two year-old tri-coloured collie, came in to the charity's Highlands and Islands animal rescue and rehoming centre in December after his previous owner moved home.

But the dog can't cope with the busy kennel environment and spends his days keeping staff company in reception.

Centre manager Elaine Floyd said: 'Cars and barking dogs send him into overdrive and it can be very difficult to distract him from jumping around.'

'When he's out on a walk

INVERNESS

in the woods or fields he's perfectly happy and he loves to chase a ball and play.

'Fynn's actually very good with other dogs in general and he could be rehomed to a family. Someone who lives in the country and has experience of collies or of this type of behaviour would be perfect for him.'

Anyone interested in offering Fynn a home should call the Scottish SPCA Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999 and ask to be connected to the Inverness Centre.

TARBERT

PLANS to build an 11-turbine windfarm at Freasdail, near Whitehouse, have been rejected by Tarbert and Skipness Community Council.

Members were concerned about the visual impact the windfarm would have on Kintyre and on residents living within 2kms of the site.

Brian Mearns, council chairman, said: 'Our main concern with this particular

windfarm was the cumulative impact it would have on the area and in particular tourism, given the fact it is so visible from the main road and close to houses.'

Argyll and Bute Council has received 34 responses to the Freasdail planning application; 33 are letters of objection.

CAIRNDOW

REAL ale enthusiasts are being given the opportunity to find out the secrets behind the award winning ales that come from Fyne Ales.

The Cairndow brewery is opening its doors to the public

for a Fyne Ales Beer Night next Friday night, March 15. Brewers of the famous Highlander, Vital Spark and Pipers Gold will be on hand to show people how the beer is brewed and what makes it so special. There will be an opportunity to sample the freshly bottled IPA at the event, which kicks off at 7pm.

Islay Letter

Islay gathering

GLASGOW'S Ilich, along with a good representation from the home island, will meet up in Partick Burgh Hall tomorrow evening, Friday March 1, where An Comann Ieach holds its 151st annual gathering.

Guest chairman Kenneth Thomson of 'GG' fame will preside and will introduce local vocalists Kirsten Lauric, Port Ellen, and Ruairidh MacKinnon from Port Wemyss. Sharing the stage with the youngsters will be Mod gold medallists Eilidh J Davies, Invergarry, and south Uist's Paul MacCallum.

Glasgow Junior Gaelic Choir member Brighde Morrison will be the guest accordionist, Kirsteen Grant will provide the piano accompaniments, and the evening's pipers will be Bowmore's Lindsay MacArthur and Sandy MacLellan, formerly of Bonahaven.

Former director Gordon Gillies will see to the vote of thanks and the introductions will be handled by president Malcolm Campbell who demits office in June after his three-year term as leader.

The gathering dance takes place the following evening, Saturday March 2, in the Strathclyde University Union, 90 John Street. In charge of the music from 9pm will be the ceilidh band 'Reely Jiggered', some of whose members have family connections with Bruichladdich.

Pipe band fundraiser

GLASGOW'S Grosvenor Hotel provided the splendid setting for a sell-out fund raising evening for the island's pipe band.

Organising the dinner and entertainment, which added £8,400 to band funds, was Catherine Johnston, former head teacher at Condor Primary School and current chairwoman of Ionad Chalum Chille Ile. Aiding her in the fundraising efforts was Sheena MacMillan, a member of a well-known family of local pipers whose two brothers are members of the island band.

The evening was hosted by Gaelic broadcaster John Carmichael and Kilchoman Distillery manager John

MacLellan, another ardent band supporter.

Adding to the enjoyment was the music of 'Deoch 'n Dorus, honoured in 2012 with the 'Scottish Dance Band of the Year' title.

Pipe band members are grateful to everyone who supported this memorable event.

New equipment for GPs

GPS ON the island are delighted with the latest addition to their medical equipment and are the first in the UK to have an ICARE tonometer generously donated by the manufacturing company.

Dr Robert Harvey, consultant ophthalmologist at Paisley's Royal Alexandra Hospital, trained the doctors in the use of the new equipment and they are now able to measure pressure within the eye when suspecting glaucoma which has the potential to lead to blindness.

Local resident Walter MacLellan set this donation in motion through his contact with the ophthalmologist and the tonometer manufacturers.

Society closure

THE ISLAND'S Family History Society will be wound up at the end of March and its assets passed to local charitable organisations who share similar objectives.

Discussions have been held with the Museum of Islay Life at Port Charlotte, Ionad Chalum Chille Ile and the South Islay Development organisation and they will benefit from the assets subject to approval from the Scottish Charities Regulator.

The society's Islay-related documents and images will be housed in the St Columba Gaelic Centre and will continue to be available for public consultation on a regular basis.

Members of the society, established in 1991, will continue to work closely with the ICCL as the centre staff continue to develop this valuable collection and ensure its availability for local and family history research purposes.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 91496 810658.



Margaret A MacLeod, new brand development director at Harris Tweed Hebrides.

Harris Tweed Hebrides appoints new brand development director

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides (HTH) has strengthened its management team with the recruitment of Margaret A MacLeod, the former head of regional development with HIE in Stornoway.

Ms MacLeod joins the Shawbost-based company as brand development director as well as taking on company secretarial duties.

Although she has worked in the public sector for the past seven years her professional background is in textiles.

Until returning home to Lewis in 2005, Ms MacLeod was home furnishings manager with Johnston's of Elgin and previously worked with major fashion and textiles firms in Glasgow and London.

She said: 'I grew up in a weaving community

and my father is still a weaver, so I know how important this industry is to the whole island economy. I am delighted to have joined the team at Harris Tweed Hebrides as they continue to grow the business from their base at Shawbost.'

HTH chairman Brian Wilson, said: 'There was an extremely high quality field of applicants for the post, demonstrating there are people of great ability ready and eager to develop their professional careers in the Western Isles if the opportunities exist. We are confident of another great year for Harris Tweed Hebrides but it is crucial to look beyond that and to make sure that everything we have achieved over the past five years is truly sustainable. I am sure Margaret will make a major contribution towards meeting that objective.'

LUING

A FIXED link, connecting the Isle of Luing to the mainland, has been given the support of a local MSP.

Michael Russell met constituents on the island last week following a surgery. He said: 'I had a very positive discussion with the community about the fixed link and I have suggested that if another referendum is held on the island and if it produces a similarly large majority in favour of the fixed link this will give huge impetus to discussions the island needs to have with the council and others.'

'I would be happy to support and help those discussions in any way I can.'

Mr Russell added: 'The community meeting ranged over a wide variety of topics and I think we had a very productive and interesting time.'

'The island is confronting problems, some unique to the place and some the result of the financial downturn and increasing prices including fuel prices, in a determined way and the coming of the new Atlantic Islands Centre will be a great boost in terms of tourism and jobs.'

'I am always happy to go to Luing and help the community in any way I can. It is a privilege to be their MSP.'

GLENCOE AND GLEN ETIVE

GLENCOE and Glen Etive Community Council is to hold its March monthly meeting at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 12. Everyone welcome.

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Colonsay plane lands on Islay with one engine

AN AIRCRAFT travelling from Colonsay to Islay was forced to land using one engine following a warning of low oil pressure.

The Hebridean Air Services flight, last Tuesday morning, reportedly had eight people on board when the incident took place.

Andy Jolly, general manager of Hebridean Air Services, said: 'We had an in-flight shut down of one engine following a low oil pressure indication in the cockpit.'

'The aircraft landed in Islay on one engine completely uneventfully. A replacement aircraft was brought over to cover services and an engine change took place with the affected aircraft leaving the island on Friday.'

Meanwhile, another plane reportedly had a near miss with fuel tanks when it went off the runway at Oban Airport recently.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the airport, said: 'On Sunday February 17 there was a minor incident involving a light aircraft which led to it coming off the runway.'

'There was no damage to the aircraft and only minor cosmetic damage to a grassed area adjacent to the runway. The aircraft and pilot departed Oban airport later that same day.'

Councillor calls for better west coast towing cover as Shetland tug restored

AN ARGYLL and Bute councillor is calling for better emergency towing cover for shipping emergencies on the west coast of Scotland.

Bute councillor Len Scoullar was reacting to news that petrol company BP has agreed to provide a Shetland-based tug for towing on an emergency basis where assistance is required.

Councillor Scoullar said: 'The

announcement of emergency towing vessel assistance is a welcome one, but we must ensure the west coast of Scotland, and the waters of Argyll and Bute, are also adequately protected.'

'As both an Argyll and Bute councillor and chairman of KIMO, the Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation, I will continue to press for this assurance.'

Nominations for restaurant awards

NOMINATIONS have opened for this year's Scottish Restaurant Awards which celebrate the achievements of a remarkable industry in Scotland.

If you have a favourite place or know a restaurant doing something brilliant, now's the time to reward them for their hard work by getting your nomination in before March 22.

This is the sixth year of the awards and categories include best family friendly restaurant, best rural restaurant and best seafood restaurant. www.scottishrestaurantawards.co.uk.

No plan to ford Isle of Mull burn says council

ARGYLL and Bute Council has denied it plans to ford the burn at Pennyghael on Mull to avoid the bridge being damaged by forestry lorries.

A recent meeting of Mull Community Council heard the bridge was unable to be used by the lorries and would be bypassed by a tidal ford.

But a council spokeswoman confirmed this was not the case. She said: 'There are no plans to ford the burn as a replacement for the bridge.'

'We are planning to meet with the Argyll Timber Transport Group soon for more discussions. In the meantime, we propose to install bollards on the roadside

at each end of the bridge. These will help wider vehicles assess whether it is appropriate to use the bridge.'

Timber felling at Pennyghael has started and a Forestry Commission Scotland spokesperson added: 'The new floating pier facility, designed to help ease the export of timber from the

island, will provide significant economic benefits while at the same time removing timber traffic from the wider road and ferry network.'

'However we are aware timber lorries bringing timber to the pier will need to make use of a narrow bridge at Pennyghael, which although it is strong

enough to take the traffic, is narrow and also has difficult approach angles.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is a partner in the project to bring the floating pier to this part of Mull and the council's roads department has for some time been considering the issues surrounding the bridge.'

'The long term forest plan for Pennyghael forest is soon to go out for consultation, which will include the community council. We will also be seeking advice and comment from Argyll and Bute Council on timber transport matters as part of our routine consultation process on the pending forest plan.'



Young people from 3D Youth Club in Dornie enjoyed a weekend's ski-ing at the Lecht Ski Centre after part-funding the trip themselves. The group packed bags for a day in the local Co-op, raising £464, while Highland Council chipped in with £1,000. Instructors from the Abernethy Centre, where the party stayed, provided expert tuition - for many of the youngsters it was their first time on the slopes. In glorious weather and perfect conditions, everyone did well getting to grips with their skis and the snow on the first day before progressing to more demanding gradients, where their skill and balance were tested, on day two.

Business Gateway Workshops in Argyll and Bute

Planning to start your own business?

Develop your ideas into a practical and effective plan to launch your business.

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

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

- March - 18/19, Campbeltown; 19/20, Helensburgh; 26/27, Rothesay

The "Practical Basic Book-keeping" workshop

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

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

- March - 1, Helensburgh; 12, Inveraray;

Introduction to social media for your business

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

Course objectives:

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

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

- March - 4, Inveraray; 18, Helensburgh; 21, Mull

Improve your business website performance

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

Course objectives:

- Provide delegates with a basic understanding of which factors are key to the success of a website
- Show delegates how these factors can be used to create a good design
- Give delegates examples of common mistakes made
- Provide delegates with a number of online sources that provide further good practice and advice. The course will discuss the 4 key success factors of website development: visibility, appearance, functionality and compatibility. It will cover issues including graphic design, layout, navigation, the online sales process, search engine optimisation, browser compatibility and site feedback.

- March - 4, Inveraray; 7, Oban; 18, Helensburgh; 20, Mull

Build your own business website

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

Course objectives:

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

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

- March - 5, Inveraray; 8, Oban; 19, Helensburgh



Places are limited so to find out more or book your place please contact the Business Gateway team
T | 01546 605459
E | business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Don't ignore local development plan urges councillor

IT IS 'vitaly important' locals respond to Argyll and Bute Council's proposed local development plan, according to the authority's deputy leader.

Speaking at Monday's meeting of Oban Community Council, local councillor Roddy McCuish urged people to have their say now or else face having no recourse when areas earmarked as possible zones for housing are developed. He told members: 'I cannot emphasise how important it is for people to feed into the local development plan, not just from a community point of view but as individuals. The last thing you want is to come back in five or six years to see that piece of land next door set aside for development and you didn't have your say.'

Mr McCuish's comments came as members debated some of the proposals outlined in the plan, including potential sites for the new high school and areas for potential development.

Highlighting land near Oban Livestock Centre as the next area for potential development, Duncan Martin said congestion in the town centre would have to be addressed.

Confusion voiced over island BID steering group membership

MEMBERS of the Mull, Iona and Ulva Business Improvement District (BID) steering group claim to be unaware they are part of it.

A total of 57 businesses have been listed as members of the BID steering group in the final business plan document but 27 have never attended a public meeting.

Many are voting 'no' to the plan while around 18 claim to have no knowledge they were on the steering group or wouldn't consider themselves part of it.

Jim Spence, of Accommodations Mull, said: 'I have been misrepresented on page 27 of the BID document. Anyone reading the document would think I was in favour of the BID.'

'I have never been in favour of the BID. I was simply asked to gather feelings and ideas from my members and feed that back to the group which I did.'

There are suggestions from businesses on Mull that having a list of 'well thought of, long standing businesses' named as part of the steering group would encourage a 'yes' vote.

Jane Noddings from Seaview Bed and Breakfast in Fionnphort said: 'You think if all these people are part of the steering group then it must be a good idea.'

Laurence Mackay, from Tiroran House Hotel, is also named on the steering group. His wife Katie said: 'We voiced our support for investigation into a proposal, but we did not understand that we would then become part of a steering group.'

'We, in fact, stated that we were not able to actively support this campaign, in the same way that we have never been directly involved in any campaign or committee.'

Ian Porter, BID's director, said: 'Across Scotland steering groups are

mainly people that are involved in the BID and they are aware of what they are doing.'

Neil Hutton, chairman of the steering group, added: 'Everyone ticked a box to say they wanted to be part of the steering group and signed the form.'

'Members received 40 emails between March and December all titled Mull and Iona BID steering group.'

'I understand it was over a year ago and people forget. There is a human element here and a genuine misunderstanding but everyone got a copy of the draft plan which had the same names on it.'

'The draft plan was issued six months ago and nobody made this point then. It has only been in the past couple of weeks.'

'We had a broad steering group and we did it by email as this is a big island and people can't always get to meetings.'

Fort William windows smashed

THREE windows of a house on Douglas Place in Fort William were smashed about 4.30am on Sunday February 17.

A water pump and other items worth a four-figure sum were removed from a garage in Roy Bridge sometime between February 7 and February 15.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Oban speeding to be monitored

SPECIAL attention is to be given to roads in Oban's Glenruitten area after reports of speeding during a community council meeting this week.

Members Sandra Russell and Jessie MacFarlane said they were increasingly concerned by the number of motorists exceeding the speed limit and asked the police to divert extra attention there. Chief Inspector Brian Auld said he would deploy monitoring equipment to measure the volume and speed of traffic, including peak times of activity, so enforcement can be directed if required.

Celebrations at Lochaline Fire Station

FIRE and rescue personnel from across Lochaber joined local residents to celebrate the opening of Lochaline Fire Station last Wednesday night.

The station is a Scottish first on two counts - it shares the site with the new primary school next door and 60 per cent of its retained personnel are women.

Speaking at the official opening, Lochaline Fire Station watch manager Lesley Jones, who also runs the village shop, praised the joint effort

that made the new base a reality.

She said: 'Myself and my crew would like to thank everyone who has been involved in bringing this huge project to a successful conclusion.'

'Having the faith and vision to invest in small communities like Lochaline will ensure that rural areas can prosper and develop and by bringing two completely different services together under one roof proves this commitment.'

'We as a fire team look

forward to building a strong relationship with the school to bring mutual benefit.'

She added: 'This is what can be achieved when communities and local government pull together. They have given us a purpose built building with all the most up to date equipment and support and ensured the provision of an essential service in Lochaline.'

'This marvellous building will contribute greatly to giving us a safer and more secure environment to live in and undoubtedly help towards saving lives.'

Fire Board convener Councillor Andrew Drever was unable to attend after his flight from Kirkwall was cancelled.

Vice convener, Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh councillor Audrey Sinclair, officially opened the station in his absence.

Councillor Sinclair noted former Highland Council convener Michael Foxley's role in securing the new school and fire base. She said: 'This new sta-



Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service Chief Fire Officer Stewart Edgar and Lochaline brigade watch manager Lesley Jones look on as Fire Board vice chair Councillor Audrey Sinclair unveils the plaque. 20_099ire01



Lochaline people joined fire and rescue personnel to celebrate the opening of the impressive new station. 20_099ire02



Left to right, Strontian fireman Alasdair MacLean and Lochaline colleagues Ewan Mowat, Rob Cappel and David Mealand were among those attending the station opening. 20_099ire03

Satellite Broadband package up for grabs in community competition

The Oban Times has teamed up with Avonline Broadband to offer a satellite broadband package to a community group on the west coast.

Avonline Broadband's latest satellite package brings speeds up to 20Mbps to communities that either don't get or have access to land-line based broadband.

Using Ka-band technology, the system overcomes many of the traditional challenges faced by previous satellite broadband services by improving reliability, speed and the quality of connection.

All that is required to secure a connection to the service is a south-facing view of the sky above 26 degrees and a small, 74cm dish.

No telephone line is required, meaning there is no line rental charge to add to the cost.

Among those impressed by the new system after getting a hands-on trial of the new system at Broadford on Skye is Dave Thompson, the MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch. He said: 'I was very impressed with the speed on offer. This new standard of satellite

broadband addresses many of the problems experienced with the medium in the past, and will broaden access to broadband particularly in remote and rural areas.'

We have teamed up with Avonline to offer one community group to have one 20Mbps system installed free of charge, complete with a free 12 month contract.

With a monthly data allowance of 30GB, the package would be ideal for a community centre in a remote area.

At the end of the 12 months, the winner can choose to continue the subscription. If they do not wish to continue, Avonline will arrange to collect the equipment free of charge.

If you think your community group or organisation would benefit from the system, please complete the form below and attach a separate sheet to tell us, in no more than 200 words, why your group needs the package.

Forms must be returned by Friday 22nd March, 2013.

For more information on the system, log on to www.avonlinebroadband.co.uk.



Lochaber Curling Club member Jo Cowan shows just what it means to be curling again on outside ice for the first time in 35 years. 20_109curling02

Delight as curling returns to Lochaber

'THE ROARING Game' returned to Fort William on Tuesday afternoon as Lochaber Curling Club enjoyed a match on outside ice for the first time since 1979.

The recently restored curling ponds in Glen Nevis regularly hosted curling games in years gone by - and echoed once again to granite stones rumbling up the 30-metre rink. Club members piped water up from the nearby River Nevis hoping for a hard overnight freeze - and were rewarded with a solid two-inch layer of perfect ice by morning.

A 'house' of concentric rings was quickly marked out at either end of the rink using a peg, string and a nail and action soon got underway.

At stake was the Spean Curling Club Members Cup, a trophy donated by local doctor's wife Mrs Connachie in 1948. According to local legend, the cup was payment from a local man who could not pay his medical bills. Club member Dr Chris Robinson told *The Oban Times*: 'There's quite a lot of excitement today. It's the traditional way to play the game, after all.'

Court hears sister's claim over ordeal allegations

Woman says teenager was 'a mess'

A WOMAN has told how she found her teenage sister 'in a mess' after an alleged drunken attack by her then boyfriend in his Caol home.

Jenna MacKay told Fort William Sheriff Court the 17-year-old woman was in tears with a black eye and cuts and bruises when she emerged from Alexander Williamson's house.

The teenager claims Williamson strangled her, stabbed out a cigarette out on her hand and set her clothes on fire in the early hours of June 23 last year.

He also poured Irn Bru, cider and aftershave over her head and punched and slapped her on the face during the three-hour ordeal, the woman said.

Mrs MacKay, 27, picked her sister up just hours after the incident and said she was 'shocked' when she saw her.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

She said: 'She was crying, she had a big black eye and she was wearing men's clothes. Her hair was hard as if something had dried in it and it was stinking of drink. She was just a mess.'

Police photographs showed both partners suffered several cuts and bruises.

PC Hastings said Williamson had been asked about making an allegation of assault against the woman, but chose not to give a statement.

She said Williamson, of 4 Glenmallee Terrace, was 'intoxicated' when they arrived at his house and they had to drag him out from underneath a bed.

He was taken to Belford Hospital for treatment for his injuries, which included a broken finger, a bruised ankle and two black eyes.

The trial is due to continue on March 25.

Mountain death toll rises to six

THE DEATH toll on Lochaber's mountains rose to six in the past five weeks when a climber was killed on Ben Nevis on Monday.

The man, believed to be from England, was ascending Raeburn's Buttress with a friend when he fell 50 metres to his death around 12.30pm.

Rescue helicopters from RAF Lossiemouth and HMS Gannet at Prestwick, assisted by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team evacuated the body.

John Stevenson, Lochaber MRT leader, said the man fell from a steep snow slope during the Grade 4 winter climb.

Mr Stevenson told *The Oban Times*: 'It was an unfortunate accident. They were climbing together and were pretty well equipped.'

'It was a mixed climb of rock, ice and snow - that's the trouble at this time of year. Climbing conditions are so good just now and the place is really busy. People are still going to go out and they just have to take care.'

Police are carrying out inquiries into the incident.

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'The man will not be identified until all next of kin have been informed.'

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.'

The tragedy followed a serious incident on the Ben on Sunday, when a climber broke both ankles in 30-metre fall from a snow cornice just metres from the top.

Lochaber MRT hoisted the casualty up to the summit plateau for him to be airlifted to hospital.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Applicant Name.....
Group Name.....
Address.....
Telephone.....
Email.....
 I consent to my details being passed to Avonline who may get in touch with special offers or discounts.
Please post your entries to Satellite Broadband Competition
The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
Entries must be in by Friday 22nd March, 2013.
Terms and conditions: Editor's decision is final, no cash alternative is available.
Submissions received after closing date will not be considered.
Only community groups, charities or social enterprises in the west highlands and islands will be considered.

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Raasay dismisses buy-out suggestion

RAASAY people have dismissed a suggestion by local MSP Dave Thompson they should seek to buy the island to force a Scottish government rethink on awarding the Raasay sporting lease to an Ayrshire stalking partnership.

Last week it emerged civil servants in Edinburgh had rejected an £1,150 bid from Raasay Crofters' Association for shooting and fishing rights in favour of Girvan-based South Ayrshire Stalking's £3,000 - despite Scottish ministers 'not being obliged to accept the highest offer'.

The association had held the rights for the past 18 years and invested in deer fencing, management training and chilling facilities.

Venison products were sold through the island shop, while shooting and stalking parties provided a further economic boost.

The decision to award the rights to an absentee bidder prompted furious accusations that the government was no better than past rapacious landlords who stripped Raasay of its people and resources. Now Mr Thompson - who opposes the move - has written to the government advocating it helps Raasay people with a community buyout, if that is what they want.

He said: 'The community numbers currently around 140 with many strong folk who could successfully lead a buyout. Who knows, if the example of Gigha is followed, the island

population could maybe get back close to what it was 100 years ago.'

But Anne Gillies, secretary of Raasay Crofters' Association, dismissed the idea as 'a total distraction'. She told *The Oban Times*: 'There's a saying that if your roof is leaking you ask your landlord to fix it - you don't start negotiations to buy the house.'

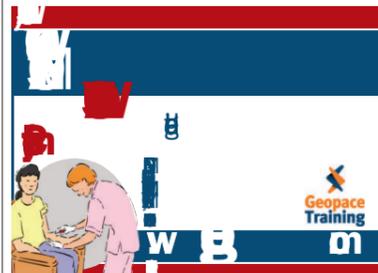
'So we are not jumping up and down saying 'what a good idea'. We have not discussed it but I don't believe for a second there's any interest on the island.' She added: 'This was a bit of a blunder [by the Scottish Government] and you just want them to sort things out - not change everything around.'

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse has told officials that in future ministers must approve any removal of community-operated leases.

That has not appeased the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF), which called for the decision to be reversed.

SCF chairman Derek Flynn said: 'We are stunned that all the benefit this brought to Raasay has been undone by the stroke of a pen of a faceless civil servant in Edinburgh. Depriving the community of an important aspect of their livelihood contradicts the Scottish Government's stated objective of strengthening communities.'

'Clearly an error has been made here and the Minister has been forced to defend the actions of his officials.'



The Oban Times
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TAYNUILT HOTEL RE-OPENS 1ST MARCH

Under new ownership since the 10th of December 2012 the recently refurbished Taynuilt hotel will be reopening on the 1st of March.

New owner's John McNulty and Rachel Bromelow will be running the hotel, and head chef John's menu has a real emphasis on local and seasonal produce. We aim to provide excellent service and a first class dining experience.

The hotel has undergone a complete transformation, with recently refurbished Public bar and brand new kitchen. The lounge has also been redesigned to create a bright and modern dining area. So far, 5 bedrooms have been updated and redecorated, with the remaining rooms still to work on.

www.taynuilt-hotel.co.uk
Follow us on twitter @hotelTaynuilt
Find us on facebook at Taynuilt Hotel New
To make a room or restaurant booking call 01866 822437

ROCK UP IN RED
to Keep Well with Local Produce KINTYRE, ISLAY & GIGHA

LOCAL PRODUCE, Kintyre has teamed up with NHS Highland as part of their Rocking Red Heart Roadshow to promote the health benefits of using good wholesome local food. Events will be held in local Community Gardens with trained staff on hand.

THE BARROW BAND will perform and sing LIVE bringing the magic, history and beauty of fruit, vegetables, animals and minerals to the world based around a market barrow.

An Argyll based CHEF will cook samples of good, local food on the day and demonstrate how cooking fresh foodstuffs is easier and more nutritious than frozen or preserved produce.

It's also about raising awareness of the KEEP WELL coming soon to Campbeltown, Dunoon & Oban. Keep Well health checks can make a positive difference to your health as well as cutting the possible risk of heart disease. Visit www.KeepWellScotland.org.uk for more info.

Thursday 7th March - Benderloch Farmer's Market, Oban (11am - 3pm)
Monday 11th March - Campbeltown Community Orchard & Garden (2pm - 6pm)
Tuesday 12th March - Cafebarga, Tarbert (11am - 3pm)
Wednesday 13th March - Bowmore Primary School, Islay (11am - 3pm)
Tuesday 19th March - Bute Produce (next to Rothsay Joint Campus) (2pm - 6pm)
Wednesday 20th March - Argyll Gardens, Dunoon (11am - 3pm)

NHS Highland
LOCAL PRODUCE
Telephone: 07500 677651 • Email: localproduceargyll@gmail.com
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Findlay Maclean and Lyndsay Brown from Caol Co-op with Lochside Fair Trade committee members Kiah Ferreira, Tegan Dennison, Rhianna Drummon and Jazmin McFauld. 20_109lochy01

Fun and face painting as Lochside Primary marks Fair Trade Fortnight

Caol Co-op lends support with presentation to the children

LOCHSIDE RC Primary School marked the start of Fair Trade Fortnight with a presentation from Caol Co-op team manager Findlay Maclean and team leader Lyndsay Brown on Monday.

The children sampled various foods, discovered where they are grown and

how Fair Trade prices helps improve producers' living conditions in developing countries.

Fair Trade activities at Lochside include a special tuck shop, a gift shop, art, maths, geography and language work, a recipe book, face painting and a play. Jazmin MacFauld of the pupils' Fair

Trade Committee said: 'It was really good of Findlay and Lyndsay to give up their time to come and speak to us. We enjoyed it very much and we loved the chocolate samples.' Lochside Primary has been supporting Fair Trade for many years and is a Fair Trade status school.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Where there's a will...

A NEW marina in Oban Bay has been held up by many as the key to unlocking Oban's potential as a modern-day tourist destination.

Such is the will for it to happen that MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust has conceded it must lose its prime town centre location at the White Building for the sake of the marina and progress.

As Graham MacQueen said himself, the building it 'too good' to be a charity shop.

Seen as a complementary service to Oban Marina in Kerrera, rather than competition, it is hoped by many that the new facility will help drive more marine tourism to the area.

The plan makes sense, marine tourism is recognised as one of the key growth markets in the sector.

However, care must be taken not to develop tunnel vision and focus on one single aspect of the town's appeal. With competition for the tourist pound getting more intense every year, it has never been more important to get the whole package right.

So if and when we do have a new transit marina in Oban, facilities and amenities must be in place to take advantage of the additional visitor capacity.

That means business and BID4Oban working hand in hand with locals and the council to get it right. If they can, this can only bode well for the future.

GLASGOW LETTER

Annual choir concert

THE JUNIOR and senior Glasgow Islay Gaelic choirs returned to Bearsden Hall for their annual concert and once again they were rewarded with an excellent attendance with few seats in the hall not occupied.

Meg Buchanan got proceedings underway with top class piping selections and throughout the evening each of the choirs performed on their own and as a combined choir with, in addition, both the ladies and male voice choirs singing. From the juniors, Rebekah Boyle, Abigail Cavanagh, Christy O'Hanlon, Christina Gorman and Brighde Morrison all provided individual items and from the senior choir Elizabeth Campbell, Clare Campbell, the quartet Na h-Oranaiche, Iona Middleton and Jennifer Campbell with Theresa Irving accompanying on clarsach also performed.

A particular highlight was the singing of 'Am facu tu'n coileach' by chairwoman Kathleen MacInnes, together with the junior choir. Kathleen is well-known to Gaelic audiences as a singer, actress and presenter on both radio and television - a true entertainer. During this concert she played that role, ensuring the evening proceeded smoothly by interspersing items on the programme with her own inimitable humour, a huge contribution to the friendly atmosphere in the hall and to the success of a fun concert.

Diary dates
Friday March 1: Glasgow Islay Association Annual Gathering Concert, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm.
Saturday March 2: Glasgow Islay Association Annual Dance, Strathclyde University Union, 9pm, Reely Jiggered Ceilidh Band, Spiritual Music and Art - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association, Ceilidh Supper Dance, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm to 11.30pm.
Tuesday March 5: Meeting to form new committee for Glasgow Mod, An Leanag, Mansfield Street, 7.30pm.
Friday March 8: Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Annual Concert - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.
Saturday March 9: Uist and Barra Association Professional Piping Competition, morning session 9am, afternoon session 1.30pm. Oban High School FP's Annual Dinner Dance, Crown Plaza Hotel. For tickets telephone 0141 943 0281 or 07766 816025. Paisley and District Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Journey through the Hebridean Heart

A CONCERT of Gaelic Spiritual Music and Art, presented by Cathy MacDonald, will take place this coming Saturday in St Mary's Church, Calton, at 7.30pm.

It will be televised by the BBC and proceeds will go towards the repair programme of Our Lady of the Sorrows Church, South Uist, a church dedicated to the memory of the fallen at Paschendale. An array - nearly 20 in number - of Gaeldom's top singers and musicians will take part together with Strathclyde Police Pipe Band. For tickets or for further information visit www.lentfest.co.uk or telephone 0141 554 1333.

Buntata's Sgadan

THE RECENT Buntata's Sgadan held by Glasgow Skye Association was well attended and those present thoroughly enjoyed the purvey provided with the main item on the menu having been sourced in Lewis.

The post meal entertainment was provided by singer Cameron MacKichan and by accordionist John Carmichael with the latter also providing much Glasgow wit.

Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association

THE ANNUAL concert of the GG Choir will take place in Cotten's Theatre, Hyndland Street, on Friday March 8 at 7.30pm and will celebrate the 30th year of Kenneth Thomson as conductor. As well as choral items, there will be performances from Mod Gold Medallists Kirsteen MacDonald, Eilidh Davies and Joy Dunlop. Tickets are available from choir members or at the door.

Ceilidh dance
 THE GLASGOW Ceilidh Dance organised by the boys of Deoch 'n Dorus will take place in St Vincent Bowling Club, St Vincent Place, on Friday March 22 at 8.30pm.

There will be a licensed bar and admission will be £8/£5.

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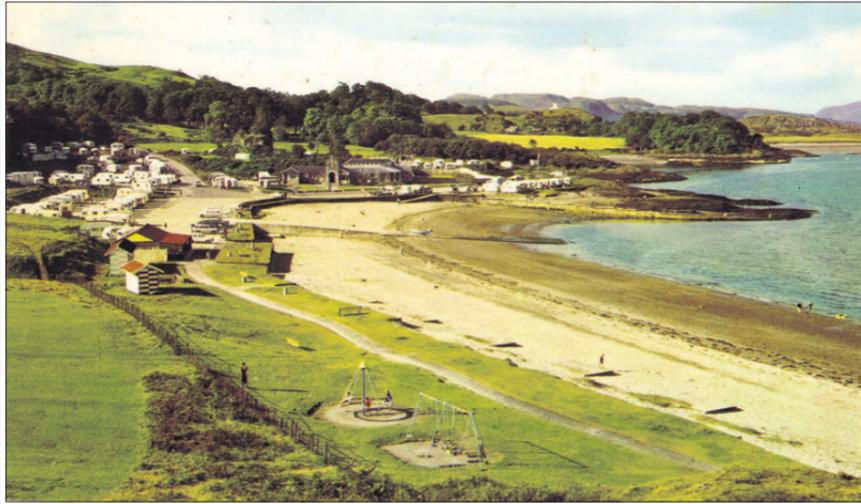
Journey through the Hebridean Heart

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Summer at Ganavan Sands, Oban

This week's flashback photograph features a hot summer's day at Ganavan Sands, Oban. It comes from Willie Hume of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Mull BID the one and only chance

Sir, I consider plans for a Mull and Iona Business Improvement District (BID) a once in a generation opportunity. I'm not going to respond directly to the points raised in last week's letters as I feel there's been too much focus on the detail.

We must not lose sight of the bigger picture - the fact that the BID will generate more than £655,000 to improve our islands' economy. This is the one and only chance to establish a BID here and this level of funding won't come from anywhere else.

Having worked on the plan with the other steering group members, I believe the BID investment levy is affordable and the benefits tangible. The BID has clear objectives, will be properly funded and professionally staffed.

I feel the majority of the island is behind the scheme and like myself agree it is a no-brainer. The BID is not being set up to wholesale change the islands but to improve and promote what we have already in order to stay ahead of the increasing competition from other destinations.

Ask yourself, how many additional bookings or sales would it take to recoup your investment levy and how much of a risk is it? Is it worth a go to help ensure our islands stay ahead of the competition and continue to attract new visitors?
Neil Morrison, Mull.

Vote 'no' and work harder

Sir, I write regarding the proposed BID for Mull and Iona and wish to appeal to businesses to vote 'No' to the plan.

If only 13 per cent of a 25 per cent voting turnout say 'yes', then every other business with a rateable value has to pay into this BID levy by law. Being forced to pay for something I never asked for, want, nor believe in makes me feel like I am living on an island where dictatorship rules and not democracy.

I have worked six or seven days a week for the last 12 years building up my business. Last year I spent virtually every penny I had in conjunction with a sizeable business loan and without a penny in grant-aid to expand my business to try and provide the best service possible to the local community. I did not go around Dervaig cap in hand saying 'Well, if you would all be so kind as to give me £100 each, that would be great, it's all for your benefit you know!'

Should this BID be voted in, staff costs, set-up and running costs amount to almost 45 per cent of monies raised. On the subject of voting, I have never come across any ballot paper where you have to state your name and position in your business and then sign. It hardly instils any belief of confidentiality. Why does a simple conventional cross in

the appropriate box not suffice? Regarding the cross-selling of island produce/goods, does the steering group not wonder how we communicate, support and promote each other now? Personally, should I require local cheese, pork, venison, fish and greetings/postcards a quick telephone call/email to Garth Reade, Fiona Boa, Pennyghael Estate, Bill Langford, Tobermory Fish Company and Martin Guppy respectively to discuss requirements and delivery and the job is done.

Yes, we are in the midst of a global recession and in times like these you need to dig in and work harder. I suggest the BID instigators and steering group members go home, look inward at their own businesses if you're not happy with your position and scratch their business heads a lot longer and harder. Work, work, work, adapt, compromise and diversify to overcome and succeed.

Dugie Allan, Dervaig Post Office and Store, Isle of Mull.

Don't ruin island for financial gain

Sir, I agree with the two February 21 letters against the Mull tourist-focused BID.

This plan can, by the terms of the voting formula, be imposed on the entire population if a mere 12.6 per cent of business owners vote 'Yes'.

If implemented it will lead to more soul-less holiday homes and self-catering units, more clogged roads, more local young folk forced out of the housing market and more seasonal workers. But residents need year-round employment.

Many of the people who come here because they 'love Mull' then try to change everything, leave or retire elsewhere because 'Mull is no longer as it used to be'.

My business would be among the first to benefit from a greater influx of visitors - the proprietor of a major Tobermory hotel said last week that the island could and should receive three times as many visitors as at present - but I am not greedy enough to ruin the place for financial gain. This is a feeling shared by most of those who were born - and wish to die - on Mull.

Lucy Mackenzie, Lip na Cloiche, Isle of Mull.

Integrated transport system lacking

Sir, I note Scotrail has announced it will run three extra Oban trains in summer next year.

Great, I thought, at last a train that connects with the 18.00 Mull ferries. Then I saw the proposed train times - oh dear, no chance!

I have friends coming up by rail from England to Mull who find it virtually impossible to reach Glasgow in time to catch the 12.21 Oban train and are therefore unable to reach Mull by anything other than the late, Friday only, ferry.

I wonder if Scotrail and

CalMac ever talk to each other? An integrated transport system? If only!

Phil Siddall, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

Bemused at Islay ferry strife

Sir, Am I the only one bemused by your report that Islay is in strife over the planned ferry timetable changes - Change to draft ferries plan, *The Oban Times*, February 21?

With rationalisation and cuts in bus services leaving communities on the mainland well connected, if connected at all, and with island communities such as those on Mull faced with no option when travelling from Oban but to take the 21-mile road journey between Craignure ferry terminal and Tobermory or the 34 miles to Fionnphort, the 19 miles between Port Ellen and Port Askaig that will be added to only some journeys seems a small price to pay for provision of a dedicated ferry that gives Islay and Jura a mainland connection seven days a week.

Some would give their eye teeth for such a service, expensive to provide as it is and requiring a big subsidy from the tax-payer.
Ian Reid, Ardconnel Road Oban.

Whingeing but no solutions

Sir, As predictable as the tide is the arrival of the whingeing epistle from Alan Reid MP following the budget statement by Argyll and Bute Council, *The Oban Times*, February 21.

Perhaps Mr Reid should direct his future whinges to his colleagues in the Westminster Government with a plea that they re-instate part of the £1.3 billion of cuts they have inflicted on the Scottish Government resulting in the crucial reduction in local finances.

Mr Reid continues to criticise almost every decision from council and government, offering no solutions of his own.

I believe that at this time of extreme austerity and cuts the local MP should be working with groups from all political persuasions to best serve the people who elected him.

Dot Macdonald, Crannag A Mhinisteir, Oban.

Council cuts

Sir, In a letter in last week's *Oban Times*, Alan Reid MP expressed horror at the cuts this coalition council administration had to impose.

Mr Reid knows fine well the cuts are a result of his government cutting the Scottish government block grant as part of the austerity package imposed on the people of Scotland by his party in government. These are not the only cuts imposed by Mr Reid's government. They have also cut the health in pregnancy grant, child benefit, child tax credits and working tax credits. The choice this council administration had in setting the budget was for this generation to begin taking the cuts or the opposition plan of postponing the difficult decisions and in my opinion mortgaging our children's future.

Fred Hall, Councillor Ward 4 Oban, South and the Isles.

Thanks to lifesavers

Sir, Please allow me, through your paper, to express how thankful I am to everyone who helped to save my life on February 1 2013.

I was the 74-year-old shepherd who was transporting four Cheviot tups from the island of Shuna to the mainland when the wind suddenly got up from the north and the sea got big, resulting in the boat capsizing, trapping me and my dog under the boat.

We were trapped in a small pocket of air but on my second attempt I got out and floated to the surface.

Fortunately, I was wearing a lifejacket buoyancy aid, which supported my head and allowed me to float.

It was touch and go when I heard an engine and a voice. A pole with a net on the end was thrust at me and I was hauled out.

The quick action of Nicky Zvegintzov from Linnhe Marine saved my life. But I also want to thank the unknown helpers: the lady in the ambulance who wrapped me up, the team at Lorn and Islands Hospital who were waiting for me - what a team - and the staff at ward B for how they looked after me. They were so efficient, kind and attentive to detail, while putting in long hours.

I was on an oxygen mask, as my lung capacity was so depleted due to the salt water. It was quite incredible that I pulled through, so I would just like to say a big thank you to all, especially the nurse from Connell, who was so considerate and helpful.

I am doing fine now and so is my dog, Laddie, who also survived. Thank you.
Ernest 'Ernie' Ripley, Golden Acre, Doune, Perthshire.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

SAOILIDH MI gum bheil e rudeigin ceacharra a bhith a' faicinn airgead poblach ga chathreamh air iomairtean is seirbheisean agus aig an aon àm meang eile de riaghladh poblach a' gearradh taic dha na rudan sin. Gun teagamh, tha iomhas poblach gann agus feumar caomhnadh a dhèanamh ach am bheil e ceart gum bheil rud a bha airidh air taic gu ruige seo a-nise ga thrèigsinn air sgàth innleachd eaconamach. Tha fhios gum bheil e doirbh a h-uile poileasaidh fhighe ri chèile ach 's e sin a bu chòir dhuinn a bhith a' sùileachadh bu riaghaltais agus tha e doirbh a thuigsinn ciamar a ghabhas dìon a dhèanamh air na tha a' tachairt. Nuair a chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig a chur tron Phàrlamaid ann an 2005, bha gach partaidh poilitigeach ag aitheachadh gun robh an cànan na phàirt chudromach den uallach a bh' air an riaghaltais agus gun robh dleasan sònraichte aig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba taic leasachaidh a thoirt dhi. Chaidh an dleasan sin a dhainneachadh ann a bhith a' cur an Achd an gnìomh is a' stèidheachadh Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus ag aontachadh plana nàiseanta dhan Gàidhlig. Chuir an Achd cuideachd uallach air buidhnean poblach feadh na dùthcha an cuid phlanaichean fhèin a dheasachadh agus a chur an sàs dhan Gàidhlig agus tha Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheil is Bhòid air tè de na buidhnean poblach sin. 'S e gnothach gu math duilich a th' ann gum bheil a' Chomhairle sin a-nise a' thrèigsinn cuid de na h-amasan aice dhan chànan agus a' dol an aghaidh rùn aonaichte an riaghaltais dhan chànan. Chan e taic a tha seo a ghabhas cur dheth rè ùine, tha suidheachadh na Gàidhlig eiginneach agus a' aonachadh na beagan taic a tha buidhnean-coimhearsnachd a' faotainn le an cuid obrach, tha dòchas air leasachadh a' seargadh. A bharrachd air claochadh ann am poileasaidh Gàidhlig, tha sinn cuideachd a' faicinn an riaghaltais a' cur sparradh ann an obair chroitearan Ratharsaigh gus eaconamaid agus tèarainteachd an eilein aice fhèin a neartachadh. Cha mhòr nach eil e do-chreidsinneach gum biodh aon roinn den riaghaltais a' toirt na seilge bho mhuinntir an àite air sgàth mìle no dhà, aig an aon àm 's a thathas a' cosg fortan a' feuchainn ri toirt air coimhearsnachdan an cuid fearainn a ghabhail thairis, gun ghuth air na tha ga chur a-mach le buidhnean-leasachaidh eaconamach!

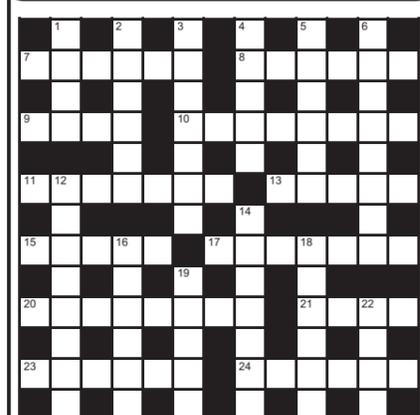
IT SEEMS perverse that policy being implemented by one branch of government should be negated by another branch.

Nevertheless that is now happening with Argyll and Bute Council cutting its modest Gaelic development budget. For the past decade there appeared to be national cross-party agreement on the urgent need to support Gaelic. Any cut in that support has extremely serious implications.

Simultaneously, while one branch of government enthusiastically encourages and funds communities to take ownership of their land; for the sake of a few thousand pounds another department frustrates a crofting community's efforts to develop its viability. Yes Minister!

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

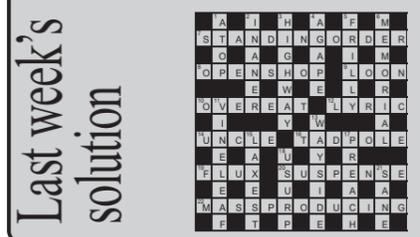
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Imitator (6)
 - Last month (6)
 - Knocked off (4)
 - Of family favour (8)
 - Leaf having a toothed edge (7)
 - Buzzing (5)
 - Throat dangler (5)
 - Tall buildings seen as a background (7)
 - Will always be the first (8)
 - High smelling meat (4)
 - Capers (6)
 - Most recent (6)
- Down**
- Played on cue (4)
 - Birdbrain (6)
 - Threefold (7)
 - Swollen glands (5)
 - Position (6)
 - Release (8)
 - Neighbourhood (8)
 - Stringed instrument (7)
 - Religious sayings used in the bible (6)
 - Smooth, in music (6)
 - Uneasiness (5)
 - Come together (4)

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

YOUR SAY



Islanders celebrate with Ciara

Islay youngster marks 12th birthday by thanking fundraisers

AN EXCITED Ciara Allan was singing One Direction songs and discussing how she should style her hair ahead of her 12th birthday party in Bowmore Village Hall.

Like her boyband idols - who she was due to see on Tuesday night at Glasgow's SECC - Ciara has become something of a celebrity on Islay and there is a big turnout expected.

Part of the reason for that is Ciara has only been home for two weeks from the USA after an intensive three-month course of Proton Therapy that will hopefully treat a malignant brain tumour.

While Ciara's treatment was paid for by the NHS, money from the island's Ciara Caskie Allan Appeal allowed her mother and father, Lloret and Rob, sister Ila, aged 9, and brother Lorne, 7, to stay with her for the duration of the treatment, which included the festive period.

Her party last Friday was therefore more than a birthday celebration - it was also a thank you to all those who helped to raise tens of thousands of pounds through the Ciara Caskie Allan Appeal.

In fact, islanders have helped to raise so much money over so many events that the final total is difficult to ascertain.

A whisky auction, a rugby ball relay involving members of local rugby and football teams and HMS Vanguard, a cattle auction, school bake sales, Zumbathons, discos and church walks were just some of the events that sprung up all over the island and on parts of the mainland.

'It is just overwhelming,' said Rob. 'Thank you seems too small a word to express what we want to say.'

Lloret added: 'It is amazing how much people care. We can't go anywhere without someone asking for Ciara. It all started when a group of people I volunteered with at a youth action group came to my door one night. They said they had set up this charity and were going to fundraise to send the whole family to America. I was astonished;

overwhelmed. I cried and cried because I just couldn't believe what they had said.

'We were always going to go as a family, even if we had to sell something or go into debt. But having that money meant we only had to worry about Ciara and her brother and sister.'

'To be honest, the amount of fundraising was a bit embarrassing at first. It wasn't that we were ungrateful; it was just so overwhelming that people were doing this for us. But when we were out there we were so glad the money was there.'

Rob added: 'We only used a fraction of what was in the appeal fund but we managed to keep the kids entertained [Ciara's treatment only lasted one hour per day] without getting us into debt.'

The family passed the time with short drives outside of Oklahoma and a few trips to basketball matches but the highlight of the journey was a trip to Disneyland, paid for by the Make a Wish Foundation.

It is clear that Rob and Lloret worry about the effect of Ciara's treatment on all three of their children. The family has already been through a lot.

After suffering a brain haemorrhage shortly before her third birthday in 2004, caused by the brain tumour, Ciara has undergone intensive physiotherapy to regain function on the left side of her body and continued to experience mild epileptic seizures, an occurrence the Allan family like to refer to as 'funny turns'.

Just before she started school, her seizures got worse and an MRI scan showed the tumour had grown and had started to develop cysts.

Over the next few years, three major brain operations and a 12-month course of chemotherapy proved to be ineffective and a potentially damaging course of radiotherapy looked the only option - until doctors suggested Ciara could be a candidate for Proton Therapy, a treatment not yet available in the UK. The therapy uses a laser beam of radiation to target the tumour

more precisely than existing radiotherapy, which can damage surrounding tissue.

Ciara wore a mask that secured her head to the treatment table and had set points for the beams to hit, targeting parts of the tumour directly.

While the treatment could be tiring and caused a slight burn on the side of Ciara's head, it caused her no pain, but the hardy 12-year-old is known for taking her treatments in her stride.

Her next major date - besides One Direction at the SECC - was to be an MRI scan on March 7, when the success of the Proton Therapy will be determined.

'She is absolutely amazing,' said Lloret. 'Nothing seems to put her down. I remember when I got the phone call to say she had woken up from her last major brain surgery. The operation had been a success but the first thing she had asked was where we were, because we had promised her a Burger King! We have never wrapped her up in cotton wool but you can't stop her doing anything. She went to school every day during her chemotherapy.'

'There were times when she had just had a blood platelets transfusion or chemotherapy and she would push herself to the limit to be normal. Part of her brain is tumorous but we have never used the word 'cancer'. The kids should be enjoying their childhood instead of those worries and we won't know anything until the next MRI scan.'

Rob added: 'The last five months have been a whirlwind and the biggest worry of our lives. We don't know what the future holds but this treatment was a one-off. They can't do the treatment again for another 10 years but they were happy they had achieved what they set out to do.'

The last word was left to Ciara, who expressed her gratitude to fundraisers and supporters by attending as many of the events as she could.

'Thank you from the bottom of my heart,' she said. 'I love you guys!'



The Allan family, from left: Lloret, Ila, Lorne, Rob and Ciara pictured on the completion of Ciara's treatment.

A SELL-OUT crowd at Strachur's Memorial Hall last weekend thoroughly enjoyed the dramatised version of the story of Archie McPhunn, or 'Half-hung Archie' as he is known on Loch Fyne-side.

Strachur and District Local History Society was behind this gripping story in its dramatised form.

Legend tells that in 1690, local landowner Duncan Campbell was stabbed to death by Archie McPhunn, as a result of a long standing disagreement between the two families.

McPhunn, who lived at Driep near Strachur, was apprehended and charged with murder. He was found guilty at Inveraray Court of Justice and sentenced to hang.

Using actual historical court records, the play showed how McPhunn, a native Gaelic speaker, was found guilty with neither a defence lawyer nor an understanding of what was happening as the court proceedings were in held entirely in English.

He did, however, recognise the significance of the black hat that Justice Campbell used when passing sentence of death.

The tale continued with the ferryman rowing the body and grieving widow from Inveraray across Loch Fyne to Creggans by Strachur. However, during the crossing McPhunn suddenly revives, aided back to life by the ferryman's whisky. He then apparently lived for another 40 years and became known as 'Half-hung Archie'.

The play was an excellent community affair with local residents young and old taking acting parts, helping with props, making costumes and lots more. Particular credit must go to village resident Gordon Neish for researching the story, writing, acting and directing the performance.

Effective lighting and original music composed by Ronnie Leahy added to the drama.

Before the action started there was an introduction from the local historical society on the background to the McPhunn story - and their decision to stage this play. This was followed by a talk from Sir Charles Maclean of Strachur House, who told of his famous father Fitzroy Maclean's interest in the McPhunn story and his decision to produce a McPhunn whisky.

Strachur and District Historical Society take great credit for bringing alive a gripping tale of a true local event that happened more than 300 years ago - and scotching the myth that McPhunn was hung for sheep stealing.

'Half-hung Archie' takes to the stage at Strachur



Kenny and Lesley Deacon, with Jim McCulloch watched the reenactment of local hero 'Half-hung Archie's trial.



Mairi Lawrie won the raffle for a bottle of McPhunn whisky.



Jill Campbell, Jean MacKechnie, Pam McNaughton and Alistair MacKechnie enjoyed an evening of entertainment.



Lorna Ferguson, Sue Prescott and Agneszka Mizia enjoy the night.



Drew Stewart attended the historical play in Strachur Memorial Hall with his wife Gelda.

Mother's Day

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CASTLE STALKER VIEW CAFE

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MOTHER'S Day should be about celebrating the woman who brought you into this world – and looked after you once you got here.

It is a day to where a unique gift or gesture will show her how much you really care. Thankfully if you're struggling for ideas The Oban Times is here to help...

There is so much on offer on the west coast of Scotland through arts, craft and food you should be spoilt for choice in what to buy for your mum.

Why not pick her up some hand made chocolates or soap. You could buy her a lovely vase – and even some flowers to go in it.

Or why not look at some cute vintage items for her home. You could even print off some favourite photos of you together and frame them.

Picking out something personal is a good idea. A paper sculpture – a message of your choosing intricately cut from a single piece of paper and placed in a floating frame – could make an unusual and inspired gift.

But if you really can't think of anything to get your mum why not take her out for a nice lunch or afternoon tea. You could even treat her to a day out at a spa.

If you're not in the mood for going out why not stock up on some good quality local produce and invite your mum round to your place for a meal – remember to stock up on wine too.

If you live further away from the most important woman in your life why not sign her up to a club. A subscription to her favourite magazine is another option worth considering.

Wine and book clubs are both popular choices but there are a variety of clubs available to suit everyone.

You can even sign up to a coffee club and have fresh ground or whole bean coffee delivered to her door every month.



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Workers tackle icy steps

WORK is underway to sort out surface drainage problems in a Fort William housing scheme after complaints streets and pavements ice up in freezing weather.

Last week *The Oban Times* reported how Vincent 'Rusty' Duncan fell on ice coming down steps from Argyll Terrace. And home carer Jennifer Bell said an 84-year-old female client could not leave her home because of skating rink conditions.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'We are trying to establish the source of the water seepage and to remedy the situation.'

'A contractor started on site this week and work may last until Monday at least. It is not known where the seeping water is coming from so it is not possible to estimate how long the job will take.'

Company works with tennis ace on new project

THE COMPANY running Inverloch Castle Hotel near Fort William has added another client to its portfolio - US Open and Olympic tennis champion Andy Murray.

Inverloch Castle Management International (ICMI) will manage Cromlix House Hotel in Kinbuck, Dunblane, on the sports star's behalf.

Mr Murray bought the hotel, which closed last February, for an undisclosed sum and plans to transform it into a 15-room five-star destination.

Benbecula police in fireraising witness appeal

POLICE in Benbecula are appealing for witnesses after an attempted fireraising at a house in the Meall Ard area of Balivanich on Benbecula on Friday.

The inside of the front door was set alight sometime between 5.15pm and 6pm and was extensively damaged, police said.

The porch area was also damaged and there was smoke damage within the house. No-one was injured as a result of the fire. Anyone with information is urged to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Man's body recovered from Stornoway field

THE BODY of a 37-year-old Stornoway man was recovered from a field yards from home on Sunday morning.

Police, coastguard volunteers and Stornoway Lifeboat were all involved in the search for Neil Maclean, known locally as 'Peels', since he was reported missing from his home in Parkend. No-one had been in contact with Mr Maclean since around 1.30am on Friday.

A police spokesperson said: 'There are no suspicious circumstances. Police thank all involved for their assistance in the search.'

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.



Councillor Brian Murphy, Chief Constable George Graham and Scottish Ambulance Service chairman David Garbutt get work underway on the new joint police and ambulance HQ.

Work starts on new 'blue light' centre

Joint HQ for police and ambulance service

WORK on a new joint police and ambulance headquarters for Lochaber is underway, heralding greater integration of local 'blue light' services.

The £4.7 million Northern Joint Police Board project on the Blar Mhor development site will replace the area command police building on Fort William High Street.

It will also house the Scottish Ambulance Service, which will move from its base at Inverloch to a purpose-built station within the new building.

The location, two miles outside Fort William next to the A830 to Mallaig, allows for fast access to trunk roads, including the A82 half a mile to the east.

Police board member, Fort William and Ardnamurchan Councillor Brian Murphy cut the first turf on Monday, along with Northern Constabulary Chief Constable George Graham and

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Scottish Ambulance Service chairman David Garbutt.

Councillor Murphy said: 'The new Fort William Police Station represents the Northern Joint Police Board's ongoing commitment to policing in Lochaber.'

'The station will also house the Scottish Ambulance Service who will be moving from their Inverloch base.'

'This is an excellent example of collaborative working, which provides best value for the people of Fort William and the surrounding area.'

He added: 'This will be a state-of-the-art building which will provide a much improved base from which to operate efficiently and make maximum use of police resources in Lochaber.'

Graham MacLeod, Scottish Ambulance Service head of

services northwest, said: 'The new location is ideal and offers direct access to the main road, which will improve response times.'

'The inclusion of training and conference rooms will support the continued professional development of ambulance staff and Fort William will become a training centre within the region.'

Around 30 ambulance staff, three ambulances, an officer response car and three patient transport vehicles will be based at the station.

Sustainable heating systems in the new police HQ mean it will be a third cheaper to run than the present building in Fort William.

Additional functions include a new trucks road patrol group (Roads Policing Unit) and a modernised cell block with video consultation facilities.

Blanka's hair stunt raises £400

A CAOL woman has had her long dark hair shaved off to raise money for a cancer charity.

Blanka Maclean, originally from Poland, decided to raise money for Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK after her mother died from lung cancer.

Blanka admitted to feeling 'a bit stressed' before the electric razor was turned on, but afterwards was a bit more relaxed.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I feel fine. I quite like it actually. I wanted to do this because my mum died of cancer in 2010, and Dr Craig MacMillan and everyone at Glen Mor Medical Centre was really good with us.'

The shorn hair will be sent to

the charity and used to create a wig for a cancer patient.

Friends and co-workers of Blanka from Sammy's Fish and Chip Shop came along to Caol Cuts to support her as hairdresser June MacLeod first snipped off her ponytail before shaving her head.

Adam Ramsey from Lochaber Together also lent his support. He said: 'I'd like to thank her because it's people like her that are helping us to raise money in Lochaber.'

More than £400 has been raised so far, with donations still coming in. To support Blanka visit www.justgiving.com/Lochaber-Together-blanka.



Blanka before having her hair shaved off. 20_09hair02



Blanka and her shorn ponytail, with Anne Mulhern from Lochaber Together and hairdresser June MacLeod. 20_09hair01

Acharacle Community Council avoids axe

FEARS that Acharacle Community Council would fall into abeyance have been allayed after nominations for interim elections closed last week.

However, David Ogg was the only person to

put his name forward to Highland Council and his election means ACC's membership is now back up to four - the minimum allowed under the constitution.

The maximum membership is eight.

Euro cash cut fears for Highlands and Islands

MSP claims Scotland could lose 30 per cent of its share

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands could face huge cuts in vital funding under possible changes to the way Westminster distributes European cash.

Earlier this month, the European Council agreed a cut of six per cent in UK structural funds from 2013-2020.

A proportionate cut to Scotland's share was expected, but it has emerged the UK Tory-LibDem Coalition Government could switch to a standard allocation system used elsewhere in the EU.

The previous UK administration applied its own policy of favouring Scotland and the north of England because of their greater relative need.

The Highlands and Islands did well - securing Euro cash for projects ranging from A830 improvements at Arisaig to Uist Wool's spinning mill at Grimsay.

Critics say the new arrangements, if adopted, could see funding diverted to the southeast of England - costing Scotland an estimated €300 million over the seven-year period.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson claims Scotland could potentially lose

30 per cent of its share - with the Highlands and Islands particularly badly affected.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The Scottish Government and local MSPs are doing everything we can but until Scotland becomes independent this issue is the responsibility of the UK Government and Westminster.'

'Nothing has yet been finalised and the Scottish Government has secured discussions with Westminster where they will press for a fairer distribution of these funds, which is a constructive step forward.'

'However, this will clearly have a major impact in places like the Highlands, and it is essential everyone is doing their bit to ensure the area is not left bearing the brunt of disproportionate funding cuts.'

A Scotland Office spokesman said: 'The structural funds allocations within the UK for the next financial perspective have not been set. Officials in Defra and BIS are working with Scottish Government officials on what this will mean for funds through CAP and Structural Funds.'

Caol man admits slapping former partner in her home

A CAOL man slapped his former partner during an argument in her house.

Daniel Cameron, of 29 Camaghael Road, pled guilty

to assaulting the woman at an address on Mamore Crescent on January 12. The 38-year-old

was fined £180 at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Oban Times newsdesks

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Jail warning for Fort assault man

A FORT William man has been warned he could face prison after admitting drunkenly attacking a man who owed him money.

Philip McDonagh pled guilty to dragging the man out of his bed before repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body.

The victim of the assault was left with broken ribs and was kept in hospital overnight.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said witnesses heard McDonagh, aged 37, banging on the door of a house in Foyers Road, Kinlochleven, and saying he was owed money. Ms Wylie said: 'A lot of alcohol had been taken by all parties involved.'

McDonagh, of Orchy Villa, Alma Road, also admitted struggling with police officers and repeatedly shouting and swearing at them during the incident, which occurred on August 31.

Deferring sentencing for reports until Match 27, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'It is a serious matter and custody is certainly an option here.'

3,000 tenants set to lose out under 'bedroom tax'

AROUND 3,000 council house tenants in Highland, or 23 per cent, are set to lose out under the UK Government's 'bedroom tax', it has emerged.

The controversial welfare change, which comes into effect on April 1, cuts payments to social housing tenants deemed to be under-occupying their home.

Latest figures show the Highlands will lose £2 million per year in housing benefit entitlement - prompting fears of higher rent arrears, more homelessness and greater pressure on housing lists.

Highland Council has changed its allocations policy to make it easier for people to move to a smaller house - but demand far outstrips supply. In Aleson, for example, an estimated 136 tenants affected by the bedroom tax would be assessed as requiring a one-bedroom house - but only 13 such properties were available last year.

The council's welfare reform working group held face-to-face talks with the

region's three Lib Dem MPs on Friday to air its concerns.

Councillor Alasdair Christie told Danny Alexander, Charles Kennedy and John Thurso, the bedroom tax was 'the single biggest immediate concern' facing tenants.

He said: 'While I understand the need to reform the welfare system, the government's proposals, in their current form, unfairly discriminate against the most vulnerable individuals in society. We cannot meet existing demand for one bedroom houses and will not be able to transfer all tenants affected by the 'bedroom tax' to the right size of house.'

He added: 'The working group was pleased to hear that the MPs will take every opportunity to speak further with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith about the adverse impacts for rural councils such as Highland and consider the suggestions for improvement we have made.'

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Script

SPOTLIGHT Musical Theatre Group succeeded in one of its most ambitious shows to date, as it brought Mel Brooks' *The Producers* to Oban's Corran Halls. An extension to the stage, pyrotechnics, quick-change sets and a countless number of characters challenged the Oban-based amateur dramatics group to their limits. But the overwhelmingly positive response from audiences over three nights last Thursday to Saturday justified the effort.

Stage manager Stephen Day said: 'This was our biggest and most complex show since Barnum, around 20 years ago, so we are really pleased with the feedback, both verbally and via social media. It was an ambitious show but part of our constitution is to bring the arts to the Oban area and by doing this we have taken on something that most amateur groups wouldn't do.'

There were demanding roles for the three principal actors: Linsey McGlone excelled as Ulla and Kevin Baker gave an energetic and emotional performance as Max, while the ever-reliable John Robinson was a believable Leo. They were ably supported by Ian Henry's Roger de Bris, Michael Wall as Franz Leibkind and Peter MacArthur, who delighted the audience with his portrayal of the camp Carmen.

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Malt of the Month

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FOR this first offering within a new regular monthly column, I returned to savour the company of an old friend.

While many whisky aficionados would scorn the 10-year old Jura Origin as not carrying the dramatic robustness and pungent peaty aroma of its nearby neighbours from Islay, this was the very qualities that attracted me to the light and delicate Jura in the first place.

Rising from the glass there is a definite oily nose to this mellow amber liquid. This slight oiliness creates a subtle, smooth and warming sensation which doesn't overwhelm or burn and hints, temptingly, that there is much more to savour within.

On the tongue you will sense warm, sweet honey resting on a background of caramel and gently roasted coffee bean. A hint of west-coast sea-salt and just a touch of spice.

This is a dram that sits well amid good company and relaxation - ideal for evenings of not-too-serious conversation. Indeed, should the good company be mixed company, then I have no hesitation in offering the ladies a dram, safe in the knowledge that my smooth Jura will gently tempt and tantalise without the harshness often associated with the traditional 'gentlemen's drink'.

If you are in habit of taking a wee dram in a hip flask on a long winter's walk, then Jura Origin's freshness and 'mellow glow' will sit nicely alongside coastal views and frosty air.

While history, myth and legend can establish a distillery on the island over many, many eras, today's Jura Distillery is a relatively modern affair dating back to the late 1950s or early 60s. Gone are the old historically 'heavy' whiskies bolstered by phenol and dark smoke that are still fiercely cherished by some but abhorred by many.

Jura's whiskies are much more Highland than Islay in nature and while Origin defined the new Jura house style, there is now a very versatile range of lightly peated to move on to - all are very moderately priced.

Jura Origin
10-year Old
Single malt

Alcohol Units 28
ABV 40%
Pack Quantity 70cl
Price range under £30 (often under £25)

Alexander MacPhail



Isle of Luing panto proves popular sell-out - Oh yes it was!

WHEN you go to the panto on the Isle of Luing it's always advisable to take some throat sweets. If you don't suck them during the performance, you are sure to need them afterwards. Shouting 'he's behind you' and copious laughter leave the audience at the end largely incapable of speech.

Quickly sold out

This year's production - Babes in the Wood - is no exception. Graced by a wider than ever selection of the island's talent, and notable for a new generation proving itself eminently capable of treading the boards, it filled Cullipool Hall on the first night, and indeed quickly sold out for all four performances.

It is worth noting that the total size of the audience is much larger than the population of the island, and that doesn't count the number of islanders actually involved in the production. This panto merits travelling 'overseas'.

Unruly school

Deviating from the story as I recall it, this cast features four babes, two of whom are the endangered royal children and two their schoolmates (but which two?).

Three of these were the aforementioned younger generation (Hazel Cruickshanks, Emma MacLachlan and Innes MacQueen).

As for the other, the Johnny Rotten lookalike with the dirty knees, shall we just say that John Morgan was probably already familiar with the lyrics before rehearsing their spirited rendition of Another Brick in the Wall.

As you will have guessed, this was an unruly school. For the sake of the island's children, this reviewer hopes that the casting of Stephen Glen Lee as the uproarious Nurse Neuralgia (also the head of the school) was not type-casting.

Any sighting of those frocks and wigs, let alone the cane, in Luing Primary and we may be asked to look for a new head.

Fortunately for the children, Nurse had a kindly assistant (Penny Cillan, aka Fiona Cruickshanks) with the prettiest curly blonde hair. Surprisingly, in the traditional pairing up at the end, she seems to have been left single, though she was spotted hugging the bear.

The bear was Fergus Glen-Lee, who bravely stepped into the costume at the last minute and was very competently terrifying for two of the performances before Iain Cruickshanks took back the role.

Fergus Ritchie, Kyle Sutherland and Logan McKean took turns in opening the show with some cheeky lines for Nurse - not a hard task for these three young budding actors.

So where do Posh and Becks come into this story? You may well ask. But remember, this is panto. Amanda MacLachlan hit just the right note of lovable gormlessness with her portrayal of David, and Julie MacQueen as Victoria was Essex girl personified.

I particularly loved her expression when she came upon other members of the cast performing a Spice Girl song. David is the son of a baddie, the Sheriff of Nottingham no less, but has definitely not inherited the genes.

So what of these baddies? Well we have Prince John himself (Kay Benn) plotting to get rid of the poor dear heirs to the throne, the gorgeously dressed and bearded Sheriff of Nottingham (Nicky Archibald) hoping to keep on the right side of him and the sheriff's hapless hit men, Riff and Raff (Kirsty MacLachlan and Paula Roberts) doing their best, but their best is definitely not good (or should that be bad?) enough.

Much of the plot hangs on this delightfully zany duo, who time after time allow themselves to be duped by the wily school kids. We know it from the start; deep down, their kind hearts just aren't into the job of hit man.

And then we have the thigh-slapping Robin Hood (Joan Morgan). Ouch, that hurt, didn't it? And her (sorry, his) own henchmen, the ultimate Friar Tuck (Eoghann MacLachlan) and the amiable Little John (Alasdair MacLachlan). Robin is in love with the enchanting Maid Marion (Alison Robertson), and of course vice versa.

Into this delightful melee are tossed the usual mix of well-choreographed song and dance routines and ritual humiliation of some brave (in this case very brave) members of the audience. The children are saved. I'm not sure I recall how but it doesn't really matter does it? King John is dispatched and everyone else lives happily ever after.

As for those non-thespian members of the crew - and there are many - I did not think that year on year the standard could improve any more, but it seems I was wrong.

I have to single out Anja Lamont. I have no idea how she managed to create and achieve the sets for so many different locations in such a confined space, or indeed how the stage crew managed to change them so smoothly, but it was a tour de force.

All of the above was most ably and creatively directed by Maid Marion (sorry - Alison Robertson). Well done, Alison. Indeed, well done to you all.

PMEB

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Tues 5th, 17:45 • Wed 6th, 20:00 • Thurs 7th, 17:45

Hyde Park on Hudson Fri 1st, 17:45 • Sat 2nd, 17:30 • Sun 3rd, 17:30
Mon 4th, 17:45 • Tues 5th, 20:45 • Wed 6th, 17:45
Thurs, 7th, 20:45

Wall-E Sat 2nd, 13:00

The Flintstones Sat 2nd, 15:00

The Wizard Of Oz - Sing a-Long Sun 3rd, 11:00

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Django Unchained (18)
Former dentist, Dr. King Schultz, Django, and trains him with the intent to make him his deputy bounty hunter.

Hitchcock (12A)
In 1959, Alfred Hitchcock and his wife, Alma, are at the top of their creative game as filmmakers, but reacquainted with her distant cousin President Franklin D. Roosevelt to help him relax at his family estate as Roosevelt daring, Alfred decides his next film will adapt the lurid horror novel, Psycho, over everyone's misgivings.

Lincoln (12A)
In 1865, as the American Civil War winds inexorably toward conclusion, U.S. president Abraham Lincoln endeavours to achieve passage of the landmark constitutional amendment which will forever ban slavery from the United States.

Hyde Park on Hudson (12A)
In the 1930's Hudson Valley, Fred and Barney work at Slate and Company, mining rock. Fred gets an executive position, but little realises that he's being manipulated to be the fall guy about it being time to retire. Roosevelt to help him relax at his family estate as Roosevelt receives the King and Queen of Britain in 1939 for a visit.

Wall-E (U)
In this animated feature from Disney Pixar we follow the memorable friends and foes in an 1865, as the American Civil War winds inexorably toward one last robot, WALL-E. Set in the future the humans had to abandon Earth but before they left they forgot to switch off the last robot.

The Flintstones (U)
The Flintstones and the Rubbles are modern stone-age families. Fred and Barney work at Slate and Company, mining rock. Fred gets an executive position, but little realises that he's being manipulated to be the fall guy about it being time to retire.

The Wizard Of Oz (U)
Dorothy and her dog Toto are caught in a tornado's path and somehow end up in the Land of Oz. Here she meets some of her memorable friends and foes in an 1865, as the American Civil War winds inexorably toward one last robot, WALL-E. Set in the future the humans had to abandon Earth but before they left they forgot to switch off the last robot.

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BALLOONS, bunting, cake and dancing marked the 10th anniversary of Spean Bridge Primary being officially opened.

The sun even came out for the day, as the youngsters, teachers and some former pupils enjoyed a day of celebration. After taking part in some street dance classes in the morning, the pupils ate specially selected lunch. The pupil council held a vote on what to serve at lunchtime - with fish and chips the undisputed winner.

Head teacher Kate MacGillivray told *The Oban Times* everyone had a 'really great day'.

Above: Former pupil Jenny Sinclair celebrates with some current pupils from Spean Bridge Primary School 20 09spean01

Lochaber historical group host '10-minute talk' on Kinloch Castle

LOCHABER Local History Society's annual '10-minute talks' night at the Ben Nevis Hotel next Thursday starts off with a short film about Kinloch Castle on the Island of Rum made in the 1970s by Lucinda Lambton.

The film will be poignant especially to the 64 members of the society who visited the Castle on a fine day in 2011.

Then follows Noel Williams on Colby Camps - hilltop dwellings still to be seen on some of Lochaber's highest hills before John MacMillan from Acharacle talks on progress to raise one of anchors of the floating church in Loch Sunart, which he has discovered.

Finally Alistair Macleod returns to reflect on tales of his times to continue where he left off two years ago. All welcome to the evening, which starts at 8pm.

Oban Camera Club

PHOTOGRAPHER Phil Downie from Inverness was guest presenter at Oban Camera Club.

In a previous life he has been a bank employee but turned a hobby into a new career as a semi-professional photographer specialising mainly in sport. Using crisp action packed photos from football, rugby, shinty, karting, golf and Highland games, Phil explained the techniques required for such action images.

Iceing on the cake was a series of short audio visual films, a notable one being of Croick Kirk near Ardgay, Ross-shire which played an interesting part in the Highland Clearances.

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Ardtornish Quintet

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

In these stanzas, the fourth in our series of her Ardtornish Quintet, Jackie describes a night-time journey back to her Rose Cottage writer's retreat, where she was Scottish Book Trust writer-in-residence.

Ardtornish Dark Part Two

ACROSS the dark waters of Loch Aline, small lights fluttering like bets From Lochaline Stores, perhaps, or the Hotel Where Charles sometimes pours a beer and watches old Westerns set elsewhere. Or maybe from the small row of houses (where in the yellow one, Barbara lives with Arra) that actually possess a street lamp, one that shines extra boldly as if to say No many o' me here. In the distance The odd car's headlights flickers through black trees; still as winter, they suddenly shimmer, lit for a moment, then back to the dark. Here, on the other side, across the water the light is leaving the sky, pink and blushing, Like a slow ballet dancer's last pirouette. There's a glimmer like hope before it cools. I walk past the fish nets bundled like lost souls, And head round the corner to the light In my own cottage window, left on For myself returning, as if to company, As if to say the lights twinkling in Loch Aline Might be a friend's Morse code from A pink tower, or a stranger who says: You're not alone here; you'd be more alone there. Or, like the sound of a clock hitting the hour. So open your door. Get in and don't forget. Get out the kindling; light your own fire. Don't cheat. Don't use a firelighter. Dance round the small room to the song. Come on baby light my fire. Try to set the night on fire. Who was it that sang that, could you remember?

Scottish author and poet Jackie Kay

Skyfall comes to Kinlochleven this weekend

KINLOCHLEVEN residents will have the chance to see the most successful James Bond film of all time tomorrow night (Friday). Skyfall - partly filmed in nearby Glencoe - is being shown at the Leven Centre Cinema from 6pm.



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When did Obang take place?

2010
2011
2012

Answer
Name
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Please post your entries to Faith Orr, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 4th March, 2013
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

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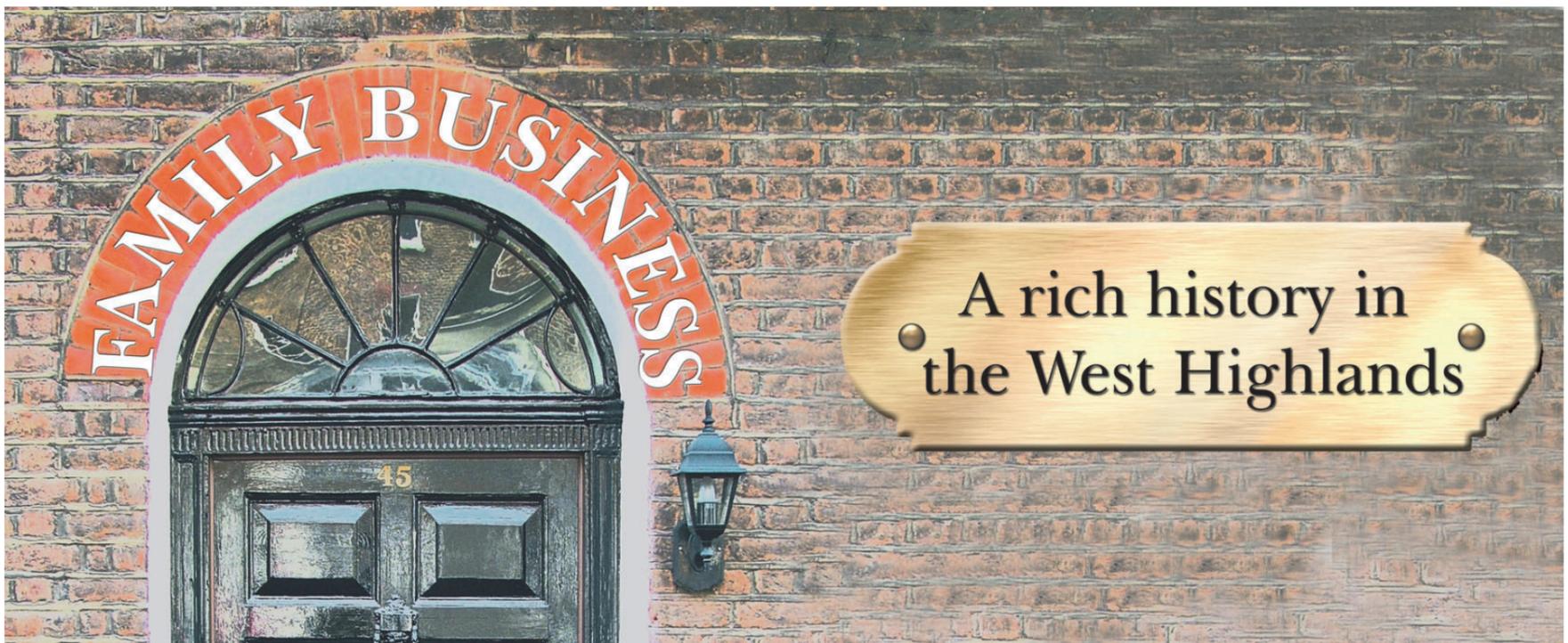
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When asked why John explains "We found ourselves with seven trading names one for each service we offered, this was confusing to our very loyal customers so we decided to bring all the trading names under one umbrella which is The Argyll Resources Group. You only need to make one phone call to access all our services. I believe the new branding is good for our customers and good for the business. You will speak to the same staff as always, but extended the same high level sales experience as usual, however it will now be less confusing for us all. I would like to thank our customers for all their support and look forward to serving them through 2013 and onwards as The Argyll Resources Group."



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FARMING

Crofting Commission pulls plug on decrofting until legal issues clarified

THE CROFTING Commission has halted all applications for decrofting after taking legal advice on concerns about the legislative provisions relating to owner-occupier crofters.

Based on advice, they now believe understand that there is no provision within the legislation for the Crofting Commission to issue a decrofting direction to an owner-occupier crofter who is occupying their own-occupied croft.

As a result they are now considering the full implications of the legal advice and will try to work out what legal remedies are available to resolve the situation. However, having received legal advice that they would be acting outwith legal authority in issuing decrofting directions in this situation, the Commission are not able to accept any new applications to decroft

from owner-occupier crofters until further notice.

In the meantime, they will hold all current applications for decrofting from owner-occupier crofters in abeyance.

Prior to 1 October 2011, a crofter was defined solely as the tenant of a croft. Anyone who purchased their croft was essentially a landlord without a tenant i.e. the landlord of a vacant croft. There are separate provisions within crofting legislation for both croft tenants in advance of purchase, and landlords of vacant crofts, to apply to the Commission for a direction that their croft (or part of it) shall cease to be a croft.

The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 introduced the new category of owner-occupier crofter from 1 October 2011. A person is recognised as an owner-occupier crofter if they are owner of a croft;

and they were either the tenant crofter who exercised the right to buy the croft, or a crofter's nominee or an individual who purchased the croft from the constituting landlord (or a successor in title to these persons).

In addition the croft must not have been let to any person as a crofter since it was acquired from the landlord or constituted as a croft. The Commission say they will review the situation once they have had the opportunity to consider the full implications of the legal advice and have explored the legal remedies which will enable the situation to be resolved.

However, the Commission has been sharply criticised by the Scottish Crofters Federation (SCF) who call on the organisation to sort out the confusion with the utmost urgency.

Derek Flynn, chairman of the SCF, said: 'This problem has not suddenly appeared. It is part of the 2010 Crofting Reform Act.'

'The SCF brought it to the attention of Crofting Commission several weeks ago but they have told us nothing about how and when it will be resolved; only that owner-occupier crofter applications will not be processed.'

'This has serious consequences for people getting a mortgage, trying to build their house.'

'What are they to do?' Mr Flynn added: 'The Crofting Commission is the regulator - that is their sole purpose. We need re-assurance from them that this will be sorted out without delay. They should issue a statement to let owner-occupier crofters and their lenders know that they have nothing to fear.'

Cattle number increase on Lochaber croftland thanks to grant to promote 'conservation' grazing

A CROFTING common grazing site just south of Fort William, is to become the latest site in the area to be grazed by 'conservation cattle'.

Forestry Commission Scotland and SNH have been working closely with the local grazing committee and the site owners to bring forward the proposal - a five year project, funded through the Scottish Government's Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP).

The successful grant award will result in six Luing cattle being set to work to improve habitats and the forestry on the site from April to August over the next five years.

Crofter Malcolm Cameron, who is the grazings clerk of Achintore Common Grazings, said: 'It has been great to be working with FCS, SNH and SAC and putting cattle back on land that hasn't had cattle for years.'

'Cattle can do a fantastic job in helping with the controlled regeneration of this valuable area of woodland, trampling down the bracken which lets seeds take root and young trees to grow more easily.'



Representatives of the various bodies supporting the new initiative (left - right) Kate Cameron and Malcom Cameron (Achintore Common Grazings Committee), Ian Collier (Forestry Commission) Helen Bibby (Scottish Agricultural College), Colin Neilson, Achintore Common Grazings Committee and Cathy Mayne (Scottish Natural Heritage).

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new car index

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Offers are invited for the lease of a mobile snack bar site at Ganavan Sands Car Park, Ganavan, Oban, over the summer 2013 period. Offers over £125 per week are invited for the site. Closing date for offers is Friday 22nd March 2013. For further details: Estates Office, Blairvadach, Helensburgh, G84 8ND. Tel: 01436-658957

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RECRUITMENT



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- 1 located; Mull (Geasgil) Ref: MARSO/03/1
- 1 located; Portavadie (Glenan) Ref: MARSO/03/2
- 1 Located: Loch Fyne (Strondoir Bay) Ref: MARSO/03/3 £16,284 (plus overtime)

We are recruiting for three Marine Operatives for our marine sites as named above. Applicants must be flexible as you will be required to move to other sites throughout the company on a regular basis, to cover busy periods, holidays, sickness etc. Duties will include all the day to day operations of the site including fish welfare, treatment, sampling, grading and moving, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Applicants must have good practical and problem solving skills and ideally have marine experience. Previous fish farming experience would be desirable, but is not essential as training will be provided.

Current, clean driving licence is desirable. Hours are 40 per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working payable at an enhanced rate, required on a rota basis. We operate a generous company pension scheme and annual leave entitlement is 31 days.

Hygiene Team Operative

Location; Cairndow, Argyll Ref: HTOP/02/13
£7.68 per hour with a minimum of 30 hours per week required plus unsocial hours shift allowance where applicable. (Unsocial payment applicable if you work between the hours of 10:00pm – 05:00am)

We are also seeking to recruit a Hygiene Operative, to join our existing, Hygiene Team located in Cairndow. The candidate will be involved in all day to day cleaning operations, ensuring that the Company's internal hygiene, food safety procedures and external regulations are adhered to at all times.

The role requires a self motivated individual who can work as part of a team and have a "can do" approach. The ideal applicant will have previous cleaning experience and knowledge of hygiene standards, Basic Food Hygiene Certification, Respiratory Equipment Compliance and First Aid Certification would be advantageous but not essential as training may be provided.

A valid, full driving licence and own transport is essential for this post as the successful candidate will need to be available to work evenings/night shift and occasional weekends.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
Veronica Anderson, HR Officer
The Scottish Salmon Company
Ardringlas Estate, Cairndow, PA26 8BH
Tel: +44 (0) 1499 600 415
Email: veronica.anderson@scottishsalmon.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 15th March 2013
Visit our website: www.scottishsalmon.com

Stevenson tells SAMS there is no easy answer to fish discards

'1.7 million tons of perfectly good fish being dumped back into the sea – always dead'

IMPLEMENTING a total ban on fish discards at sea in the coming few years will be 'extremely difficult' an audience at the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) heard.

Struan Stevenson, senior vice-president of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament, visited SAMS to give a talk last week.

He told the gathering that discards were 'no-body's friend' and resulted in '1.7 million tons of perfectly good fish being dumped back into the sea – always dead'.

Mr Stevenson said fishermen hated discards but if they 'landed under sized fish they would end up with a criminal record'.

To try and resolve this there will be a phased in ban on discards from January 1, 2014 when a complete ban on discarding pelagics would kick in.

He said: 'From that date all pelagics will have to

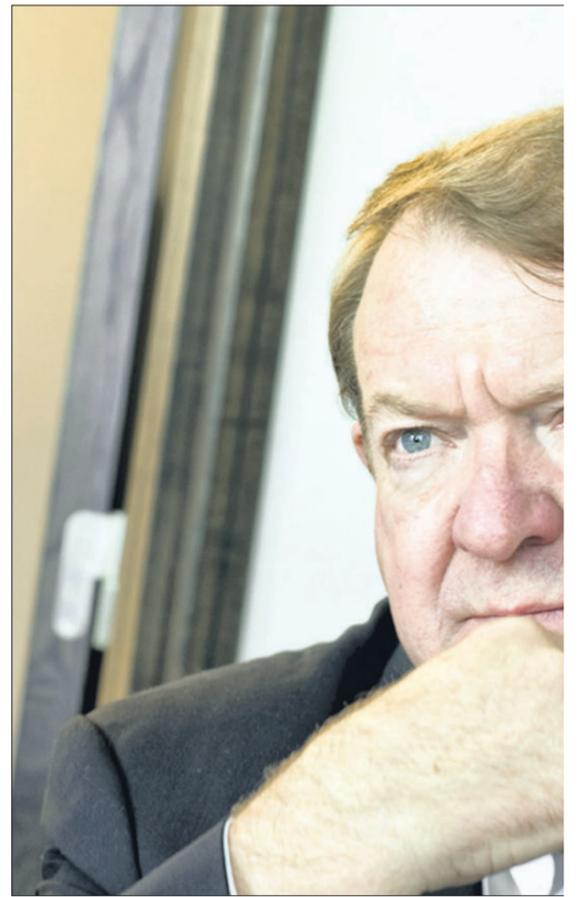
be landed and taken from the quota. We hope to avoid by-catch as leaving the fish in the sea in the first place is the best way of avoiding discards.

'We will be installing CCTV on board vessels to stop high grading with a ban on discarding white fish coming into effect on January 1, 2016 and a ban on discarding all other marketable species on January 1, 2017.

'This is going to be extremely difficult to achieve but stocks with high survivability rate will not have to be landed – that would increase mortality which is not the aim.'

Mr Stevenson hopes what will emerge from these measures is 'big meatier fish' with funds generated helping fishermen cover fuel costs while boosting a conservation fund.

He told the audience waste would be minimal with 'other unmarketable or immature fish going for fish oil or fish meal'.



Struan Stevenson, senior vice-president of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament, visited SAMS to give a talk last week.

US faces seafood labelling fraud

IN THE UK it has been horsemeat. But on the other side of the Atlantic another food scandal has erupted with seafood fraud uncovered on a massive scale.

Widespread problem

Oceana, the largest international organisation focused solely on ocean conservation, has been carrying out much of the investigative work and has published new research which shows that the problem is becoming widespread throughout the United States.

And there is a warning that the scandal could do long-term damage to trust in the seafood industry.

Oceana, which was founded in 2001, collected seafood samples from 674 retail outlets in 21 states and carried out full DNA testing.

The results were even worse than the horsemeat revelations in the UK and Europe.

The organisation found that one third (33 per cent) of the 1,215 samples collected and tested were mis-labelled.

The rate varied from state to state, but in a few very localised parts of the country they were exceptionally high.

Oceana says it found seafood fraud wherever it tested.

In Southern California it was 52 per cent; 48 per cent in Boston where the city's newspaper the Boston Globe also had similar results; 39 per cent in New York City, but only 18 per cent in Seattle.

Of the most commonly collected types of fish, snapper and tuna had

the highest mis-labelling rates across the country at 87 and 59 percent, respectively. In other cases farmed salmon was sold as wild salmon, while filefish, which has a high mercury content and could be damaging to pregnant women, was sold in New York as red Snapper, which has a low mercury content.

Beth Lowell, a campaign director at Oceana said: 'Purchasing seafood has become the ultimate guessing game for US consumers.'

'Whether you live in Florida or Kansas, no one is safe from seafood fraud.'

'We need to track our seafood from boat to plate so that consumers can be more confident that the fish they purchase is safe, legal and honestly labelled.'



FUEL WATCH

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Inveraray	139.9	144.9
Campbeltown	145	149
Fort William	135.9	143.9
Invergarry	144.9	150.9
Skye	140.9	148.9
North Uist	149.8	155.5
Mull	144.9	149.9
Islay	153.6	160.6
Tiree	157	161
Arran	141.9	149.9

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Candidates must be competent in either mechanical or electrical fault finding and able to work as part of a team or unaided on Safety Critical tasks. Potential for relocation assistance.

PRODUCTION OPERATOR

A vacancy has arisen for a shift based Production Operator reporting to the Shift Superintendent. This is a diverse role which entails various production tasks.

Applicants should have: Good literacy and numeracy abilities, a willingness to learn new skills and high personal standards and work ethic.

To request a full job description or send CV contact:
Rosie Flannigan, Human Resources, Rio Tinto Alcan,
Lochaber Smelter, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6TH Or email to
rosie.flannigan@riotinto.com **Closing date 18th March 2013.**

Quality Monitor Mallaig
16+ hours per week

We currently have a vacancy for a Quality Monitor to work at the Company's premises at Mallaig.

Reporting to the Assistant Product Quality Manager, the post holder will be expected to provide competent and efficient technical support and service to ensure that the product meets the Company's requirements, including legal compliance and customer expectations.

Candidates must have a good level of IT literacy, excellent communication skills, good attention to detail and have the ability to work on their or as part of a team when required.

A full clean driving license is also essential as the job may require some business related travel to other company sites.

The post is part-time, working a minimum of two 8 hour night shifts per week for which a shift premium will apply.

If you are interested in applying for this post please apply in writing to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT. The closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday 15th March.

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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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The Northern Lighthouse Board – www.nlb.org.uk is the General Lighthouse Authority for Scotland and the Isle of Man, established by statute to provide, maintain and inspect marine Aids to Navigation - lighthouses, buoys, beacons and, increasingly, precision satellite navigation and positioning - throughout its waters.

Minimum qualification is an HND or similar in electrical engineering. The successful candidate will require a valid MCA Medical Certificate (ENG 1) and in addition, be willing to work towards obtaining an EOOW qualification. Full training and support will be provided by the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Essential experience and skills include diesel electric marine propulsion and planned maintenance, maintenance report and record keeping, computer literacy and a good understanding and awareness of Ship Safety Management Systems.

Applicants who have experience of the following will be viewed favourably: A.C. Drives and Power Management Systems, DP (AA) and Planned Maintenance Systems, ISM Procedures and Auditing and Engine Room Watch Keeping.

Flexibility and good interpersonal skills are essential, as is the ability to communicate at all levels and work within a small team environment.

Salary range is £36, 996 per year rising to £40, 368 per year, depending on performance. Benefits package includes career average pension scheme or stakeholder's pension scheme. There is also the opportunity to add real value to a professional organisation dedicated to the safety of those at sea and to the protection of our maritime environment.

For further details and an application pack please e-mail jobs@nlb.org.uk

Or write to: The HR Adviser, Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street, EDINBURGH EH2 3DA. Closing date is 31st March 2013

The Northern Lighthouse Board is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible people regardless of sex, race and disability

Assistant Farm Manager
Loch Garry
Salary - £24,700 - £26,947 plus overtime

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and self-motivated Assistant Manager for our Freshwater site at Loch Garry.

Potential candidates should possess several years' salmon farming experience, have a sound understanding of fish husbandry and be conscientious in relation to recording and maintaining reliable data records. Good communication & planning skills and a high degree of computer literacy is also essential. It is also a requirement of the post that the incumbent be an effective deputy for the Manager as and when required.

The post brings with it significant responsibility and the appointed Assistant Farm Manager will be required to be flexible in terms of total hours worked, in order to satisfy the demands of the role.

In addition due to the Company's stocking rotation plan Loch Garry is fallow for a few months each year and during this period staff are required to work at other sites within the Company.

If you feel you have the necessary skills to rise to this challenge, please apply in writing no later than Friday 15th March 2013 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

TRAINEE ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER
PORTNALONG

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is currently seeking a highly motivated and strong individual for the post of Trainee Assistant Farm Manager based at the Company's Seawater site at Portnalong, Isle of Skye.

Applications are invited from individuals who are genuinely interested in developing their career within the organisation. Potential candidates should have at least two to three years practical knowledge and experience of fish farming. Initiative, the ability to manage and motivate staff, good planning, organisation & computer skills and a proven ability to achieve results without close supervision are some of the necessary skills required for this post.

The successful candidate will be expected to attend the necessary training courses to gain sufficient knowledge on feed & stock management, grading planning, asset management, performance and HSEQ management. In return the candidate will benefit from an attractive salary package, including bonus.

If you would like to be considered for this post, please apply in writing no later than Friday 15th March 2013 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.



Lochaber biomass company boosts local organisations through community scheme

LOCHABER biomass heating company HWEnergy has funded three more groups under its community grants scheme.

The growing Torlundy-based firm, which now employs 50 people, sets aside a proportion of its income to support local individuals and organisations with grants of up to £100.

Quarterly awards
Since the fund was started in July 2012, a total of 28 awards grants have been made on a quarterly basis.

In the most recent round, Rosalie Baak from Spean Bridge received £100 towards her fundraising to become part of a volunteer programme in Cambodia, where she will be working in orphanages and schools teaching and looking after children.

Fort William Shinty Club was presented with £100 to help with costs associated with running the under-14 and under-17 teams after HWEnergy staff member Sean Cameron, who came through the club's junior ranks and now plays at senior level for Fort William, requested the grant.

And Arisaig Senior Citizens Lunch Club also received £100 after HWEnergy staff member Andrew MacDonald nominated them.

The club provides subsidised lunches to elderly folk once a week, giving them the chance to get out of the house and mix with friends. The recent withdrawal of Highland



Sean Cameron and Dougie Cruikshank of HWEnergy presenting the £100 cheque to Fort William Shinty Club youth coach Jock Sneddon

Council support means local volunteers must fundraise to keep the club going.

Bruno Berardelli, HWEnergy managing director said: 'I grew up in Fort William and started HWEnergy with

the conviction we could build a successful and sustainable company that operates nationally from a Lochaber base.

'With our Community Fund we want to support individuals and

organisations who are really trying hard to make a difference and are delighted with the results we have seen so far. 'I'd encourage anyone with a really good case for support to get in touch with us.'

Oban Community Council voice concerns over advertising boards 'I can understand businesses trying to advertise - but it's getting dangerous.'

OBAN Community Council has once again raised concern with the number of advertising boards littering the town's streets, describing them as 'dangerous'. Members Andy Birnie - who is partially sighted - and Duncan Martin both said action was required to remove A-frames and signs from the streets before someone was hurt, asking who was responsible.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, said it depended who owned the road adjacent to the signs - whether the council or Scotland Transerv, - but agreed action was required.

'They are a hazard,' he added. 'I can understand businesses trying to advertise especially for those on wee side streets but it's getting dangerous.'

Mr Martin said: 'The problem is if one business gets

away with it they all have to do it. 'Maybe this is something for BIDS when they have parking enforcement they can have this as well. 'If there's no-one there to remove the signs they'll continue to be there.'

In September, Argyll and Bute Council announced a new stakeholder group to address tackle unauthorised roadside advertising in the county.

Signs require planning permission, but with several businesses flouting planning law, the council's head of planning, Angus Gilmour, said: 'People aren't applying for permission because they think they won't get it.'

'We need a system that encourages people to apply while ensuring the safe placement of signs.'

Local groups gain grants from Lochaber council

LOCHABER councillors agreed to hand out £28,650 in grants to local groups at their latest business meeting in Fort William.

Recipients were:

- Glenfinnan Net - £1,700 for pilot study into the purchase of small relay stations to boost broadband speeds
- Banavie Floral Improvements - £500 for displays
- Highland Disability Sport - £2,000 for sending a boccia team to the Special Olympics
- Highlife Highland - £6,200 for its Get Active winter programmes
- Nevis Highland Dancing Association - £500 towards running costs
- Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Roy

- Bridge Community Council - £250 for play park opening ceremony
- Glencoe Village Hall - £2,000 for re-roofing of hall (in principle)
- Lochaber Music Festival Association - £1,000 towards costs
- West Highland Museum - £1,000 towards installing chairlifts at museum
- Fort William Chamber of Commerce - £5,000 shopfront enhancement scheme
- Fort William Community Council - £4,500 for hanging basket scheme
- Spean Bridge playpark and amenities group - £1,500 for additional costs due to essential design change
- Heart Start Lochaber - £500 contribution to defibrillator scheme.

More people find work in the Highlands

ALMOST 300 more people were seeking work in the Highlands in January compared with the previous month, latest figures show.

According to the Office of National Statistics, 4,392 claimants were receiving Job Seekers Allowance, or 3.1 per cent of the working population. In December, the figure was 4,113, or 2.9 per cent.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda

Grant said the Highland economy was 'flatlining' with incomes squeezed and living standards frozen.

She said: 'Government promises of jobs and growth have remained just that, promises.'

'We need instead more infrastructure schemes to revive the Highland economy, more emphasis on boosting skills, and the expansion of job opportunities.'

School pupils nominated for short film award

PUPILS from Ardnamurchan and Mallaig high schools have been nominated for some of the top awards in FilmG - the national Gaelic short film awards.

Two Ardnamurchan films - Na Scallops (The Scallops) and An Cricheachair (The Terminator) have been nominated for best drama short, with S4 pupil Duncan Macrae Foxley up for best performance in An Cricheachair.

Pupils in S1, S2 and S3 at Mallaig filmed Miann an Acras (Hunger Craving), about a young girl with an eating disorder. The short is nominated for the FilmG theme award with Niamh Henderson shortlisted for best performance.

A jury of industry experts will decide on the winners, with the awards handed out at a ceremony in The Arches, Glasgow on Friday March 22.

Arduaine Garden, near Kilmelford requires a **Receptionist/shop assistant** from late March to end of September. Fixed term seasonal position, Friday to Sunday, 22.5 hours per week. For job description and application form call Maurice on 01852 200366 or email mwilkins@nts.org.uk

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Jura Community Store SHOP MANAGER
Jura Stores Community Interest Company is looking for a friendly, engaging manager with retail experience to run the island's only shop and Post Office. The successful candidate will lead and motivate staff and be expected to provide excellent customer service; engaging with residents to develop this exciting business. Eligibility to hold a personal alcohol licence is essential as is an appreciation of life in a small, isolated, rural community. Full time, £24,000pa. Closing Date: 9th March. To apply email juracommunitystore@gmail.com or write to Jura Stores CIC, Service Point, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, PA60 7XG.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Bonnar Sand & Gravel Co Ltd
Has a full time vacancy for HGV **Mechanic/Fitter**
Pay negotiable depending on experience.
Apply in writing to: **David Bonnar, Bonnar Sand & Gravel Co Ltd, Clachan Quarry, Cairndow PA26 8BH**

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION
Customer Services Assistant EVH Band 3
[£15,005 - £17,266 increase pending 1st April £15,457 - £17,784]
6 months Temporary Contract 35 hours per week with a view to the post being made permanent.
The Association is seeking to recruit a Temporary Customer Services Assistant. The main purpose of the post is to provide excellent front line customer service to tenants, applicants, owners and other stakeholders as well as administrative support to other sections of the Association.
Applicants should possess general administration experience in a busy office environment. Must be a good communicator and be fully competent in the use of Microsoft Office.
To request an Application Pack for either post please contact May Tosh, Corporate Services Manager at Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB or telephone 01631 564451 or email may@westhighlandha.co.uk
Closing date for Applications will be Monday 11th March 2013, with interviews being held week commencing 18th March 2013.

KP / HANDYPERSON / HOUSEKEEPING
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30-40 hours per week
Wage negotiable
Experience preferred
Contact : **01546 606017** or **greygull@live.com**

Cairndow Stagecoach Inn require a **Chef De Partie**
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Oban Times RECRUITMENT

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DUNSTAFFNAGE
Dunbeg, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1PX
info@dunstaffnagemarina.com
TEL: 01631 566555 FAX: 01631 571044
SHOP ASSISTANT
We are looking for a motivated enthusiastic person to join our shop. 6 Months contract to start 1st April. Closing date for application is 10th March. Please send your C.V and covering letter to: Louise Mackay, Dunstaffnage Marina Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PX Or e-mail: **louise@dunstaffnagemarina.com**

I A MacKinnon Haulage
Class 1 HGV C Plus E, Driver Required.
Contact Iain MacKinnon **07767 402937**

Local newspapers and their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.
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Fort William
£22,883 - £27,092 plus benefits
For a full job description and to apply, please visit our website; **www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies**
✉ **resourcing@forestry.gsi.gov.uk**
Please quote ref 0007-40. Closing date: 12 March 2013.
No recruitment agencies please.
We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of our diverse community.
www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

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Taynuilt Primary Ref: CME35258
Closing date: 15 March 2013.
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Good Package
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PRODUCTION PLANNER
Created as a direct result of internal promotion, the primary focus of this role will be to provide finished timber products on schedule for dispatch to our wholesale customers. Day to day this will involve maintaining and establishing strong working relationships with the Production and Internal Sales Departments, with responsibility for planning production to minimise inventory, whilst ensuring sufficient product availability to continually meet customer demand and maintaining accurate inventory records.
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If you are looking for a challenging career within a highly motivated team then please send your up to date CV, along with covering letter to: **Zaneta Korzeniecka, Group HR Administrator, BSW Timber Ltd, Carlisle Sawmill, Cargo, Carlisle CA6 4BA, or email: zaneta.korzeniecka@bsw.co.uk**
Closing date for applications: 11th March 2013.
BSW Timber

Island community council hears Mull care centre improving 'Miles ahead of where we were'

THINGS in Bowman Court, part of the new Progressive Care Centre on Mull, are getting better for residents, a meeting of the island's community council heard.

Billy McClymont, leader of the community steering group trying to sort out issues with the facility, said the group were 'miles ahead of where we were before and it is all thanks to the people of Mull'.

The group had issued a petition demanding the level of care given in former care home Dunaros was also provided in Bowman Court. They gathered 1,600 signatures 'within days'.

Concerns that residents at the new facility were being left alone for hours on end with no social contact have now been addressed. Mr McClymont said: 'There is now more of a social side for residents.'

Problems with the telecare system are also being worked out with more direct contact with carers now available.

But things still have a distance to go as Mr McClymont explains: 'We had a very interesting meeting with Michael Russell, he came and he listened.'

'He had been to the complex at various times of the build and he had to agree what we have got isn't what he was led to believe would be provided.'

'He also agreed what we have got is not what we needed or paid for and changes need to be made.'

Mr McClymont added: 'The fabric of the thing is amazing but what is being provided in care is lacking. Everyone agreed there was a big issue with the allocation of the flats and there was bed blocking happening.'

'But West Highland Housing Association said they had to rent these flats as they needed the money but agreed it should be based more on need and agreed to tidy it up.'

'If you were trying to put your granny into Dunaros and it was full you could accept that but if you wanted to get her into Bowman Court and it is full with low dependents and you had to wave her off to Benderloch that is going to be pretty hard to swallow.'

Fish farm company start apprentice under new scheme

A FORT William teenager has become the first apprentice hired by Marine Harvest as part of a new scheme to attract youngsters into the fish farming industry.

Challenge
Ross MacDonald beat off stiff competition to gain the apprenticeship place, which includes a SVQ2 Level two aquaculture qualification.

The 16 year old said: 'I'm really looking forward to the challenge and I'm thrilled to have been offered the opportunity.'

Ross has started work at the company's Invasion Bay site at Ardgour

and will move to Loch Leven in three months.

Marine Harvest Scotland managing director Alan Sutherland said: 'We're delighted to give Ross the chance to learn all about salmon farming - an industry which provides jobs in some of the most fragile rural economies in Scotland.'

'All too often young people in these areas are forced to move away to get work so we're delighted to be giving them a chance to remain.'

The company plans to employ two apprentices aged between 16 and 20 each year.



Ross MacDonald is Marine Harvest's first apprentice in the new scheme



Eilidh Robertson cracks open the champagne at the finish line in Appin as her fiancé, Ben Crowley, friends Tom Denner and Tom Unkles, her Scottish-based family members and representatives of the Appin community look on. 15_109appin03

Appin woman home after epic adventure around the world

11 months and one day of travelling

THEY have been branded terrorists in one Middle East region but a former Appin woman and three friends were given a warm welcome in the Argyll village after completing a unique adventure.

Epic adventure
Eilidh Robertson was part of a team of four that set off from Melbourne, Australia, to finish at her 'home' village and after 11 months and one day of travelling across three continents they reached their destination on Tuesday to a big community welcome outside Appin Village Hall.

During the epic adventure, Eilidh got engaged to one of the team, Australian Ben Crowley, who proposed at the Darvaza, a gas crater in Turkmenistan, celebrated her 23rd birthday in Uzbekistan and Christmas in Budapest.

Eilidh, whose father, Douglas Robertson, was minister in Appin between 1995 and 2001 before moving the family

to Melbourne, described the welcome in Appin as 'surreal'.

'When I saw the crowd of people, I was speechless - and that doesn't happen to me very often,' she said. 'I was adamant that the finish line would be in Appin because I have very fond memories of the place. It's fantastic to think people in Appin still see me as one of their own.'

The team, which also included Australians Tom Denner and Tom Unkles, has been banned from the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory within Azerbaijan, where they were investigated as terrorists. 'They didn't like foreigners,' Eilidh remarked.

Having driven 58,000-kilometres in their Toyota 4runner, the team said they had left the best drive to the end.

'That stretch from Rannoch Moor to Glencoe is one of the most amazing drives in the world,' said Ben. 'We should know.'

Youth theatre takes play to UK project

LOCHABER Youth Theatre has entered a UK-wide project in the hope of being chosen to perform their new play on the big stage.

The 'National Connections' competition, run by the National Theatre in London, selects youth theatres across the UK to perform 10 newly commissioned plays.

Lochaber Youth Theatre will perform its entry, 'Aliie and The Alien' for the first time at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on March 14 and 15 before taking the production to the regional festival competition at Eden Court in April.

To help fund the project, LYT has organised a 'Big Playdate' on Saturday with a programme of games and drama activities for children and families.

The day opens with 'treats on the streets' on The Parade at 12pm before an afternoon of fun at the Nevis Centre Studio, starting at 1pm with story time for little ones.

The Big Playdate for P1-7 runs from 1.30-3pm with board games, crafts, dressing up, puppets and more, followed by Space Drama for all ages.

All funds raised go to supporting the youth theatre. 'Aliie and The Alien' runs at the Nevis Centre on March 14 and 15 at 7pm (12 and over).

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
A82 SOUTH OF LAGGAN LOCKS
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to carry out resurfacing works on 1.5km of the A82 trunk road south of Laggan Locks North of Spean Bridge is -

(a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive,

and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

G REID
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Trunk Roads Bus Operations
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
19 February 2013.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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 SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/00279/PIP	Land to South East of Tolsta, 71 Camaghael Fort William	Erection of house - Plot 1 - Renewal 09/00186/OUTLO
13/00414/FUL	Plot 1, Land to South West of Paice Ruidh, Glenmuig	Erection of house
13/00586/FUL	Shepherds Cottage Inversanda, Ardgour Fort William	Demolition of house and erection of new house
13/00597/FUL	1 Inverloch Court Inverloch, Fort William	Erection of extension

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)
The Caledonian Maritime Assets (Lochaline Ferry Services Slipway) Harbour Empowerment Order 2013

Notice is hereby given that the Caledonian Maritime Assets (Lochaline Ferry Services Slipway) Harbour Empowerment Order 2013 was made by the Scottish Ministers on 12 February 2013 and came into force on 13 February 2013.

Any person who desires to question the making of the Order on the ground that there was no power to make the Order or that a requirement of the Harbours Act 1964 was not complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order becomes operative, make an application for that purpose to the Court of Session.

A copy of the Order may be inspected at all reasonable hours at the offices of Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited at Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ.

Dated 21 February 2013
Eversheds LLP
One Wood Street, London EC2V 7WS
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

Notice is hereby given that William Hill Organisation Limited trading as William Hill, of the following address: Greenlands House 50 Station Road Wood Green London N22 7TF, is applying for a Betting (Other) Premises Licence under Section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005. The application relates to the following premises: William Hill, 71 George Street Oban PA34 5NN. The application has been made to: Argyll & Bute Licensing Board. Information about the application is available from the Licensing Authority, including the arrangements for viewing the details of the application. Any of the following persons may make representations in writing to the Licensing Authority about the application: A person who lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities. A person who has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A person who represents someone in any of the above two categories. Any representations must be made by the following date: 22 March 2013. It is an offence under Section 342 of the Gambling Act 2005 if a person, without reasonable excuse, gives to a Licensing Authority for a purpose connected with that Act information which is false or misleading.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00064/PP	Erection of 2 dwellings, formation of vehicular access and installation of private wastewater treatment systems	Land East Of Balnagowan Kilmore Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
13/00263/PP	Siting of caravan	Land North West of the Manse Arinagour Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
13/00282/PP	Erection of shed and formation of access track	6 Acres Southside Lochawe Dalmaily Argyll and Bute PA33 1BW	Sub Post Office Dalmaily
13/00331/PPP	Site for the erection of 5 dwellings	Land West Of Kenmore Cottage Bonawe Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Leidaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00245/PP	Erection of extension	Dunollie Mansfield Road Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BN	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00326/PP	Installation of replacement front door	1 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

Atlantis LEISURE - NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Oban & Lorn Community Enterprise Limited will be held at Atlantis Leisure on March 25, 2013 at 7pm, Atlantis Function Room. All welcome.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

John Davidson (Pipes) Ltd trading as JDP Ltd of Townfoot, Longtown, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 5LY is applying to change an existing licence as follows to add an operating centre to keep 2 good vehicles and 0 trailers at Unit 10 and 11 Glenshellach, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG. 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. Representors 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.

Oban MS Therapy Centre

AGM

Will be held on 25th March 2013 at 7pm
In the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oban) Ltd,
Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4PU
Telephone/Fax 01631 566602
e-mail: oban.msc@btconnect.com

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Mr Stuart Mclean is applying to divide the croft at 4 Murlaggan, Kilmoinvaig into 2 new crofts.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Friends of Oban Hospice AGM

on Thursday 21st March 2013 At 7.30pm
Glencruitten Church Centre
New Members Welcome

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Rhoda Grant MSP
Regional MSP for the Highlands & Islands
Public Advice Surgery
Friday 1st March 15:00 - 14:00
Dunoon, The Queens Hall, 9 Argyll Street
Saturday 2nd March 10:00 - 11:00
Oban, Atlantis Leisure Centre, Dalriach Road
No appointment required
Write: PO Box 5717, Inverness, IV1 1YT
Telephone: Constituency Office 01463 716299
E-mail: rhoda.grant.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Scottish S.P.C.A. AGM

Will be held at 14:00 hrs on Thursday 28 February in the Narthex of St. John's Cathedral, Oban. All are very welcome to join us.

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ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

ROYAL DOULTON TOBY JUG "The Poacher" Reg No 321/54-6"x5", excellent condition, £4000 Telephone 01631 564326.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

BUSH RADIO reproduction 1930 bush radio as new, really lovely, only, £20 Telephone 01688 302154(Tobermory).

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY SWING metal frame kept outdoors, fabric harness kept indoors so v. good condition. Secure for lots of fun, 12+ months, £8 Telephone 01631 720674. HAUCK 3 WHEELER STROLLER JOGGE Adjustable back rest & handle, 5-point safety harness, hood & rain cover, lockable swivel wheels, shopping basket. Grey black, £45 Telephone 01631 720674.

INFANT CAR SEAT Maxi Cosi, black & grey, front facing, 18 months to approx 4 years, excellent condition, £40 Telephone 01631 564886.

LITTLE TIKES ARC3 TRAVELCOT 3-pole geodesic frame design, removable foam mattress, washable cover, zip front and top panels, indoor/outdoor use, 0-3 yrs, £38 Telephone 01631 720674. TODDLER SLIDE sturdy Little Tikes slide with platform & hideaway, suitable for 2-4 yr olds. Good condition, red, yellow and green, £20 Telephone 01631 720674.

BICYCLES

BIANCHI VIA NIRONE 7ALU Road Bike for sale in mint condition. Frame size 53cm 20 speed campagnolo, can email full spec, £475 Telephone 01855 831294.

LADIES APPOLLO MOUNTAIN BIKE 17" frame. Like new, used twice, £4800 Telephone 01631 564750 or 07899 761635.

BOOKS

20 x CHICK FLICK NOVELS includes authors such as Jill Mansell, Sheila O'Flannigan, Jodi Picoult, all in excellent condition some never read, £10 Telephone 07425 783805.

MR GUM CHILDRENS BOOKS 9 assorted titles of the popular Mr Gum series all in excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07868 481242.

WANTED Social Historian looking for book by James MacDonald titled: "Tales of the West Highlands, by a MOD Medalist" Highland Press(1907) for loan or purchase. Telephone 07719 795784.

BUILDING / DIY

BALLACHULISH SLATES FOR SALE good quality, full size, £600 per 1,000 Telephone 01397 704298 (Fort William).

BOSCH JIGSAW Bosch PST 65 PAE 400w electronic SDS Jigsaw, £15 Telephone 01631 566518.

DRAPER ANGLE GRINDER 910 watts, £15 Telephone 01631 566518.

DRILL SHARPENER Plasplugs drill sharpener power unit, £10 Telephone 01631 566518.

EINHELL GLOBAL SANDER SS-G 270, £20 Telephone 01631 566518.

ELECTRICAL TEST GEAR Robin Digital PSC-Loop Tester, Model KMP 4120, hardly used, a must for new installations! £45 Telephone 01499 500216(Fumace).

ENGRAVING DRILL battery engraving drill, £5 Telephone 01631 566518.

EXTERIORHARDWOOD DOORS 3 brand new, 6' 8" x 2'9" wide, £75each Telephone 01631 7204527.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

CARAVAN PARTS various accessories for 1991 Sprite Alpine caravan, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710548. GROUND ANCHORS for stormy weather, 24 inch ground screws x4, plus chains and bottle screws, £20 Telephone 01631 770698.

RESIDENTIAL CARAVAN Free of Charge, no longer needed, needs some TLC, but basically good, fridge, cooker, shower etc. Buyer to remove, Located at Achahoish, PA31 8PD, EFOC Telephone 07780 903965?.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

SKYLANDERSSTARTER PACK XBOX 3 boxed, used once, £25 Telephone 07868 481242.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BEKO WASHING MACHINE A++ rated. Capacity 7kg. Only 18 months old, £120 Telephone 01546 600382.

BOSCH CLASSIXX DISHWASHER A-rated 12 place-settings, vgc, £45 Telephone 01546 600382.

BOSCH FRIDGE FREEZER A-rated. Height 1700mm. Capacity: fridge 190 litres, freezer 87 litres. Only 18 months old., £120 Telephone 01546 600382.

CREDAFREESTANDING COOKER 500mm wide with solid hotplates, vgc, £40 Telephone 01546 600382.

DOMESTIC PETS

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL Mardi's puppies, liver/white, KC Reg, ready mid March, £400 each Telephone 07919 390888?(Derek).

FOSTER HOME FOR BENGAL CAT WANTED: Foster home in the country for Bengal cat until Sept.2013 while owner is abroad. Telephone 07970 959845.

SIBERIAN HUSKY PUPS KC Reg, Excellent Blood line, first inoculation, wormed, vet checked, 4 weeks insurance, with puppy pack, ready now, £600 Telephone 07814 987305.

FIREARMS

SCOPE S&B 8x 56 Hungarian Classic scope, new in box, £450 Telephone 01583 431344.

FURNITURE

ANTIQUE PINE TALL BOY 5 drawers, lovely top shelf detail and in excellent condition. Ikea Lesvik range, £45 Telephone 01631 720674.

COFFEE TABLE beautiful dark wood coffee table with one drawer, as new, only, £25 Telephone 01688 302154(Tobermory).

DESK / COMPUTER TABLE Ikea, pale beech, smoky glass doors, shelving inside. Photo available, £20 Telephone 01631 564886.

DINING TABLE AND 6 CHAIRS lovely modern dark wood dining table with 6 chairs inc 2 carvers, as new, only, £49 Telephone 01688 302154(Tobermory).

DIVAN BED single, two drawer, good condition, blue, £49 Telephone 01631 566001?.

GIRLS SMALL BOOKCASE white with pink motifs, four pink hammocks to hold books. Hardly used due to lack of space, £9 Telephone 01631 720674.

TOSHIBA TV CABINET STAND still in box, never used, Ring after 6pm, £20 Telephone 01546 602911.

WOODEN COFFEE TABLE M & S. lovely traditional lounge centre piece, square and low 44" x 34" x 15" Photo available, cost £250, £49 Telephone 01631 564886.

GARDEN

FREE BAMBOO CANES or Root Stock, free to uplift. Telephone 01546 830020.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

FLAMERITE ELECTRIC FIRE Flamewrite Odyssey 2000w. Can be fully inset in to wall or could free stand with some joinery skills, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710110.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

DRESSMAKERSStitching Clubs, Quilters etc. I have a large quantity of materials for sale, please come and see and make me an offer. Ring after 6pm. Telephone 01546 602911.

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES

BT 6500 TWIN CORDLESS PHONE Latest Bt cordless phone and answer machine as new used only once, this phone blocks nuisance calls, £35 Telephone 01631 7204582.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Yamaha NP30 portable grand piano - full size (76 keys), silver, graded soft touch keyboard, 10 AWM sampled sounds including stereo grand piano, light-weight, only 6.5Kg, built in stereo speakers, headphone socket, music rest, power supply and keyboard stand included. £150 Tel 07900048362 (Oban)

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TOYS AND GAMES

BABY ANNABELL WARDROBE pink baby Annabell wardrobe with hanging rail, shelving and coat hangers in good condition, £15 Telephone 07747 157838.

DOLLS PRAM AND CAR SEAT Silver Cross blue fabric with metal frame dolls pram and car seat with accessories, in excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07747 157838.

DOLLS WOODEN CRIB with fabric canopy and matching bedding in very good condition, £20 Telephone 07747 157838.

LITTLE TYKES CUBE SLIDE suitable 1-5years, excellent condition, have Thomas Tank flap brand new, can email pics cost £120new (Oban), £40 Telephone 07425 783805.

MY FIRST ROCKING PONY suitable from 9-36months, excellent condition, plays songs and pony noises also has brush and soft saddle (Oban), £10 Telephone 07425 783805.

THOMAS CHAIR BEANBAG Thomas the Tank design chair shaped beanbag, blue (Oban), £7.50 Telephone 07425 783805.

THOMAS TANK BUNDLE 6xDVDs, 5xsmall books, push along

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

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

MARINE UNDER £250

16FT CLINKER DINGHY varnished, needs some repairs, £49.99 Telephone 07748 994834.

CHART DIVIDERS brass Chart dividers 150mm with stainless steel points, new, £10 Telephone 01499 500216(Fumace).

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BIRTHS

DEWAR - Euan and Sandra are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Robbie Ian on February 13, 2013. First grandchild for Alistair and Glynis Dewar, Oban and sixth grandchild for Margaret Macintyre, Oban. Special thanks to Oban and Paisley maternity units.

STEWART - Charlotte Campbell, born January 29, 2013 at Ninewells, Dundee to Rory and Victoria. A granddaughter to Neil and Judy and a niece to Stuart and Claire.

DEATHS

BALDWIN - Arthur Mervyn, husband of Patricia Mary, died at home in Ballachulish on February 24, 2013 aged 79. Scattering of the ashes will be private.

BOURNE - Peacefully at Dalginross House, Comrie, Perthshire, on Friday, February 15, 2013, Dudley Bourne (formerly of Garry Place, Comrie), beloved husband of Mary and good friend to all who knew him. Funeral service to which all friends are respectfully invited, at St Serf's Church, Comrie, Perthshire, on Thursday, February 28, at 10.15am. Thereafter to Perth Crematorium for a committal service at 11.30am.

BRADLEY - Suddenly at his home, 7 Stag Park, Lochgilphead, on February 22, 2013, Angus James Bradley, aged 77 years, husband of Anne Bradley, much loved father of Glynis, Morag, Scott and the late Grant and adored papa to his five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A good friend, dear neighbour and former work colleague to many. A popular and well loved character, who will be sadly missed. Funeral service details to be announced at a later date.

KEENAN - James (Jim), died in Belford Hospital on February 9, 2013. Beloved husband of Mary, a dear dad, grandpa and great-grandpa. The family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, Macmillan Nurses, Craig Nevis Surgery, Belford Hospital and Highland Hospice for all care and attention to Jim over the years. Thanks also to J. McLellan & Co Funeral Directors, local Clergy and Spean Bridge Hotel for lovely funeral tea. - 7 Kennedy Court, Caol.

MACKINNON - Lily Catherine (née McDiarmid), 7 Falls View, North Connel. Suddenly and unexpectedly at The Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank aged 83 years, on February 21, 2013. Wife of the late Colin John MacKinnon, much loved mother of Kathleen, Allison and Ewen, mother-in-law of David, Ronnie and Rebecca and much loved Granny to Jenny, Craig, Patrick and Clare. Funeral will take place from St. Oran's Church, Connel, Thursday (today) February 28, at 1pm. Thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations will be taken for Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled and Argyll Animal Aid.

SMALLEY - Sally passed peacefully away at home, Clabbach, Isle of Coll on February 14, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Peter John, reunited again. Much loved mum to Angus John and Honey, and beloved gran to Ruaridh, Ella and Kiera. Sadly missed by family and friends.

URQUHART - Suddenly, but peacefully at his home in Tobermory, Duncan Urquhart aged 63 years. Son of the late Donald (Danny Rhue) and Cathy, dear father to Katie. Funeral service will be held in Tobermory Parish Church on Thursday 28 February 12 Noon. Thereafter to Tobermory top cemetery.

YOUNG - Alistair. Suddenly at his home in Tighnabruach (formerly of Dunbeg) on Monday February 11, 2013 aged 64. Loving husband of the late Mary, father to William and Martin, and proud granddad to Thomas, Morven, Craig, and Jessica. Will be sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CARMICHAEL - John Carmichael and family (Lismore), would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support following the sudden but peaceful death of Fay on January 17, 2013. We would also like to show great gratitude for the support of the Rev Dr Roderick Campbell and Duncan Gunn. Our greatest of thanks goes to the many who came to pay their respects at the church and graveside. Thanks also to all who donated flowers and gave donations to Macmillan Cancer Nurses.

LOCKHART - The family of the late Violet Lockhart would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. Thanks to D and A Munn for their support and Rev D Cameron for his comforting service. Also thank you to organist Mr Moncrieff, The Royal Hotel, Petals Flower Shop and The Flower Basket. - The Lockhart Family.

MACCOLL - The family of the late Mrs Margaret MacColl wish to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy including all who were with us at the church and graveside. Our gratitude to Dr. Hannah, Dr. Barkham, Gill and staff of Easdale Medical Practice. Thank you also to Rev. Dugald Cameron for his comforting service, Ian MacInnes and staff of D and A Munn for their care and consideration and the staff at Manor House for hospitality, food and refreshments. A Retiral Collection in excess of £400 was sent to Macmillan Cancer Care.

MACGREGOR - The family of the late Rhoda MacGregor sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy following their sad bereavement. Special thanks to Dr. Allison Davies and district nurses, Marie Curie nurses, Hilary Brown and Julie Henderson and staff at Ward B Lorn and Islands Hospital. Staff at Carr Gomm, the Rev. Robert Brooks for a comforting service, and D and A Munn for their kind support. Retiring collection for Marie Curie amounted to £1,023.85

MACINNES - Peggy and family would like to say a big thank you to all family and friends for their expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls received and for all the kind donations taken to the house after Roddy's sad passing. We would also like to thank Canon Donald MacKay for his support and beautiful Requiem Mass, Canon MacQueen, Neil MacIntyre undertaker for professional and comforting services, gravediggers and Am Politician Bar. Also to all nurses who cared for Roddy throughout his illness, to all who attended the church and graveside and who helped in any other way. Your kindness has helped us through this sad time.

MACLEAN - Mary would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support over the past months during Angus's illness and since his sad passing on February 7, 2013. Special thanks to Dr John Holliday-Tiree, Ambulance Crews-Tiree, Stef Tanner and Loma MacArthur, the Wyatt Family, Church of Scotland-Tiree Elders, Pat Boyd and Donald MacArthur, Joyce MacInnes, organist and Colin MacKinnon, Piper. Hamish Hoey and Sons, Oban and The Co-operative-Tiree

NISBET (Fort William) - Andy, Florence, Lynda, Eilidh and Ann sincerely thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and words of comfort received by way of many beautiful cards, mass cards, letters, emails, facebook messages, phone calls, flowers and visits following the tragic loss of our dear son and brother Andrew (Nizzi). Sincere thanks to Fr Roddy MacAulay for his comforting service along with Mgr Wynne, Fr Joe, Fr Andrew and Andy; Ewen and Scott of John McLellans for their sensitive and efficient funeral arrangements and the Moorings Hotel for catering. Thanks also to everyone who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and generously donated £1,500 to date for the Little Princess Trust.

SCOTT - Keith and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind support and their generous donations, totalling £641 for Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland & Diabetes UK.

MEMORIAMS

KIRSOP - Remembering Robert, dad, Seanairbòb who sadly passed away on March 3, 2012.

- Loved and missed by his family and friends.
KIRSOP - In memory of our much loved Robert who passed away on March 3, 2012, creating a huge void in our family. We love and miss you deeply. Forever in our hearts and thoughts. Mum and family.
KIRSOP - Robert. Remembering you with love every day.
- Carol, Lauren, Elise and Beth x

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of John, died March 2, 2002. We still fondly remember you.
Love Morag and family.
MACCOLL - In loving memory of Dugie, a dear husband, father and grandfather who passed away March 2, 2002.
Forever in our thoughts.
- Margaret and family.
MACCORMICK - Treasured memories of a dear mum and gran, Catherine, passed away February 27, 2002.
In our hearts your memory is kept.
To treasure, to love, and never forget.
- Colin, Flora and Graeme.
MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary, who died on February 24, 1998.
Loved and remembered every day.
- Jessie and Ian. xxx

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Donald James MacDonald (Hamish), who died February 28, 1992. I thought of you today But that is nothing new I thought of you yesterday And will tomorrow too

I think of you in silence And make no outward show For what it meant to lose you Only those who loved you know Remembering you is easy I do it every day It's the heartache of losing you That will never go away.
- Inserted by Nell, Jackie and Angus, Spean Bridge.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of a dear dad and papa Hamish, who passed away February 28, 1992. We feel your warmth around us Like your presence is so near We close our eyes to visualise Your face when you were here Love always.

- Catherine, Michael, Ryan, Patrick, Michelle and Siobhan.
MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of Netta, who died February 26, 2008, much loved mum, mother-in-law and granny. Time passes memories stay Always in our thought and hearts Loved and remembered everyday.
- Janet, Brian, Nicola and Alison.

MACINNES - In memory of a much loved mother, mother-in-law and gran, Margaret, who passed away March 5, 2012. This day is remembered and quietly kept, No words are needed, we shall never forget, For those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day. Unseen and unheard, but always near, So loved, so missed, and so very dear.
- From all the family at Ruaig and Edinburgh

MACKAY - In loving memory of our parents Margaret, who died February 29, 2012 and John who died April 12, 2012. Very sadly missed.
- George and family, Inverlochry, Christine and family, Banavie, Sarah and family, Australia.
MACLEAN - Treasured memories of my darling husband Calum, who died so suddenly on March 1, 1992. R.I.P. Calum, those we love live in our hearts forever.
With all my love.
- Chrissie xx.

MACLEOD - In memory of Captain Donald MacLeod, Kilchoan, who died March 1, 1996. Always remembered.
- Inserted by nephew Hugh.

MACVICAR - In loving memory of my dear wife, Teena (Christina MacInnes), died March 1, 2007. Every hour of every day, my thoughts return to you, of how you always saw the good in what people did, I'll never forget your helpful smile of caring and respect, when helping others along the way and making lives journey meant.

- Johnnie
For a loving mother and nana, Till roses lose their petals, Till the heather has lost its dew, Till the end of time dear mother we will remember you.
- Catherine, John, John, Niall and Michael.

MATTHEWS - In ever loving memory of William James (Shane) darling husband of Pearl and loving dad of Billy who passed away March 1, 2012. We love and miss you every day.
MATTHEWS - Bill (Shane) friend and neighbour, passed away March 1, 2012. Fondly remembered.
- Christy, Davy, Sam and Melissa

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St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....09.30
Thursday 7 March 2013
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Morning Prayer and Eucharist.....09.30

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Preacher
Rev. Donald MacKenzie, Tain



Sadie Robertson gets congratulations from Provost Allan Henderson and Councillor Brian Murphy.

Sadie celebrates 100th birthday

AFORT William woman marked her 100th birthday surrounded by her large family in her house on Saturday. Sadie Robertson still lives independently in her home in Inverlochry and goes to nearby Invernevis House for day care. Born on February 23 1913,

Sadie was brought up in Edinbane on the Isle of Skye and later moved to Fort William. Sadie's home was packed out with cakes, balloons and cards, as well as family members who had travelled to Fort William from across the country for the celebration, including

Sadie's six children and 15 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. She received a card from the Queen to mark the event and Provost Allan Henderson and Councillor Brian Murphy presented the centenarian with flowers on behalf of Highland Council.



Rev John Shedden, preacher, Donald MacKinnon, presbytery moderator, Rev John Paton and Ian MacLagan, presbytery clerk.

Salen Church packed as North Mull welcomes new minister

SALEN Church was packed to capacity last Tuesday for the induction of the new minister to the charge of the North Mull parish. Rev John Paton comes to Mull from Linlithgow where he was associate minister at St Michael's Parish Church.

He said: 'I'm delighted to be on the island. My wife calls it heaven on a stick. I was a minister in Kintyre for a number of years and loved living and working in the west. My wife is from Islay so we knew we could flourish on an island because it takes a particular kind of people to cope with living on an island but we felt we could enjoy it. We felt we could fit in.'

very much at home and a peace here. It has been a wonderful welcome, it has felt right since the moment we met folk here. They have been generous, kind and supportive.'

On his plans for his work on Mull, Rev Paton said: 'A lot of it is to do with compassion, showing that the church cares for people and is welcoming and open.'

Caring
'It is not just about preaching but pasturing and caring for people - a lot of ground work. I just plan on caring for people and all the situations they go through in their lives - births, deaths and marriages.'

The induction service was attended by 60 members of St Michael's in Linlithgow, along with a large number of the Presbytery of Argyll and five ministers from the Presbytery of Stirling. It was conducted by the presbytery moderator Donald MacKinnon while Ian MacLagan read the lessons and Rev John Shedden preached. A presentation was also made to Rev Kenneth Ross and Rev Jeff McCormick who had served as interim moderators during the vacancy. Mr Paton, who comes to Mull with his wife Cathy, is a former civil engineer and lover of the outdoors. He said: 'We're both outdoor folk and like hill walking. I'm looking forward to all the outdoor endeavours Mull has to offer. I like my golf and we're both fans of wildlife.'

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Players from across shinty's Orion Group Premiership were in Fort William for the launch of the new season and all thoughts were on the first weekend of fixtures. Saturday, March 2 will see reigning Orion Group Champions, Newtonmore, host Glenurquhart while their Badenoch rivals Kingussie travel north to face Kinlochshiel. Newly promoted sides Oban Camanachd and Lochaber take on Kyles Athletic and Lovat respectively and Inveraray welcome Fort William. The Orion Group Premiership Derby Days, introduced last year to coincide with the May and August Bank Holiday weekends, will return guaranteeing top-class shinty action for visitors to areas across Scotland. These will take place on weekends May 25/26 and August. 24/25. Pictured L-R: Newtonmore's Jamie Robinson, Lochaber's Iain Love, Kinlochshiel's Mark MacDonald, Lovat's Callum Cruden, Glenurquhart's Stuart MacKintosh, Kingussie's Fraser Munro, Fort William's Liam MacIntyre and Oban Camanachd's Ian Campbell.

Teams ready for start of the new shinty season



Kyles Athletic



Lovat



Inveraray

Newtonmore

NEWTONMORE'S new man in charge PJ MacKintosh has big shoes to fill as he looks to take his side to a fourth premiership title in a row.

'More will also be keen to continue their dominance of the sport by trying to win back the Camanachd Cup after being defeated in the semis by eventual winners Kyles Athletic last year.

But MacKintosh told The Oban Times he wasn't setting his side any targets for success this year.

He said: 'We're not going for the league or the cup particularly, we're just looking to do well in everything.'

'No doubt Kyles will be there or thereabouts again and I expect Kingussie to be challenging as well. The likes of Glenurquhart won't be far away either.'

MacKintosh also said he wouldn't be changing too much from Norman MacArthur's successful six year reign as manager.

'We're two different guys, but I don't see any reason to change a winning formula.'

One to watch: Chris Sellar, 20, made sporadic first team appearances last season, and the talented forward is expected to have a big impact this year.

Kyles Athletic

THE return of two of their most talented players and the signing of Roberto Zavaroni has only added to Kyles' already impressive first team line-up.

The most realistic challenge to Newtonmore's premier league dominance, Kyles have quietly gone about their meticulous pre-season preparations.

The Kyles squad's lack of depth was exposed in the previous two campaigns when promising title races were halted by falls at the final hurdle.

The return of hotshot Grant Irvine and hardy defender Sandy MacVicar will have delighted the folk of Tighnabruich but the Cowal club has added a major signing in Zavaroni, who played for Kyles at primary, under-14 and under-17 youth levels before joining Bute. He now joins up with brother David in the Kyles team, adding to arguably the most feared attack in the country.

However, the ever-cautious Kyles trainer James Perlich summed up his thoughts on a title challenge by replying: 'My ambition is for the team to go out and win that first game of the season against Oban Camanachd at home.'

'I know that may be a boring answer but we have always just concentrated on the next game and I am a stickler for routine.'

'We have prepared for the season, just as we have done in the past few years and that is how it should be. You can't get carried away at this stage.'

One to watch: Youngster Zac Coley will look to establish himself in the first team this term but many will want to see how the new additions get on. Talented defender Sandy MacVicar missed last season to recover from an operation on his wrist. He earned the nickname Full Metal Jacket after playing through the pain barrier to finish 2011 with his wrist shattered.

Lovat

LOVAT will look to build on their impressive third place finish in the premiership last season by playing the free-flowing shinty that has become their trademark.

Jamie Matheson could join his brother and top scorer Greg in the forward line after impressing coach Allan MacRae in training and friendlies.

Danny Kelly, the Camanachd Association under 14 player of the



year last season is certain to play a role in Lovat's defence while forward Calum MacAulay, who returned from working in Canada to join Lovat midway through last year, will also be a major asset to MacRae's squad.

'We have quite a solid look about us,' MacRae told The Oban Times. 'I'm quite happy about how things have gone so far and we will look to keep improving if we can.'

'We want to stay competitive like we were in the league last season and get a few cup runs going.'

'We took at least a point from everybody last time and we have to go for that again. We played with a mobile forward line and we aim to be even more mobile this year.'

One to watch: half back and team captain Calum Cruden

Fort William

FORT WILLIAM will have a strong accent for youth for the 2013 campaign as club seek to re-establish itself as a major force in shinty.

The Fort, who are away to Inveraray on Saturday, finished fourth in last season's Orion Group Premiership and 11 points behind winners Newtonmore – a position the club is keen to improve on.

Co-manager Victor Smith said five talented youngsters – 17 year-old Cameron Grant, 16 year-olds Arran MacPhee and Lewis Morrison, and 15 year-olds Alexander MacMillan and Calum Shepherd would be in the squad throughout the season.

He told The Oban Times: 'We are trying to develop these young players for the years ahead. Arran played the full season for us last year and they have all featured in friendlies this season.'

'We have no worries about taking young boys in to play any game. Myself and Adi [Robertson] are planning for the future by developing the same style of play from under-14 right up to senior level.'

'We are trying to build a base so whoever takes over from us will have a good foundation.'

He added: 'We are looking for a good solid season and not looking for any short term stop gaps. We are very much thinking about the long term.'

One to watch: Stevie Stewart, who switches from defence to the centre line.

Inveraray

THE 2013 season has been one many Inveraray fans have been dreading.

New player/manager Garry MacPherson will be without two members of the club's retiring golden generation – Scott Robertson and Russell McKinlay – this season as more players enter the twilight of their careers.

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Fort William



Newtonmore



Glenurquhart



Kingussie



Kinlochshiel



Lochaber

Newtonmore favourites to retain Orion Premier League championship

Continued from page 23

The ageing and threadbare first team squad will be hoping to avoid injury and suspension as the club concedes avoiding relegation is the primary goal in 2013.

MacPherson said: 'Judging by pre-season turnout it will be difficult to get a strong first team out every week this season.'

'We have a good bunch of players who are aged 14 and 15 and are not ready for the premier league but, until then, I think we'll have two or three seasons like this.'

'If we can get a steady team throughout the season we will be fine.'

For a team filled with some of the most decorated players in shinty, survival in the premier league cannot be guaranteed and it will take every ounce of their talent and experience to ensure 'A'ray are a premier outfit next year.

To be successful, the younger players must step out of the shadow of their senior team-mates and prove their worth when it is most needed.

Keen to end on a positive note, MacPherson added: 'We didn't expect to get to the final of the Scottish Cup last season but we got there.'

'It was a hard defeat to take but the boys are over it now and will take heart from the fact we got so far in the same season we won the Celtic Cup.'

One to watch: Teenager Lewis McNicol's emergence this season signals an intent to rebuild an ageing Inveraray first team. Although untested at premier league level, the big forward is being touted as the next Russell McKinlay and has been on red-hot goalscoring form in pre-season.

Glenurquhart

GLENURQUHART face a tough task to emulate last season's success, when they lifted their first ever major trophy.

The Drumnadrochit side won the Artemis Macaulay Cup with a 6-0 thrashing of Oban Camanachd and steered well clear of the relegation battle despite a slow start to the season.

But a similar sluggish start to 2013 could see Glen struggle to pick up early points, with their first game being a trip to reigning premieriership champions Newtonmore.

Co-manager Drew McNeil said: 'We've got Newtonmore first then Kyles so it's a nice easy start for us!'

'It's going to be an extremely difficult league this year, there's about eight teams that could be relegated.'

He continued: 'We maybe dug a bit of a hole for ourselves with our success last year. It'll be hard to go beyond what we did last year, but we'll have to try and improve, especially in the league. We did okay last year, but not as well as we should have.'

'We've got quite a big squad. We have a core of older players and a whole raft of younger guys as well.'

One to watch: Ewan Brady's versatility has seen him favourably compared to teammate Fraser Heath. Brady, 18, played for Glengarry last season and has scored some spectacular goals in pre-season.

Kingussie

KINGUSSIE'S young squad will be looking to close the gap between themselves and the likes of Newtonmore and Kyles Athletic this season.

Last season Russell Jones' men finished in seventh place - some 13 points behind 'More' - and were knocked out of the Camanachd Cup in the second round.

Kings have seen a number of key players reach elder statesmen position, and a transitional period has seen them fail to challenge for the league in recent years.

Jones told The Oban Times: 'The squad has changed quite dramatically and we've got quite a lot of young boys we'll be trying to get into the team.'

'Apart from Kyles and Newtonmore everyone else is in the same boat and could be battling away at the bottom. But we'll be looking to make a good start and then build from there.'

'We'll be going out every week to win but we're under no illusions, we have a young squad.'

Ronald Ross has said he is not intending to play but Jones said 'the door is always open' if the legendary forward wants to make a return, while defender Iain Borthwick has retired.

One to watch: Forward Savio Genini is one of a number of Kingussie youngsters expected to make the step up to the senior team this year.

Kinlochshiel

KINLOCHSHIEL will seek to preserve their Orion Group Premiership status with a squad markedly different from that of last season.

The Lochalsh side opened their 2012 campaign with a fine 5-3 win at Kingussie in their opening fixture - and welcome the same opponents to Kirkton on Saturday in search of a similar result.

Stalwarts Calum MacLean, Neil Fraser and Stevie Callander have all moved on, keeper Graham Kennedy is injured and will be replaced by brother Scott in goal and Fraser MacVicar will only be available for around one game in three because of work commitments.

However, coach Johnston Gill has a cohort of talented young players at his disposal, including brothers Oliver and Duncan 'Ach' MacRae, Connel Fraser, Jordan Fraser and Donald Nixon.

'These are good young players and we will feed them into the squad as the season goes on,' Gill told The Oban Times. 'David Glass from Inverness is another experienced player we can call on and we were more than delighted when he came on board.'

He added: 'If we do well in one of the big cups I will be delighted - but our priority must be staying in the premier league and push on from where we finished last season.'

One to watch: 16 year-old Oliver MacRae, who is already showing a maturity beyond his years.

Lochaber

LOCHABER boss Michael Delaney has set his sights on avoiding relegation this season - but hopes his side can impress on their return to the top flight.

The Spean Bridge side were unbeaten in the league in 2012 as they stormed their way to the Marine Harvest North Division One title, and Delaney told The Oban Times he hopes that momentum will continue into the coming season.

He said: 'I think we'll be doing quite well if we avoid relegation, but maybe because we had a good season last year we can make a bit of an impact.'

'We play a good brand of shinty - if the conditions are good we can play some good stuff, and if not we know how to grind it out.'

Lochaber welcome last season's surprise package Lovat on Saturday with Delaney hoping to use the home crowd to their advantage.

'It doesn't really matter who we play first,' he said. 'We were looking to get a home game and hopefully we can get a good support up there to watch us.'

'We're looking forward to it, we're just happy to be back at the top table.'

One to watch: Jack Dignan. The 17-year-old defender has impressed in pre-season and is expected to force his way into the first team this season.

Oban Camanachd

TIPPED by the bookies to be favourites for the drop, the Orion Group Premiership new boys insist they are up for the battle after putting in a long winter training session.

Manager Gussie Campbell has had his young charges on a strict training regime since the beginning of November last year

in anticipation of the jump up from South Division One.

He said: 'We have prepared as best we can and I think our winter training will pay off. In our pre-season matches we have looked the stronger team in the last 20 minutes.'

'Fitness is a big thing in the premier league and I think teams like Kyles, Glenurquhart and Kinlochshiel, in particular, focus in on that.'

'I don't read into what the bookmakers say, because they have Kinlochshiel as joint favourites to be relegated and that is very unfair on them.'

The squad will this season be supplemented by the recruitment of Lewis Cameron and the experienced David 'Skinny' MacInnes. But a young Camanachd team couldn't have expected a tougher start to their campaign as they travel to take on Kyles Athletic on March 2.

Campbell said: 'Kyles will be a difficult game but I know they are all going to be tough games.'

'I'm pleased with how the squad looks; Skinny is a very versatile player whose experience will be vital and young Lewis looks a great prospect.'

Asked what his expectations were for the league season ahead, Campbell was prompt with his response. 'Survival,' he said.

One to watch: Lewis Cameron - having been brought back to shinty after two seasons with Oban Saints Football Club, the youngster has shown no signs of rustiness in pre-season and his strong running and big hits will keep defenders on their toes.

Fixtures for Saturday March 2

Orion Premiership Newtonmore v Glenurquhart David Mitchell - 2.30pm Kyles Athletic v Oban Camanachd Deck Cameron - 2.30pm Lochaber v Lovat Colin MacDonald - 2.30pm Kinlochshiel v Kingussie Graham Cameron - 2.30pm Inveraray v Fort William Robert Baxter - 2.30pm	Marine Harvest North Division 3 Boleiskine v Lewis Robert MacAskill - 1pm Strathspye v Lochaber John Sloggie - 2.30pm Caberfeidh v Kilmallie Calum Girvan - 2.30pm Inverness v Strathglass Al Hunter - 2.30pm Locharron v Lochbroom Willie MacRae - 2.30pm
Marine Harvest North Division 1 Kilmallie v Beaulie Ronnie Campbell - 2.30pm Skye v Inverness Innes Wood - 2.30pm Strathglass v Caberfeidh John Matheson - 2.30pm	Marine Harvest South Division 1 Glenorchy v Aberdour Lachie Wood - 2.30pm Lochside Rovers v Kilmory Daniel MacRae - 2.30pm Oban Celtic v Strachur Ted MacDonald - 2.30pm Taynult v Glasgow Mid Argyll Billy Witherspoon - 2.30pm
Marine Harvest North Division 2 Fort William v Beaulie Dougie Cameron - 2.30 Glengarry v Aberdeen Uni Alex MacVicar - 2.30pm Glenurquhart v Newtonmore John MacLeod - 2.30pm Kingussie v Kinlochshiel Neil Ferguson - 2.30pm Lovat v Skye Donald MacRae - 2.30pm	Marine Harvest South Division 2 Tayforth v Kyles Athletic Euan Pearson - 2.30pm Ballachulish v Bute John MacGregor - 2.30pm Glasgow Mid Argyll v Inveraray Jim Innes - 2.30pm Aberdour v Col Glen Ewen MacDonald - 2.30pm



Oban Camanachd

Glengarry

GLENGARRY head into the start of the 2013 season looking to improve on last year's ninth place finish in North Division Two.

The Craigard Park side finished one place off the bottom of the league despite winning seven games out of 18 in what has proved to be a competitive league in recent seasons.

Manager Ewen Cameron told The Oban Times his side were feeling 'confident' going into this Saturday's match against Aberdeen University, and said he felt his side could progress from last year.

He said: 'We're quite short of players but we've retained most of the squad from last year and there's one or two young boys we can hopefully bring through this season.'

'We want to do better than last year in the league and hopefully we can do something in the cups.'

One to watch: Glengarry will be looking to Daniel McLennan to put the ball in the net on a regular basis

Kilmallie

KILMALLIE, denied the chance to bounce straight back up to the Orion Group Premiership because of league reconstruction, must now concentrate on grabbing a top-three finish in North Division One to ensure they play in the new National Division 1 next year.

Pre-season form has been encouraging - Kilmallie lost 0-2 to Lochaber in the BSW Cup, but they matched the premiership new boys in every department except when it came to putting away their chances.

Coach Duncan Kelly reckoned the calibre of the squad at his disposal meant no opposition was unbeatable.

He told The Oban Times: 'Our aim is to win every game we play. We hope to win North Division One and to do well in cup games.'

'We are looking for a good run in the MacFavish and there's no reason why we can't get to the final.'

Kilmallie have been missing key forwards Liam MacDonald (broken hand) and John Stewart (foot strain) but both are making progress and should be available early in the campaign.

Martin Graham's knee problem is not as bad as first feared and is also likely to make a quick return to the squad.

One to watch: Michael Rodger - a handful for any defence, at any level.

Skye Camanachd

WITH NO promotion to the Orion Group Premiership because of changes to the league set up, Skye Camanachd must look to finish in the top three in North Division One to book a place in the new eight-team Marine Harvest National League Division One next season.

Skye would be playing top flight on Saturday were it not for Lochaber's remarkable unbeaten league run last year, but the islanders' second place finish last season bodes well for the campaign ahead.

Manager Willie MacRae told The Oban Times: 'Our main objective is to finish in the top three. Kilmallie will be the guys to beat but I expect Caperfeidh to be up there and Beaully will be strong as well.'

'We're just keen to get the season started. We've got good turnouts at training and we've enjoyed the pre-season friendlies.'

Former Scotland U21 international full back Steven Morrison has been named as first team captain for the second time after missing much of last season.

One to watch: 16 year-old playmaker Will Cowie will make the step up from the second team this year.

Ballachulish

With a new manager, a new star player and the return of more than one prodigal son, perhaps Ballachulish have the most to be content with come the start of the new season.

The Balla boys will be overwhelming favourites to win South Division Two after new boss Craig Munro convinced Fort William player John MacDonald to return to his home club.

Munro has also welcomed back Lorne Brown, Scott Henderson, AJ MacDonald and Elliot Wilson to the fold.

Pre-season has been great too: a comfortable 4-2 win over Newtonmore's junior team ended the Badenoch team's run of 21 games unbeaten and Kilmallie's second team was soundly beaten 7-0.

Munro, who has played for six clubs, including Ballachulish, said: 'Pre-season has been brilliant. There is a real buzz about the place and expectations are high.'

'John was a great signing because he is still one of the best players there is and I regularly get 30 players to training every week.'

'We are expecting to win the league this year, although Kyles could be tricky opposition, and I am also looking at winning the Sutherland Cup.'

One to watch: John MacDonald will be a standout at this level of competition but Ballachulish also have a great athlete in Elliot Wilson.

Bute

THE island side may have lost talisman Roberto Zavaroni to Argyll rivals Kyles Athletic and goal machine Hector Whitelaw to the junior team, but new manager Graham Fisher insists his young guns have more than enough firepower to make up for their absence.

Having scored just 11 goals in 18 games as they were relegated from the Orion Group Premiership last season, Bute's new boss has opted for an all-new attacking line-up.

The main change will see the experienced Iain MacDonald lead a quick and tireless forward line, which Fisher hopes will cause problems for South Division One defences.

He said: 'The boys wish Roberto all the best at Kyles and I have said he is welcome back if it doesn't work out there.'

He has been training with us pre-season - but he won't be seeing any of our tactics!

'I have rejigged the team to give us more of a goal threat. A few of the boys questioned why, but we got relegated and didn't score enough goals last season, so it had to be changed.'

Fisher says he is aiming for the title, adding: 'If we can't win the league, we definitely have to be in one of the top three places.'

One to watch: A familiar face but an unfamiliar position - Bute will be looking for new frontman Iain MacDonald to fire them to the title but youngsters given a run out in the premier league last season, like Leighton Reid, may excel at this level.

Glenorchy

HAVING failed to find a new manager for 2013, Glenorchy have resorted to the old formula, tried and tested by Dalmally's teams of the past.

An informal committee of senior players and ex-coaches

Club president David Hamilton said his club was well positioned to mount a successful league campaign.

He said: 'We will have strong teams like Bute and Glenorchy in our league but we have to be aiming for that top three.'

'We have a settled squad and have added Scott Burnett, who has come back to us from Taynuilt.'

A victorious warm-up match against Strathglass in the Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy was followed by defeat last weekend against Inveraray in an all-round promising pre-season.

The club also plans to enter a second team into cup competitions for the first time in a number of years.

One to watch: Daniel Madej - the talented young fullback broke into the first team two seasons ago but is already an integral part of the Celtic defence.

Strachur

HAVING established themselves as a South Division One team last season, Strachur's progress has been hampered in 2013.

Having not been able to field their strongest 12 in their pre-season matches and the loss of key players suggests this season could be a tough one.

Club secretary Colin Cameron said: 'The boys have been getting the rust knocked off them but we still need the practice.'

'It was good to get a run and have a couple of games against good opposition like Inveraray.'

'But it is a problem that we have not yet fielded a full team.'

'It's been slow in getting going but it's hard to tell how the season will go when we've played against premier teams in the build-up.'

'We have a couple of younger boys coming in but it's always a struggle to keep youngsters.'

'It's hard to tell how we'll do but if we get a full team we should be a match for most teams in our division.'

Defensive lynchpin Ian McLennan has joined the fire brigade, meaning he will not be available as often as Strachur would like, and a few of last year's team are away travelling this year.

One to watch: Teenage forward Angus Campbell, who has pace to burn, and Rhys Campbell.

Taynuilt

NEW manager Willie Gillies says he is ready to unleash his eager youth players on South Division One this season.

Having retired from playing last season to run the team, Gillies is already one player down and a few of his veteran squad members will be used sparingly as they make way for the next generation.

Among the more promising youngsters are Gillies' own son, Ryan, and his nephew, John; adding to the Gillies clan in the first team, which already includes Willie's younger brother Neil, cousin Duncan and brother-in-law Ewan Neilson.

Gillies told The Oban Times: 'I am going to try and bring through as many young boys as we can and with the league restructuring likely to happen next season, this is the perfect opportunity to do that.'

'We have been pretty consistent in the past two seasons, finishing fourth in the league, and I would be happy with that again.'

Pre-season has gone well for the young Taynuilt team, who recently beat Invergarry away from home 2-0, thanks to goals from Willie Neilson and Mark Bergant.

Last season saw Taynuilt make continued progress since their return to the shinty leagues by reaching their first ever cup final.

Although the Celtic Society Cup final at Strachurmore against Inveraray ended in heavy defeat, the cup run reignited interest in the sport in the village and allowed the young team to gain big-game experience.

One to watch: Steven Parr - since moving from half back to centre in pre-season, he has impressed team-mates and supporters alike and seems to have found his calling in the middle of the park. Highly-rated teenager Fraser MacMillan could also play a bigger part in the first team this season.

Lochside Rovers

HAVING been forced into playing South Division Two shinty last season, Lochside will be eager to face up to a tougher level of competition in South Division One in 2013.

The inevitable exodus of talent to the senior Oban Camanachd team has not been too damaging on a squad that has regained three players at the expense of Taynuilt: Michael MacQueen, Scott Turnbull and Ewan MacCorquodale have all left the village side to help bolster the Oban squad.

The young Lochside also has a wealth of experience at the helm with Andrew Pearson on the sidelines, supported by player-coaches Christopher Ecclestone and Diarmid MacMillan.

Pearson said: 'Last Saturday was the first time we have had the full squad together and we beat Glenquhart's second team 5-0, so I am happy with how we are playing.'

'We have lost the likes of Craig 'Winky' MacDougall to Camanachd but we have a big enough squad this season.'

'We might not be eligible for promotion come the restructuring but we want to finish as high up the league as possible and I think we will take points off some of the senior teams in this league.'

'Hopefully we will have a couple of cup runs too; we have a good draw in the Sutherland Cup.'

One to watch: The energetic David Lafferty has impressed in pre-season after being moved to centre and youngster George MacMillan looks to be a good prospect.

Important shinty dates for the 2013 season

THE Camanachd Association has announced the key dates for shinty in 2013 including the season start date and the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final.

The dates for 2013 are as follows:

- Season start 2 March
- The MacFavish Cup Final 15 June at Bught Park, Inverness
- The AJG Parcels Celtic Cup Final 29 June
- The Balliemore Cup Final 13 July
- The Sutherland Cup Final 27 July
- The Artemis Macaulay Cup Final 17 August at Mossfield Stadium, Oban
- The Bullough Cup Final 31 August
- The Strathdearn Cup Final 31 August
- The Women's Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Finals 7 September
- The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final 14 September at An Aird, Fort William
- The Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International: Scotland v Ireland 20 October at Croke Park, Dublin and 26 October at Bught Park, Inverness.



Oban Celtic



Lochside Rovers



Strachur



Taynuilt



Bute



Kilmallie



Skye Camanachd



Kilmory



Glenorchy



Ballachulish - red strip



The Oban Times

Number 1 for shinty

Number 1 for shinty every week

Another long trip in the space of a week for Fort

'We should hopefully be a bit stronger for this weekend's trip to play Wick Academy'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William face a third arduous journey in the space of a week when they travel to take on league leaders Wick Academy on Saturday.

Manager Danny Conlon's small squad has been stretched to the limit in recent weeks, with an away game against Huntly last weekend followed by a trip to Nairn yesterday (Wednesday).

Missing out

Michael Gillespie, Andy Maclean and Sean Grant are expected to be involved for the game against Wick after missing out against Huntly. Conlon said he was actively

searching for a new goalkeeper after Inverurie Locos recalled on-loan goalkeeper Daniel Bell last week. The decision forced Conlon to choose Robert Lewandowski to play in goal against Huntly, despite the Pole working night shift the night before.

Strength
Conlon said: 'We are looking to strengthen that particular position. Robert played well considered he'd only had about two hours of sleep.'

'We were down to the bare bones. We should hopefully be a bit stronger for this weekend, but we really need to be close to full strength to get anything from the game.'

Chris Macleod played his first game since March 2012, and Lewis Corbett was thrust back

FOOTBALL

into the side after being out of action for a number of weeks. In a surprisingly even first half, Fort held their own but went into the break a goal down.

As the game wore on, Huntly superior strength showed and they ran out 3-0 winners, the loss leaving Fort four points adrift at the bottom of the league.

No complaints
Conlon said: 'I've got no real complaints about the result. We did well in the first half and there wasn't a lot of difference between the sides.'

A rollover jackpot of £500 is up for grabs in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw this weekend. Last weekend's numbers were 4, 5 and 17.



Fort forward Daniel Stewart battles with Beaulieu's Scott Macleod during the second half - 20_f09fort01

Shinty boys are prepared and ready for the off

FORT William's strong pre-season form continued with a 3-1 win over Beaulieu at a sun-drenched An Aird on Saturday. The good weather brought out a decent home support, but Beaulieu gave as good as they got for much of an open first half. Fort co-manager Adi Robertson was able to name a strong starting line up, with Scotland international forward Gary Innes making his first appearance in a Fort

William shirt since last July. Innes' musical commitments mean he will again miss much of the season, but said after the game he plans to play as often as he can.

Scotland under 21 international Stevie Stewart is being tipped to make a big impression in the Orion Premiership this season, and he enhanced his credentials with two well taken strikes against Beaulieu. His second of the game came with virtu-

SHINTY

ally the last hit of the game, with his shot flying into the top corner from around 20 yards out. Innes also scored, with Marc MacLachlan scoring for Beaulieu. New Fort captain Liam MacIntyre will lead his side out at Winterton Park to take on last year's Camanachd Cup runners up Inveraray this Saturday.

Primary cross country at Glencoe

CROSS COUNTRY

YOUNGSTERS from across south Lochaber took part in the third annual Nether Lochaber primary cross country competition in Glencoe last Wednesday.

Kinlochleven, Ballachulish, Glencoe, St Bride's and Duror primaries all sent team of four senior pupils to compete on a 1.8 mile course at the National Trust Centre.

St Bride's dominated the boys race, with Alex Dent winning in a time of 12 minutes and 30 seconds. His schoolmate Matthew Swingle was second, 1 minute and 2 seconds behind. Dan Maclean of Ballachulish was third in 14 minutes and 39 seconds.

The girls race saw Kinlochleven youngster Caitlin MacGillivray beat her schoolmate Courtney MacGregor by 10 seconds to take the win. Kate Leitch of Glencoe was 27 seconds back in third, in a time of 14 minutes and 30 seconds.

Active Schools co-ordinator Roz Newman thanked the volunteers who helped with the event.



Lachlan Veitch has enjoyed a good start to the year.

Lachlan picks up the silverware

A YOUNG Lochaber skier has represented Team GB under 16s in four competitions across Europe since the start of the year.

Lachlan Veitch, aged 15, took bronze in the Giant Slalom event in Chamonix in the French Alps before heading to Switzerland where he won gold in the Welsh Alpine Championships. The Torlundy youngster then

travelled to Andorra where he competed in the Slalom, Giant Slalom and SuperG, finishing fifth in his age group in the Slalom.

Short break
After a short break back at home, it was off to Slovenia and Croatia again with Team GB. In Slovenia a mistake in Slalom put him out of the race

SKIING

but in Giant Slalom he managed 11th place in the '98 category. In Croatia Lachlan managed sixth place in the Slalom and eight in Giant Slalom.

He is next due to compete in the British Championships in mid-March.

Lovat defeat Skye to win the Thomas Ferguson Cup

SHINTY

LOVAT won the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Cup for the third year in succession with a fine 3-0 win over Skye Camanachd at Paire nan Laoch in Portree on Saturday.

Greg Matheson got Lovat's opener with a smart turn and finish and was on the mark again soon after to earn his side a 2-0 lead at the break.

Skye fought hard to get a foothold in the match but Lorne MacKay's powerful 25-yard drive on 54 minutes put the issue beyond doubt.

The islanders came more into the game in the final half hour but Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald was never troubled.

Ally MacKinnon presented the Thomas Ferguson Cup to Lovat captain Calum Cruden. Allan MacKinnon was awarded the Glasgow Mid Argyll Shield after Lovat nominated him as Skye's best player.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae told The Oban Times after the game: 'It was quite a good performance from us and once we got the third goal that sealed it.'

Skye were a good physical and fit team - you always get a competitive game there.'



Lovat captain Calum Cruden lifts the Thomas Memorial Cup. Photo: The Tartan Lens

Tony hits top individual game

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER 11 weeks of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre Alleycats maintained their 10 point lead in the scratch division.

Council are second place on 41 points with Splitheds in third place on 36 points.

The handicap division is much closer with Alleycats leading on 37 points whilst Council move into second place just two points back. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio are third on 31 points.

Top individual scores this week came from Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with a scratch game of 193, handicap game of 220, two game scratch series of 347 and two game handicap series of 401.

Top team games of the week were 579 scratch from Alleycats and 781 handicap from Council. The best two game team series were from Council with 1,103 scratch, 1,517 handicap.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 166, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 152 and Colin Pinkett (Council) on 147.

Skye Sixes

GIRLS' SHINTY

Young female shinty players from across Skye competed in the island's first girls' shinty sixes competition in Portree High School.

North West Skye ran out winners ahead of the five other teams who took part on the day - South Skye, Elgol and Portree A, B and C.

Portree A met North West Skye in the final, with Catriona Martin scoring the winner to make the score 3-2 for North West - f09sixes1no

Lochaber at home to Uni Medics

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club will get the second half of the season underway when they welcome Aberdeen University Medics to Banavie on Saturday.

After a strong start to the season which saw them win their first five games, Lochaber's form slipped and they have now lost four of their last five league games.

The latest defeat was a narrow two point loss to Ross Sutherland in January, which saw Lochaber slip to seventh in RBS Caledonia regional league division two north.

Brave fightback not quite enough

SHINTY

KILMALLIE almost staged an almighty comeback against Kingussie after finding themselves 4-0 down at half time during Saturday's friendly.

But second half goals from Grant Mackenzie, Michael Rodger and Mark Graham weren't quite enough as Kings held out to lift the Festival Cup in front of their home fans.

Kilmallie start their Marine Harvest north division one campaign with a home game against Beaulieu on Saturday.

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If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, 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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Tobermory boy sets new Sports Hall Athletics record

Awards distributed to most parts of the county but organisers say 2012 could be the final year

Awards distributed to most parts of the county but organisers say 2012 could be the final year

THERE was an entry of 82 young athletes at the Argyll Final of Sports Hall Athletics held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban last Saturday, as an Argyll age record fell.

But despite a successful day, organiser Bill MacCallum hinted that this year's even could be the last and cited a lack of funding and support at some of the local area competitions as the reasons.

The final was the last in a series of five competitions held in Argyll over the winter months and promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club. After more than four hours of intense

competition the overall awards were distributed to most parts of the county with athletes from the Oban area winning three out of the nine titles. Kintyre and Mid Argyll dominated in the girls competitions with two titles each and shared the 5th age category. Oban won three of the boys' age categories and Mull won the remaining title in the boys under-11 contest.

The top performance of the day was provided by two young boys in the under-11 age group 4-lap race. James Henderson from Tobermory and Cameron Reid from Campbeltown had earlier contested the first running event

SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

of the day in the 2-lap event with James just winning in a very close finish in 24.5 seconds, only 0.2 slower than the Argyll age record.

More than three hours later they lined up against each other in the 4-lap event and it was an exceptional race with James and Cameron neck and neck all the way. Cameron had a slender lead at the last turn but James came through strong in the final 15 metres to win by a foot in an amazing 53.6 seconds, smashing the Argyll age record of 55.3 seconds set by Duncan MacLean from Connel in 2007.

Cameron's time of 53.8 seconds was also well inside the old record. James was the under-11 champion winning the long jump in addition to the two running events. Aaron MacKay from Dunbeg was runner-up, helped by a win in the standing triple jump and Shaun Doy from Ardrishaig Primary was 3rd overall with wins in the javelin and vertical jump.

Cameron Reid had energy left after his exhausting races to win

the high jump, clearing 1.18 metres and finished 4th overall and Sam Coates from Park Primary was the other winner in this section with success in the speed bounce.

Daniel Teape from Taynuilt was the under-9 champion, a few points ahead of Andrew Dott from Castlehill primary in Campbeltown. Daniel won six events outright and shared first place with Andrew in the high jump.

Daniel's best event was without doubt the standing long jump in which he cleared 1.90 metres equalling the record set by Ben Cathro almost 20 years ago. Andrew was second to Daniel in most events but won the javelin throwing 15.25 metres.

Paddy Dunne from Oban was a clear winner in the under-13s, winning six out of the eight events including a 8.16 metres shot putt.

Joseph Harper from Kilmartin was runner-up thanks to a win in the speed bounce and Sandy Welsh from Park Primary won the standing triple jump.



Boys winners were (left to right) Oban's Paddy Dunne, who took home the under 13s trophy, James Henderson from Tobermory won the under 11s, the under 15s category went to Ben Coates of Oban and the trophy for under nine was won by Taynuilt's Daniel Teape.



Girls winner were (back row) Lochgilphead's Olivia Kerr and Ashleigh Conner from Campbeltown, joint in under 15s, Kate Cameron, under 17s, and Jenny Semple, under 13s, both from Campbeltown. Front row, Karis Kidd from Ardrishaig won the under nine category while Jodie Robertson from Lochgilphead picked up the under 11s trophy.

Ben Coates from Oban High School dominated in the under-15 age group, winning seven events with some style but was not in record breaking mood this year.

Earlier in February Ben was placed 4th in the Scottish Under-16 Indoor Pentathlon Championship held in the new Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

Ben returns to the Emirates this Sunday to contest the 60 metres and 60-metre hurdles in the Scottish Under 16 Championships. Ross MacCrone from Tobermory was placed 2nd overall to Ben winning the shot putt and placing 2nd in four events.

Vertical jump
Karis Kidd from Ardrishaig primary was the under-9 girls champion with wins in the standing long jump, javelin and speed bounce. Karis was also 2nd in the 2-lap and 4-lap races, events won by Sophie Ralston from Salen, on Mull, who was placed 2nd on overall points. Sophie won the vertical jump and Amy Gibson from Bunnessan won the high jump and standing triple

jump. Jodie Robertson from Lochgilphead won the under-11 category winning the high jump, long jump and vertical jump. Runner-up Holly Robertson from Rockfield primary excelled in winning the 2-lap race in 26 seconds and 4-lap in 58.7. Hannah Teape from Taynuilt was 3rd overall and other event winners in this age group were Grace Thompson, Rockfield, in the javelin and triple jump and Emma Curtis from Lochgilphead won the speed bounce.

Jenny Semple, Campbeltown Grammar, was the under-13 winner excelling in the 2-lap and 4-lap events as well as the long and triple jumps. Another Kintyre girl Eilidh Anderson was 2nd overall with wins in the speed bounce and vertical jump. Molly Reade from Tobermory came close to equalling the Argyll age record in the high jump clearing 1.35 metres and failing at 1.38 metres. Another Tobermory girl Vaile Kennedy won the shot putt in this age group.

Olivia Kerr from Ardrishaig and Ashleigh Connor from

Campbeltown tied on points in the under-15s. The girls could not be separated in both the 2-lap and 4-lap races.

Ashleigh won the long, triple and high jumps in addition to the vertical jump reaching up to 55cm and very close to the Argyll age record. Olivia won the shot putt and Oban girl Emma Thompson won the speed bounce recording 80 jumps in 30 seconds.

Kate Cameron from Southend was the under-17 champion ahead of Sian Henderson from Salen on Mull.

Kate has been Argyll champion in every age group over the past nine years and her under-9 records in the standing long and triple jumps still stand.

Campbeltown Grammar retained the girls schools trophy and Oban High retained the boys trophy.

The organisers wish to thank all the young athletes and their parents for supporting the competition, especially the large numbers who travelled from Kintyre and Mull.

Athletic outgunned by Nia Roo

West of Scotland League Oban Athletic 1 Nia Roo 4

NEW MANAGER Calum Fox faced his toughest test yet as Oban Athletic hosted Nia Roo. Regarded as the best team in the league, Nia Roo had already beaten the hosts in the reverse fixture and the home team's instructions were to shut up shop for the first half hour in an attempt to frustrate their opponents.

The Athletic players may have taken their instruction too literally, as it was a full half hour before Niaroo took the lead with an expertly executed free kick from 30 yards out.

Worse was to follow in the 40th minute when Nia Roo took advantage of some poor Oban defending at another set piece to double their lead.

And Nia Roo built up a healthy 3-0 half-time lead with another goal on the stroke of half time.

Calum Fox made changes at half time, bringing on the pacey pairing of Kevin Keen and Ian MacInnes for Kris Gillies and Elliot Douglall.

This seemed to have brought Athletic back into the game, when Keen scored on the hour mark. Nia Roo also had a man sent off during a more competitive second half.

However, Nia Roo struck a lucky killer blow as Athletic pushed forward in an attempt to get back into the match. A long ball from the visitors' goalkeeper found their striker, whose shot hit the post and cannoned off Scott Maitland's back and into the net.

Athletic's Dougal Graham was also sent off for a second bookable offence.

Manager Fox was upbeat, despite the defeat. He said: "They were by far the better team in the first half but at half time I looked to expose their lack of pace at

the back by bringing on Ian and Kevin.

"That worked to an extent but you can see why they are the best team in the league and there was nothing we could have done about the free kick they scored.

"I am happy with how we competed and I can't fault anyone for effort.

"I think things are still going in the right direction and if we can get the same team for away matches as we do at home, I am confident of finishing the season in third place."

Midfielder Stephen Fox is likely to miss the next few games with a suspected tear in his calf muscle.

Oban Athletic defender Craig Campbell goes in to tackle this Nia Roo striker during last Saturday's match as Colin Carswell looks on.



Action shots from Oban Saints' youth team games played last weekend. Left: Ross MacMillan takes on a Drumchapel United defender in the Under-15 game. Saints lost 3-2 after extra time. Centre: Daniel MacCuish escapes the attention of these two PFD United players during the Under-13s match. Saints put up a brave show before going down 1-0 to a much bigger Clydebank team. Right: Jamie Easton fights for the ball during the Under-15s 3-1 defeat by Kilpatrick.

Gary's lead remains intact

CYCLING

KINLOCHLEVEN man Gary MacDonald secured an unassailable lead in West Highland Wheelers mountain biking winter series with a second place finish at Duror on Sunday.

MacDonald - better known for his exploits in the Scottish Six Days Trial - has recorded consistent results throughout the winter to take the win.

MacDonald finished 55 seconds behind Ewan Thorburn, whose time of 45 minutes was more than four minutes faster than his winning time from last year. Huw Oliver was third, 30 seconds back.

Emma Holgate won the ladies race with a time of 67 minutes and 17 seconds, while youngster Ben Miller's time of 49 minutes and 58 seconds was enough to give him fourth place overall.

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Lorne progress to national semi-final by the narrowest of margins

Green Machine given the fright of their lives as Loch Lomond stage dramatic fight-back

RBS West Bowl Final
Loch Lomond 21
Oban Lorne 22

MURRAYFIELD is in sight as Oban Lorne lifted the West Regional Bowl last Saturday at Bonhill - the first major trophy in their 50-year history.

The margin of victory was only the width of a rugby post after a late conversion attempt, that would have seen Lomond steal the trophy from their opponents, hit the upright, giving Lorne their one-point victory.

Oban had travelled with a strong squad and a small band of supporters but knew they would be in for a tough game after a narrow win over the same opposition at Glencruitten earlier in the season.

The home side made a better start to the game, dominating territory and possession while being backed by a big home crowd.

But Lomond didn't take advantage of this early pressure and failed to get onto the scoreboard; Oban drew first blood after 10 minutes with a well taken penalty from Craig Wright.

Lomond levelled the scores shortly after with a penalty of their own and the tension in the game was obvious as both teams struggled to get any rhythm in attack.

Oban Lorne, however, were the first to click and scored the first try of the match five minutes before halftime. The Green Machine seized possession on the Lomond line after some impressive play from a lineup on the 22. Tommy Sutherland bulldozed over under the posts

from two metres out to score. Wright again was successful with the boot to give a 10-3 lead. Lomond responded before halftime with a penalty to give a 10-6 advantage to Oban Lorne at the break.

Oban grew confident in the second half and, aided by an impressive scrum and lineout, found themselves with more of the ball and more pressure in the Lomond half.

The away side were rewarded with a try from captain Robin MacQueen after some good play from the Oban pack. The conversion was narrowly missed and Oban led 15-6.

Fast flowing

Oban were now looking comfortable and added to the scoreline with the best try scored by the Green Machine all season. A fast flowing move in the backline involving brothers Craig and Allan Wright, twins Struan and Cameron Smith and Connor Ferris was eventually finished off over the line by Oban stand-off Graham MacEachan. The added conversion meant that Oban led 22-6 and looked out of sight with 20 minutes to go.

This is where the game got interesting. Loch Lomond suddenly upped their game, knowing they had nothing to lose and mounted a superb comeback with three unconverted tries.

Oban Lorne, who had been more than comfortable only moments before, were becoming a shambles in defence and were completely on the back foot.

Luck was on Oban's side as they had the posts to thank for

RUGBY

a Lomond conversion striking off the upright to deny the hosts the lead.

Oban battled hard in the dying minutes as the home side looked certain to score on several occasions. Try-saving tackles from Struan Smith, Cammy Smith and man-of-the-match Allan Wright denied the hosts a match-winning score while the game remained in the balance right up until the final whistle.

As the referee's watch went past the 80-minute mark the drama continued as Oban had a kick charged down, resulting in a Lomond break away.

Thankfully for Oban the ball was knocked into touch and the final whistle was blown. Oban Lorne were West Bowl Champions.

A relieved Oban team were presented with the West Bowl by former SRU president Jim Stevenson. The win means Oban Lorne move into the national semi-finals and will face Grangemouth, Kinloss, or Broughton. A win in the next game will see the team reach finals day at Murrayfield.

Oban Lorne are back in West Division 3 action next Saturday as they look increase their lead at the top of the league. Paisley are the visitors to Glencruitten with kick off at 3pm.

Oban Lorne (West Bowl winners 2013): L. Burns, R. MacQueen, T. Sutherland, J. MacMillan, L. MacLachlan, S. Smith, A. MacDougall, C. Louw, F. Matheson, G. MacEachan, C. Ferris, C. Smith, R. Wright, A. Wright, C. Wright.
Subs: M. Downie, D. Williams, R. Anderson, C. MacLean and D. Kemp.



Adding the West Bowl to the Oban Lorne trophy cabinet are, from left: club president Dee Bradbury, team manager Darrell Williams, head coach Corrie Louw and Allan Wright, man of the match in the cup final. 15_109westbowl03

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 0, PFD United 1; Antonine 0, Under 14s 3. On target for Saints were Jay Cooper, Ben Coates and Lomond MacPherson. Under 15s 2, Drumchapel United 3. Scoring for Saints were Stuart MacLean and Ross MacMillan. Under 16s 1, Kilpatrick 3. Saints goalscorer was Stephen McMullen.

Next weekend's fixtures: Ardencaple v Under 13s; Clydebank v Under 14s; Under 15s v Castle Rock; Helensburgh v Under 16s.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

WINTER League Week 8, played February 24: 1 Norman MacDonald 37 pts; 2 David Johnston 36 pts; 3 Ruairaidh MacIntyre 36 pts. 72 css.

SAFL results and upcoming fixtures

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: West of Scotland Cup, 3rd round - Oban Saints v Pollok, postponed; Premier Division 2 - Carlton YM v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Division 1A - Port Glasgow United 5, Tarbert 2; Division 1B - Lochgilphead Red Star 2, Bothwell and Uddingston Albion 0.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup 7th round - Colville Park v Oban Saints; Coronation Cup quarter final - Tarbert v Easthall Star; Premier Division 2 - Clydebank v Campbeltown Pupils; Dunoon v Carlton YM; Division 1B - Goldenhill v Lochgilphead Red Star.

Oban Pool League

POOL

RESULTS: Cellar 6, Lancaster A 4; Lancaster B 6, Kelvin 4; Lochavullin 6, Claredon 4; Lochnell 6, Markie Dans B 4; Markie Dans A 6, Gluepot 4.

Fixtures: Gluepot v Lochavullin; Lancaster A v Markie Dans A; Cellar v Lochnell; Claredon v Lancaster B; Markie Dans B v Kelvin.

Atlantis Leisure Indoor League

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atlantis	8	8	0	0	24
Oban Times	9	6	0	3	18
Carpet Fitters	7	6	0	1	18
RM Builders	7	6	0	1	18
Oban HS	8	5	1	2	16
Handy Men	9	3	0	6	9
Stoddarts T&T	7	2	1	4	7
Glenorchy	9	2	0	7	6
Royal Hotel	8	1	0	7	3
OES	8	0	0	8	0

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New trial format at doubles

BOWLS

THE ANNUAL open doubles competition held in Connel Village Hall on February 16 was well supported with 30 pairs taking part.

The new trial format with a start time of 3pm was successful and enjoyed by bowlers from a wide area, each pair playing three games before reaching a semi final for the Falls of Lora Shield and prize money.

Results: Semi-final pairs - John Aitken and Alec Allan, Carluke, versus Sandy Carr and Iain Boyd, Connel; Iain and Ronald MacMillan, North Connel, versus Adrian MacKay and Colin Clark, Cairnbaan.

Final - John and Alec lost to Adrian and Colin.



Winners Colin Clark and Adrian MacKay, centre, with runners-up John Aitken and Alec Allan.

Tough test for Saints in Scottish Cup last 16

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team head for Motherwell this Saturday when they take on Colville Park in the last 16 of the Scottish Amateur Cup. The game will be played at Colville Park Country Club with a 2pm kick-off.

This will be a tough test for the Oban side as Colville Park sit top of the Central Scottish League Premier Division, not having lost a game this season, but Saints manager Iain Jackson is confident his team can get a result.

'We know this is going to be tough as Colville are one of the best teams in the country, packed with players who have played at a high level, both amateur and junior, but if all our lads play as they can do we are capable of beating anybody on the day.'

'We met Colville a few years ago in the Scottish Cup, drawing the first game in Oban and beating them down in Motherwell in the replay, so we know it can be done.'

The full 7th round draw: Bank Street Athletic v Wellhouse; Campsie Minerva v Hurlford Thistle; Colville Park v Oban Saints; Drumchapel v Cambusnethan Talbot; Greenock HSPF v Dumbarton Academy FP; Shotts Victoria v Cupar Hearts; Star Hearts v Giffnock North; Westerlands v Auldhouse.

Last Saturday's West of Scotland Cup 3rd round tie between Saints and Pollok had to be called off after a pitch inspection found Glen 2 to be frozen.

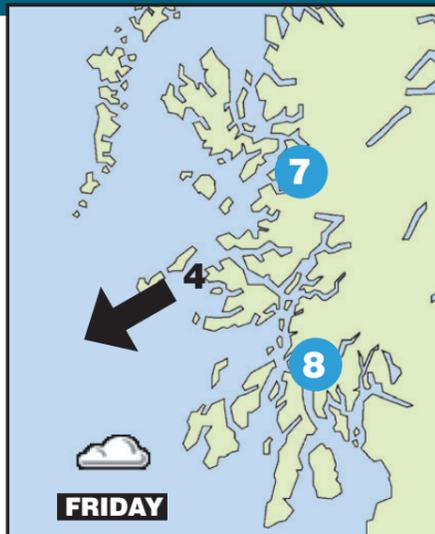
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light, north north westerly
Temperatures 3C to 8°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds light, east north easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds light west north westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 28, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.02 0.5 07.02 4.0 13.30 0.8 19.19 3.9	
Fri	01.37 0.5 07.33 4.0 14.01 0.8 19.53 3.8	
Sat	02.15 0.6 08.09 3.8 14.37 1.0 20.32 3.6	
Sun	02.59 0.8 08.49 3.6 15.22 1.2 21.17 3.4	
Mon	03.52 1.1 09.38 3.3 16.22 1.4 22.15 3.2	
Tues	05.00 1.3 10.46 3.0 17.43 1.6 23.45 3.0	
Wed	06.23 1.5 13.01 2.8 19.11 1.6 ** ** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.



Great Mother's Day gift ideas

see inside

Mother's Day Madness
MUMS GO FREE
see page 12

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The Oban Times

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Thursday 28 February, 2013

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Inside this week

Work starts on new 'blue light' centre



Teams ready for start of the new shinty season



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Lochaber Curling Club member Jo Cowan shows just what it means to be curling again on outside ice for the first time in 35 years. 20_09curling02

Delight as curling returns to Lochaber

'THE ROARING Game' returned to Fort William on Tuesday afternoon as Lochaber Curling Club enjoyed a match on outside ice for the first time since 1979. The recently restored curling ponds in Glen Nevis regular hosted curling games in years gone by - and echoed once again to granite stones rumbling up the 30-metre rink. Club members piped water up from the nearby River Nevis hoping for a hard overnight freeze - and were rewarded with a solid two-inch layer of perfect ice by morning.

A 'house' of concentric rings was quickly marked out at either end of the rink using a peg, string and a nail and action soon got underway. At stake was the Spean Curling Club Members Cup, a trophy donated by local doctor's wife Mrs Connachie in 1948. According to local legend, the cup was payment from a local man who could not pay his medical bills. Club member Dr Chris Robinson told *The Oban Times*: 'There's quite a lot of excitement today. It's the traditional way to play the game, after all.'

Court hears sister's claim over ordeal allegations

Woman says teenager was 'a mess'

A WOMAN has told how she found her teenage sister 'in a mess' after an alleged drunken attack by her then boyfriend in his Caol home.

Jenna MacKay told Fort William Sheriff Court the 17-year-old woman was in tears with a black eye and cuts and bruises when she emerged from Alexander Williamson's house. The teenager claims Williamson strangled her, stubbed out a cigarette out on her hand and set her clothes on fire in the early hours of June 23 last year.

He also poured Irn Bru, cider and aftershave over her head and punched and slapped her on the face during the three-hour ordeal, the woman said.

Mrs MacKay, 27, picked her sister up just hours after the incident and said she was 'shocked' when she saw her.

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

She said: 'She was crying, she had a big black eye and she was wearing men's clothes. Her hair was hard as if something had dried in it and it was stinking of drink. She was just a mess.'

Police constable Shirley Hastings, who visited Mrs MacKay's home that morning, said the teenager was 'emotionally shaken up'.

She said: 'She seemed to be in a state of shock. She was crying and shaking almost uncontrollably.'

But Williamson, 23, denies assaulting the woman, instead claiming she 'went crazy' after being accused of cheating and attacked him.

He said she hit him on the head with a bottle of aftershave, threw a 5kg lifting weight at

his leg and kicked him. During a police interview, Williamson said claims he had attacked the woman were 'lies' but refused to answer when asked about her injuries.

Police photographs showed both partners suffered several cuts and bruises.

PC Hastings said Williamson had been asked about making an allegation of assault against the woman, but chose not to give a statement.

She said Williamson, of 4 Glenmalie Terrace, was 'intoxicated' when they arrived at his house and they had to drag him out from underneath a bed.

He was taken to Belford Hospital for treatment for his injuries, which included a broken finger, a bruised ankle and two black eyes.

The trial is due to continue on March 25.

Mountain death toll rises to six

THE DEATH toll on Lochaber's mountains rose to six in the past five weeks when a climber was killed on Ben Nevis on Monday.

The man, believed to be from England, was ascending Raeburn's Buttress with a friend when he fell 50 metres to his death around 12.30pm.

Rescue helicopters from RAF Lossiemouth and HMS Gannet at Prestwick, assisted by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team evacuated the body.

John Stevenson, Lochaber MRT leader, said the man fell from a steep snow slope during the Grade 4 winter climb.

Mr Stevenson told *The Oban Times*: 'It was an unfortunate accident. They were climbing together and were pretty well equipped.'

'It was a mixed climb of rock, ice and snow - that's the trouble at this time of year. Climbing conditions are so good just now and the place is really busy. People are still going to go out and they just have to take care.'

Police are carrying out inquiries into the incident.

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'The man will not be identified until all next of kin have been informed.'

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.'

The tragedy followed a serious incident on the Ben on Sunday, when a climber broke both ankles in 30-metre fall from a snow cornice just metres from the top.

Lochaber MRT hoisted the casualty up to the summit plateau for him to be airlifted to hospital.



Raasay dismisses buy-out suggestion

RAASAY people have dismissed a suggestion by local MSP Dave Thompson they should seek to buy the island to force a Scottish government rethink on awarding the Raasay sporting lease to an Ayrshire stalking partnership.

Last week it emerged civil servants in Edinburgh had rejected an £1,150 bid from Raasay Crofters' Association for shooting and fishing rights in favour of Girvan-based South Ayrshire Stalking's £3,000 - despite Scottish ministers 'not being obliged to accept the highest offer'.

The association had held the rights for the past 18 years and invested in deer fencing, management training and chilling facilities.

Venison products were sold through the island shop, while shooting and stalking parties provided a further economic boost.

The decision to award the rights to an absentee bidder prompted furious accusations that the government was no better than past rapacious landlords who stripped Raasay of its people and

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

resources. Now Mr Thompson - who opposes the move - has written to the government advocating it helps Raasay people with a community buyout, if that is what they want.

He said: 'The community numbers currently around 140 with many strong folk who could successfully lead a buyout. Who knows, if the example of Gigha is followed, the island population could maybe get back close to what it was 100 years ago.'

But Anne Gillies, secretary of Raasay Crofters' Association, dismissed the idea as 'a total distraction'.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'There's a saying that if your roof is leaking you ask your landlord to fix it - you don't start negotiations to buy the house.'

'So we are not jumping up and down saying 'what a good idea'. We have not discussed it but I

don't believe for a second there's any interest on the island.' She added: 'This was a bit of a blunder [by the Scottish Government] and you just want them to sort things out - not change everything around.'

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse has told officials that in future ministers must approve any removal of community-operated leases.

That has not appeased the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF), which called for the decision to be reversed.

SCF chairman Derek Flynn said: 'We are stunned that all the benefit this brought to Raasay has been undone by the stroke of a pen of a faceless civil servant in Edinburgh. Depriving the community of an important aspect of their livelihood contradicts the Scottish Government's stated objective of strengthening communities.'

'Clearly an error has been made here and the Minister has been forced to defend the actions of his officials.'

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Workers tackle icy steps

WORK is underway to sort out surface drainage problems in a Fort William housing scheme after complaints streets and pavements ice up in freezing weather.

Last week *The Oban Times* reported how Vincent 'Rusty' Duncan fell on ice coming down steps from Argyll Terrace. And home carer Jennifer Bell said an 84-year-old female client could not leave her home because of skating rink conditions.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'We are trying to establish the source of the water seepage and to remedy the situation.'

'A contractor started on site this week and work may last until Monday at least. It is not known where the seeping water is coming from so it is not possible to estimate how long the job will take.'

Company works with tennis ace on new project

THE COMPANY running Inverloch Castle Hotel near Fort William has added another client to its portfolio - US Open and Olympic tennis champion Andy Murray.

Inverloch Castle Management International (ICMI) will manage Cromlix House Hotel in Kinbuck, Dunblane, on the sports star's behalf.

Mr Murray bought the hotel, which closed last February, for an undisclosed sum and plans to transform it into a 15-room five-star destination.

Benbecula police in fireraising witness appeal

POLICE in Benbecula are appealing for witnesses after an attempted fireraising at a house in the Meall Ard area of Balivanich on Benbecula on Friday.

The inside of the front door was set alight sometime between 5.15pm and 6pm and was extensively damaged, police said.

The porch area was also damaged and there was smoke damage within the house. No-one was injured as a result of the fire. Anyone with information is urged to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Neil 'Peels' Maclean. Man's body recovered from Stornoway field

THE BODY of a 37-year-old Stornoway man was recovered from a field yards from home on Sunday morning.

Police, coastguard volunteers and Stornoway Lifeboat were all involved in the search for Neil Maclean, known locally as 'Peels', since he was reported missing from his home in Parkend. No-one had been in contact with Mr Maclean since around 1.30am on Friday.

A police spokesperson said: 'There are no suspicious circumstances. Police thank all involved for their assistance in the search.'

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.



Councillor Brian Murphy, Chief Constable George Graham and Scottish Ambulance Service chairman David Garbutt get work underway on the new joint police and ambulance HQ.

Work starts on new 'blue light' centre

Joint HQ for police and ambulance service

WORK on a new joint police and ambulance headquarters for Lochaber is underway, heralding greater integration of local 'blue light' services.

The £4.7 million Northern Joint Police Board project on the Blar Mhor development site will replace the area command police building on Fort William High Street.

It will also house the Scottish Ambulance Service, which will move from its base at Inverloch to a purpose-built station within the new building.

The location, two miles outside Fort William next to the A830 to Mallaig, allows for fast access to trunk roads, including the A82 half a mile to the east.

Police board member, Fort William and Ardnamurchan Councillor Brian Murphy cut the first turf on Monday, along with Northern Constabulary Chief Constable George Graham and

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Scottish Ambulance Service chairman David Garbutt.

Councillor Murphy said: 'The new Fort William Police Station represents the Northern Joint Police Board's ongoing commitment to policing in Lochaber.'

'The station will also house the Scottish Ambulance Service who will be moving from their Inverloch base.'

'This is an excellent example of collaborative working, which provides best value for the people of Fort William and the surrounding area.'

He added: 'This will be a state-of-the-art building which will provide a much improved base from which to operate efficiently and make maximum use of police resources in Lochaber.'

Graham MacLeod, Scottish Ambulance Service head of

services northwest, said: 'The new location is ideal and offers direct access to the main road, which will improve response times.'

'The inclusion of training and conference rooms will support the continued professional development of ambulance staff and Fort William will become a training centre within the region.'

Around 30 ambulance staff, three ambulances, an officer response car and three patient transport vehicles will be based at the station.

Sustainable heating systems in the new police HQ mean it will be a third cheaper to run than the present building in Fort William.

Additional functions include a new trucks road patrol group (Roads Policing Unit) and a modernised cell block with video consultation facilities.

Blanka's hair stunt raises £400

A CAOL woman has had her long dark hair shaved off to raise money for a cancer charity.

Blanka Maclean, originally from Poland, decided to raise money for Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK after her mother died from lung cancer.

Blanka admitted to feeling 'a bit stressed' before the electric razor was turned on, but afterwards was a bit more relaxed.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I feel fine. I quite like it actually. I wanted to do this because my mum died of cancer in 2010, and Dr Craig MacMillan and everyone at Glen Mor Medical Centre was really good with us.'

The shorn hair will be sent to

the charity and used to create a wig for a cancer patient.

Friends and co-workers of Blanka from Sammy's Fish and Chip Shop came along to Caol Cuts to support her as hairdresser June MacLeod first snipped off her ponytail before shaving her head.

Adam Ramsey from Lochaber Together also lent his support. He said: 'I'd like to thank her because it's people like her that are helping us to raise money in Lochaber.'

More than £400 has been raised so far, with donations still coming in. To support Blanka visit www.justgiving.com/Lochaber-Together-blanka.



Blanka before having her hair shaved off. 20_f09hair02



Blanka and her shorn ponytail, with Anne Mulhern from Lochaber Together and hairdresser June MacLeod. 20_f09hair01

Acharacle Community Council avoids axe

FEARS that Acharacle Community Council would fall into abeyance have been allayed after nominations for interim elections closed last week.

However, David Ogg was the only person to

put his name forward to Highland Council and his election means ACC's membership is now back up to four - the minimum allowed under the constitution.

The maximum membership is eight.

Euro cash cut fears for Highlands and Islands

MSP claims Scotland could lose 30 per cent of its share

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands could face huge cuts in vital funding under possible changes to the way Westminster distributes European cash.

Earlier this month, the European Council agreed a cut of six per cent in UK structural funds from 2013-2020.

A proportionate cut to Scotland's share was expected, but it has emerged the UK Tory-LibDem Coalition Government could switch to a standard allocation system used elsewhere in the EU.

The previous UK administration applied its own policy of favouring Scotland and the north of England because of their greater relative need.

The Highlands and Islands did well - securing Euro cash for projects ranging from A830 improvements at Arisaig to Uist Wool's spinning mill at Grimsay.

Critics say the new arrangements, if adopted, could see funding diverted to the southeast of England - costing Scotland an estimated £300 million over the seven-year period.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson claims Scotland could potentially lose

30 per cent of its share - with the Highlands and Islands particularly badly affected.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The Scottish Government and local MSPs are doing everything we can but until Scotland becomes independent this issue is the responsibility of the UK Government and Westminster.'

'Nothing has yet been finalised and the Scottish Government has secured discussions with Westminster where they will press for a fairer distribution of these funds, which is a constructive step forward.'

'However, this will clearly have a major impact in places like the Highlands, and it is essential everyone is doing their bit to ensure the area is not left bearing the brunt of disproportionate funding cuts.'

A Scotland Office spokesman said: 'The structural funds allocations within the UK for the next financial perspective have not been set. Officials in Defra and BIS are working with Scottish Government officials on what this will mean for funds through CAP and Structural Funds.'

Caol man admits slapping former partner in her home

A CAOL man slapped his former partner during an argument in her house.

Daniel Cameron, of 29 Camaghael Road, pled guilty

to assaulting the woman at an address on Mamore Crescent on January 12. The 38-year-old was fined £180 at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Oban Times newsdesks

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Jail warning for Fort assault man

A FORT William man has been warned he could face prison after admitting drunkenly attacking a man who owed him money.

Philip McDonagh pled guilty to dragging the man out of his bed before repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body.

The victim of the assault was left with broken ribs and was kept in hospital overnight.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said witnesses heard McDonagh, aged 37, banging on the door of a house in Foyers Road, Kinlochleven, and saying he was owed money. Ms Wylie said: 'A lot of alcohol had been taken by all parties involved.'

McDonagh, of Orchy Villa, Alma Road, also admitted struggling with police officers and repeatedly shouting and swearing at them during the incident, which occurred on August 31.

Deferring sentencing for reports until March 27, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'It is a serious matter and custody is certainly an option here.'

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3,000 tenants set to lose out under 'bedroom tax'

AROUND 3,000 council house tenants in Highland, or 23 per cent, are set to lose out under the UK Government's 'bedroom tax', it has emerged.

The controversial welfare change, which comes into effect on April 1, cuts payments to social housing tenants deemed to be under-occupying their home.

Latest figures show the Highlands will lose £2 million per year in housing benefit entitlement - prompting fears of higher rent arrears, more homelessness and greater pressure on housing lists.

Highland Council has changed its allocations policy to make it easier for people to move to a smaller house - but demand far outstrips supply. In AIness, for example, an estimated 136 tenants affected by the bedroom tax would be assessed as requiring a one-bedroom house - but only 13 such properties were available last year.

The council's welfare reform working group held face-to-face talks with the

region's three Lib Dem MPs on Friday to air its concerns.

Councillor Alasdair Christie told Danny Alexander, Charles Kennedy and John Thurso, the bedroom tax was 'the single biggest immediate concern' facing tenants.

He said: 'While I understand the need to reform the welfare system, the government's proposals, in their current form, unfairly discriminate against the most vulnerable individuals in society. We cannot meet existing demand for one bedroom houses and will not be able to transfer all tenants affected by the 'bedroom tax' to the right size of house.'

He added: 'The working group was pleased to hear that the MPs will take every opportunity to speak further with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith about the adverse impacts for rural councils such as Highland and consider the suggestions for improvement we have made.'

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Gleaner's - local to you

Satellite Broadband package up for grabs in community competition

The Oban Times has teamed up with Avonline Broadband to offer a satellite broadband package to a community group on the west coast.

Avonline Broadband's latest satellite package brings speeds up to 20Mbps to communities that either don't get or have access to land-line based broadband.

Using Ka-band technology, the system overcomes many of the traditional challenges faced by previous satellite broadband services by improving reliability, speed and the quality of connection.

All that is required to secure a connection to the service is a south-facing view of the sky above 26 degrees and a small, 74cm dish.

No telephone line is required, meaning there is no line rental charge to add to the cost.

Among those impressed by the new system after getting a hands-on trial of the new system at Broadford on Skye is Dave Thompson, the MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch. He said: 'I was very impressed with the speed on offer. This new standard of satellite

broadband addresses many of the problems experienced with the medium in the past, and will broaden access to broadband particularly in remote and rural areas.'

We have teamed up with Avonline to offer one community group to have one 20Mbps system installed free of charge, complete with a free 12 month contract.

With a monthly data allowance of 30GB, the package would be ideal for a community centre in a remote area.

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If you think your community group or organisation would benefit from the system, please complete the form below and attach a separate sheet to tell us, in no more than 200 words, why your group needs the package.

Forms must be returned by Friday 22nd March, 2013.

For more information on the system, log on to www.avonlinebroadband.co.uk.



Real sustainable economic growth could come to Oban via its terrific maritime assets and heritage. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Oban Bay development may gain public funding

'Marine facility will go ahead that will change Oban forever'

PLANS to install a marina in Oban Bay are almost certain to go ahead after a proposal to use public funds for the facility was put forward.

A project which will see Oban's North Pier turned into a 'marine leisure quarter' will be looked at by Argyll and Bute Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Lachie Beaton, senior development manager with HIE, described the news as a positive step.

He said: 'It has been going forward slowly but this is a stage where everyone has decided something can happen.'

'My understanding is that it will be a smaller scale than what Oban Bay Marine were putting forward, the number of berths will be reduced and it will be purely a summer transit facility with no winter berthing.'

It is understood funds from the council and HIE will be used to plan and construct the project with the day to day running then

being handed over to a community group.

This is most likely to be Oban Bay Marine, which has been working on the project since 2007. A spokesman for the organisation said: 'I'm confident that a marine facility will go ahead that will change Oban forever and enhance the commercial viability of the town centre.'

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee, chairwoman of the Oban CHORD project board which is working on the project, said: 'I

can say that all stakeholders have emerged from this exercise with a broader view on how best to secure real sustainable economic growth for Oban via its terrific maritime assets and heritage.'

The transit facility would provide accessible step-ashore provision and be linked to a redevelopment of the white building as an orientation point for visitors and visiting sailors including the provision of toilets and showers.

Graham MacQueen, whose

charitable trust currently has occupancy of the white building, has welcomed the plans to redevelop it.

He said: 'We have long recognised that this building is far too good to be a charity shop, it is one of the most fantastic sites in Oban.'

'We are really pleased that the council gave it to us free of charge for so many years but I think the marine facility would be a fantastic use of the building.'

Ex-bowling alley could be multi-storey car park says councillor

A DISUSED bowling alley in Oban could be the answer to Oban's parking problems, according to a local councillor.

Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader, Roddy McCuish, suggested the Harbour Bowl on Shore Street could be knocked down with serious interest in buying the building apparently limited.

Suggesting building a multi-storey car park on the site, he said capacity for 2-300 spaces could potentially generate up to £3million for the town over five years.

With buses already stopping adjacent to the site on a regular basis, Mr McCuish said the vacant building represented a missed opportunity for the area.

Speaking at Monday's meeting of Oban Community Council, he said: 'The bowling alley will never be resurrected. It's a white elephant. In my view that would be an ideal spot for a car park.'

The idea was well received by community councillors, but fellow councillor Louise Glen-Lee added that someone was looking at the possibility of buying the building (See page 2 for full story).

Meanwhile, Mr McCuish has said he thinks existing rates exemption for vacant premises should be capped to stop property developers making profit from empty buildings.

He said: 'Personally, I think that should last at most three to five years. It should never be profitable to keep a building empty.'

Man charged after near head-on crash with police car

A 21-YEAR-old man has been charged with reckless driving after allegedly travelling at excessive speed and having a near head on collision with a marked police car between Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy.

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Isle of Colonsay backs fish farm proposal at ballot box

'This decision will bring much-needed jobs'

RESIDENTS on Colonsay have voted to back a proposed fish farm development off the north east coast of the island.

Results of a ballot were announced on Tuesday and revealed a majority of 60.9 per cent were in favour of the plan by Marine Harvest, which would create four new jobs.

But opponents had criticised the lack of detail in the impact on the environment.

The ballot, conducted by the Electoral Reform Society, asked islanders:

Are you in favour of Marine Harvest establishing a fish farm off the coast of Colonsay?

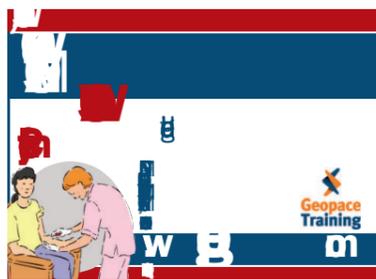
Of the 121 eligible voters, 110 turned out to cast their vote, with the 'yes' vote coming out on top by 67 to 43.

Colonsay Community Council has welcomed the decision. Secretary Mike McNicholl said: 'This decision will bring much-needed new jobs and the first big industry to the island.'

'We now hope to work closely with Marine Harvest to secure the maximum benefits for our community from this exciting new venture.'

'The company are aware of the concerns of the significant minority who voted against the proposal and have already assured us they will address these issues so we can all work together for the greater good of the island.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'The important thing is that following a well conducted ballot and robust debate that the community can move forward positively to the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.'



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Under new ownership since the 10th of December 2012 the recently refurbished Taynuilt hotel will be reopening on the 1st of March.

New owner's John McNulty and Rachel Bromelow will be running the hotel, and head chef John's menu has a real emphasis on local and seasonal produce. We aim to provide excellent service and a first class dining experience.

The hotel has undergone a complete transformation, with recently refurbished Public bar and brand new kitchen. The lounge has also been redesigned to create a bright and modern dining area. So far, 5 bedrooms have been updated and redecorated, with the remaining rooms still to work on.

www.taynuilt-hotel.co.uk
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To make a room or restaurant booking call 01866 822437

ROCK UP IN RED
to Keep Well with Local Produce KINTYRE, ISLAY & GIGHA

LOCAL PRODUCE, Kintyre has teamed up with NHS Highland as part of their Rocking Red Heart Roadshow to promote the health benefits of using good wholesome local food. Events will be held in local Community Gardens with trained staff on hand.

THE BARROW BAND will perform and sing LIVE bringing the magic, history and beauty of fruit, vegetables, animals and minerals to the world based around a market barrow.

An Argyll based CHEF will cook samples of good, local food on the day and demonstrate how cooking fresh foodstuffs is easier and more nutritious than frozen or preserved produce.

It's also about raising awareness of the KEEP WELL, coming soon to Campbeltown, Dunoon & Oban. Keep Well health checks can make a positive difference to your health as well as cutting the possible risk of heart disease. Visit www.KeepWellScotland.org.uk for more info.

Thursday 7th March - Benderloch Farmer's Market, Oban (11am - 3pm)
Monday 11th March - Campbeltown Community Orchard & Garden (2pm - 6pm)
Tuesday 12th March - Cafebarge, Tarbert (11am - 3pm)
Wednesday 13th March - Bowmore Primary School, Islay (11am - 3pm)
Tuesday 19th March - Bute Produce (next to Rothessy Joint Campus) (2pm - 6pm)
Wednesday 20th March - Argyll Gardens, Dunoon (11am - 3pm)

NHS Highland
LOCAL PRODUCE
Telephone: 07500 677651 • Email: localproduceargyll@gmail.com
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Findlay Maclean and Lyndsay Brown from Caol Co-op with Lochside Fair Trade committee members Kiah Ferreira, Tegan Dennison, Rhianna Drummon and Jazmin McFauld. 20_10910y01

Fun and face painting as Lochside Primary marks Fair Trade Fortnight

Caol Co-op lends support with presentation to the children

LOCHSIDE RC Primary School marked the start of Fair Trade Fortnight with a presentation from Caol Co-op team manager Findlay Maclean and team leader Lyndsay Brown on Monday.

The children sampled various foods, discovered where they are grown and

how Fair Trade prices helps improve producers' living conditions in developing countries.

Fair Trade activities at Lochside include a special tuck shop, a gift shop, art, maths, geography and language work, a recipe book, face painting and a play. Jazmin MacFauld of the pupils' Fair

Trade Committee said: 'It was really good of Findlay and Lyndsey to give up their time to come and speak to us. We enjoyed it very much and we loved the chocolate samples.' Lochside Primary has been supporting Fair Trade for many years and is a Fair Trade status school.

A85 resurfacing will slow Oban -Tyndrum traffic

MOTORISTS are being asked to leave extra time when travelling between Oban and Tyndrum as road surfacing is due to take place.

The work, on the A85 five kilometres east of Dalmally, is due to take place from 7am to 7pm, February 25 to March 8.

Man arrested after speeding at Bridge of Orchy

POLICE arrested a 33-year-old man at Bridge of Orchy after he was stopped from driving at almost double the legal speed limit.

The man is alleged to have travelled at 57mph in a 30mph limit.

Councillor Scoullar did vote on care home issue

IN LAST week's Oban Times it was indicated that Argyll and Bute councillor Len Scoullar had abstained in the vote over proposals for a conditional closure of Struan Lodge care home.

Councillor Scoullar had in fact voted with the opposition's unsuccessful amendment, against the administration, and was one of the 16 votes to its 17.

The Oban Times would like to apologise to Councillor Scoullar for this error.

Motorcycle rider charged after failing to stop

A 19-YEAR-old man has been charged with driving a motorcycle recklessly at speeds in excess of 65mph and failing to stop for police on Glengallan Road, Oban on February 22.

Important visitor to tourism summit

ONE OF Scotland's foremost figures in tourism will travel to Bute next month to address delegates at Argyll and the Isles Tourism Summit.

Stephen Leckie, chairman of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, will visit the event on the last day of Scottish Tourism Week.

Mike Story executive director of the summit's organisers, Argyll and the Isles Tourism, will be master of ceremonies at the event, which takes place at Mount Stuart on March 13.

The theme of the event is 'Turning Assets into Experiences' and the programme will consist of a showcase of local tourism activity to date, including the launch of the 'Uniquely Argyll' website, followed by a networking lunch, featuring regional produce.

Driver allegedly caused Kilmelford accident

POLICE have charged a 43-year-old man with reckless driving after he allegedly drove into oncoming traffic near Kilmelford. Another vehicle took evasive action and ended up in a ditch.

Two charged with drink driving

TWO MEN were charged with being drunk in charge of their vehicles in the early hours of Saturday, February 23 near Dalmally.

The men, both aged 28, have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Fire and rescue call handling questioned after Benderloch incident

THE WAY Strathclyde Fire and Rescue responds to emergency calls in the Lorn area has been questioned after crews in Kinlochleven and Bridge of Orchy were called to a shout in Benderloch instead of the nearby Appin crew.

The call to Lochnell Primary School at 8.38pm on February 14 turned out to be a false alarm and was quickly attended to by an appliance from Oban.

But questions have been raised over the mobilisation of the two support crews - the retained Kinlochleven station, which is not part of the Strathclyde region, is at least 40 minutes from Benderloch, while Bridge of Orchy, which has only been given retained status as part of a trial, is around one hour away.

Meanwhile the volunteer crew based at Appin, 15 minutes away, was not called to the incident.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Fire and Rescue said: 'This was part of a trial programme of dynamic mobilisation whereby Bridge of Orchy was acting as a regular pump.'

'Appin was not mobilised because they are a volunteer crew. Volunteer crews won't have the same skill set, so the most appropriate resource was mobilised, rather than the closest.'



Ernie Ripley, with his dog Laddie, pictured on Shuna Island.

Survivor Ernie remembered Navy training

A 74-YEAR-old shepherd who was pulled from Loch Linnhe after his boat capsized called on his National Service training to stay alive before his dramatic rescue.

Shepherd Ernie Ripley, who was in the Royal Navy between 1957 - 59 was hauled from the freezing water on February 1 by Nicky Zvegintzov, who worked at the nearby Linnhe Marine, after his boat capsized.

He had been taking four Cheviot tups from Shuna Island to the mainland near Appin, alongside colleague Niall Bowser and their dogs - a journey Ernie has made regularly over the past nine years.

As the sheep drowned, Niall and his dog were able to get ashore but Ernie and his dog, Laddie, were trapped underneath the boat.

Ernie, who returned to work on Monday, told *The Oban Times*: 'Laddie and I had found a pocket of air but I knew that wasn't going to last. I tried to get out from under the boat but I failed at my first attempt. I told myself I would only have the strength for one more attempt and that would be my last chance - I've been working all my days but I am 74 now and I was gasping for air.'

Relieved to get to the surface, an exhausted Ernie could do nothing as the cold took hold.

'I could feel the cold coming up my legs and I just lay back in my lifejacket buoyancy aid looking at the sky,' he said. 'I was just hoping someone would come but I was surprisingly calm.'

'At that moment I remembered my National Service training for the Royal Navy. Back then you didn't get your

ticket unless you could float in the water for three minutes with a boiler suit on, so the whole thing came naturally to me and I was just trying to conserve energy.'

'By the time Nicky reached me I couldn't see but I could hear the boat engine and I heard his voice. He saved my life.'

The Doune man, who had never been in hospital until that day, was rushed to Lorn and Islands Hospital to be treated for severe hypothermia.

As he regained his sight, hospital staff told him Laddie had been found alive on the shore at Knap Point, still underneath the overturned boat, having survived the cold water for around one hour.

Ernie's wife, Isabel, said: 'I don't know how either of them survived. I think there were two miracles that day.'

Fears over school food chain

Procurement review after horsemeat scandal

ARGYLL and Bute's lead councillor for education says questions will be asked of a procurement system that may have allowed horsemeat into the local school food chain.

Frozen beef products - burgers, meatballs, mince and sausages - have been withdrawn from schools across the county after the Scottish Government's procurement scheme, Scotland Excel, issued a withdrawal notice for burgers.

The advice came after it found horse DNA in a frozen beef burger in North Lanarkshire.

Replacement dishes have been found to replace the nutritional value in the meals, but Michael Breslin, lead councillor for education, says concern remains about what is in some school foods.

'I've asked to be briefed on this as soon as possible,' he said. 'Because of the procurement rules in Scotland this will affect almost every local authority in the country.'

'I think all of us will be concerned about not knowing where the food for schools comes from.'

'We also don't know how long any such food has been provided in Argyll and Bute - we don't know how long what is in our food is not what it says on the tin. It is a concern.'

Asked if the situation showed Scotland Excel to be weak, the Dunoon councillor said 'possibly', adding looking at more local suppliers may be a solution to guarantee the provenance of food used in our schools.

He said: 'The procurement rules are quite strict. It does allow local suppliers to bid for contracts they may not otherwise get, but I accept some may find this difficult to do. There will be questions.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Our environmental health team is responding to this national issue through a co-ordinated approach with other councils and the Food Standards Agency.'

'Targeted food standards inspections are being undertaken at approved premises for meat preparation, production of meat products, cold stores meat preparations, and meat product manufacturers' preparation.'

Cardinal O'Brien resigns following accusations

THE MOST senior member of the Roman Catholic church in Britain, who formerly spent three years in Oban, has resigned.

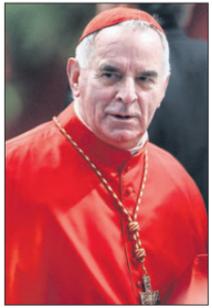
Cardinal Keith O'Brien served as apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles from June 1996 until October 1999.

He took the reins from Roderick Wright who resigned on September 19, 1996 following his disappearance with a Fort William woman.

Cardinal O'Brien, who was due to retire on his 75th birthday on March 17, had his resignation accepted by the Pope earlier this week. The move follows accusations of 'inappropriate conduct' with junior clergy in the 1980s.

He was ordained a priest on April 3, 1965. He obtained a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Edinburgh and a diploma in education.

Following his time in Oban he was appointed acting president of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland and since March 2002, Cardinal O'Brien has been president of the Bishops' Conference.



Cardinal Keith O'Brien

He was proclaimed Cardinal by John Paul II in the Consistory of October 21, 2003, of the Title of Sts. Joachim and Anne al Tuscolano.

The cardinal was due to lead a service on Iona to mark the anniversary of the arrival of Saint Columba to the shores of Scotland 1,450 years ago but it is understood he will no longer be attending.

Kerrera finally gains ferry funding

THE FERRY to a small island off Oban is to receive public money for the first time to help improve the service, Transport Scotland has confirmed.

The Kerrera ferry is to be boosted with government grant funding to help provide a longer operating day and a freight service for residents in the north of the island.

Duncan MacEachen, Kerrera ferry operator, welcomes the news and looks forward to working with Transport Scotland.

He said: 'This has got to happen. Kerrera has been left to its own devices for too long and has never been included in public plans.'

'Most people assume the ferry receives public money but it doesn't and this is the way we need to go. We need to get something up and running for the long term.'

David Keys, director of Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, said: 'We fully embrace it and it is a step in the right direction, extending the ferry day and providing a guaranteed freight service for the north of the island.'

'We are still trying to sort a passenger solution for north end but it is a big step forward and long overdue, Kerrera has been limping along with no support for a long time.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson added: 'As part of our recently published Ferries Plan, the Scottish Government has committed to improving ferry services right across Scotland, including looking at private commercially run services like those at Kerrera.'

'Ministers have agreed to provide grant support to allow planning work on a package of short term measures for the Kerrera ferry service to be taken forward.'

'We have facilitated discussions between the operator and Kerrera residents to draw up a community agreement outlining short term improvement plans. It is hoped that these improvements will be implemented at the beginning of March.'

'The proposed improvements include a longer operating day and a freight and vehicle service for residents in the north of Kerrera. A study looking at the long term solutions is also underway.'

Have you updated your driving licence?

POLICE are warning motorists to ensure their driving licence is up to date or face a penalty of up to £1,000.

Brian Auld, chief inspector of Oban police, said he was shocked by the volume of people failing to update their licences.

He said: 'Every 10 years the licence must be updated with a new photo and people are failing to do so. I would ask everyone to look at their licence and make sure it has an in date photo and a current address.'

'Drivers will not necessarily receive a reminder from the DVLA, the onus is on them to update their licence.'

Oban Fairtrade Fortnight event is cancelled

ONE OF the main events in the current Fairtrade Fortnight celebrations in Oban and Lorn has been cancelled.

Ready, Steady, Cook at The Olive Garden has been scrapped by the Fairtrade steering group, which gave no reason for the schedule change.

On the opening day of Fairtrade Fortnight (February 25) International Development Minister Humza Yousaf announced that Scotland has become one of the world's first Fair Trade Nations.

Majority of Oban businesses back BID with levy payment

NINETY per cent of businesses in Oban are complying with the requirement to pay the Business Improvement District (BID) levy.

Of the 487 businesses required to pay the fee a total of 385 have either paid in full or are entitled to relief while a further 53 are paying by direct debit.

But court action has been initiated against 49 businesses with the debt being passed from Argyll and Bute Council to Sheriff Officers for collection.

John Forteith, chairman of the BID board, has deemed the first round of payment collection a 'success'.

'Very, very pleased'

He said: 'It is always a nervous time but we are very, very pleased with the uptake.'

'We know, having looked on the list that there are a significant number of those businesses that haven't currently paid that are in the process of paying so that number [of business debts passed to sheriff officers] should drop dramatically.'

More trains - and better rolling stock

THE DOUBLING of the number of rail services operating to-and-from Oban could mean new trains - with working heaters.

Planned improvements Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said Scotrail was considering moving some of the carriages currently serving the Edinburgh-Glasgow route to the west coast line when the number of stops increases from three to six next year.

The current stock is ageing badly, with customers repeatedly complaining of discomfort when using the services - particularly during cold weather.

After saying there were plans to electrify the line at Cumbernauld, Mr MacIntyre told Monday's meeting of Oban Community Council: 'Not only will we have more trains but we will also have the possibility of better rolling stock.'

were warmly welcomed by the community council, saying not only would it be better for business, but for school pupils travelling from communities along the railway.

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee said: 'Councillor MacIntyre has worked tirelessly for many years on this and I think he should be formally thanked by the community council,' - a comment that sparked a round of applause.

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FW

Lorne progress to national semi-final by the narrowest of margins

Green Machine given the fright of their lives as Loch Lomond stage dramatic fight-back

**RBS West Bowl Final
Loch Lomond 21
Oban Lorne 22**

MURRAYFIELD is in sight as Oban Lorne lifted the West Regional Bowl last Saturday at Bonhill - the first major trophy in their 50-year history.

The margin of victory was only the width of a rugby post after a late conversion attempt, that would have seen Lomond steal the trophy from their opponents, hit the upright, giving Lorne their one-point victory.

Oban had travelled with a strong squad and a small band of supporters but knew they would be in for a tough game after a narrow win over the same opposition at Glencruitten earlier in the season.

The home side made a better start to the game, dominating territory and possession while being backed by a big home crowd.

But Lomond didn't take advantage of this early pressure and failed to get onto the scoreboard; Oban drew first blood after 10 minutes with a well taken penalty from Craig Wright.

Lomond levelled the scores shortly after with a penalty of their own and the tension in the game was obvious as both teams struggled to get any rhythm in attack.

Oban Lorne, however, were the first to click and scored the first try of the match five minutes before halftime. The Green Machine seized possession on the Lomond line after some impressive play from a lineout on the 22. Tommy Sutherland bulldozed over under the posts

from two metres out to score. Wright again was successful with the boot to give a 10-3 lead. Lomond responded before halftime with a penalty to give a 10-6 advantage to Oban Lorne at the break.

Oban grew confident in the second half and, aided by an impressive scrum and lineout, found themselves with more of the ball and more pressure in the Lomond half.

The away side were rewarded with a try from captain Robin MacQueen after some good play from the Oban pack. The conversion was narrowly missed and Oban led 15-6.

Fast flowing

Oban were now looking comfortable and added to the scoreline with the best try scored by the Green Machine all season. A fast flowing move in the backline involving brothers Craig and Allan Wright, twins Struan and Cameron Smith and Connor Ferris was eventually finished off over the line by Oban stand-off Graham MacEachan. The added conversion meant that Oban led 22-6 and looked out of sight with 20 minutes to go.

This is where the game got interesting.

Loch Lomond suddenly upped their game, knowing they had nothing to lose and mounted a superb comeback with three unconverted tries.

Oban Lorne, who had been more than comfortable only moments before, were becoming a shambles in defence and were completely on the back foot. Luck was on Oban's side as they had the posts to thank for

RUGBY

a Lomond conversion striking off the upright to deny the hosts the lead.

Oban battled hard in the dying minutes as the home side looked certain to score on several occasions. Try-saving tackles from Struan Smith, Cammy Smith and man-of-the-match Allan Wright denied the hosts a match-winning score while the game remained in the balance right up until the final whistle.

As the referee's watch went past the 80-minute mark the drama continued as Oban had a kick charged down, resulting in a Lomond break away.

Thankfully for Oban the ball was knocked into touch and the final whistle was blown. Oban Lorne were West Bowl Champions.

A relieved Oban team were presented with the West Bowl by former SRU president Jim Stevenson. The win means Oban Lorne move into the national semi-finals and will face Grangemouth, Kinloss, or Broughton. A win in the next game will see the team reach final day at Murrayfield.

Oban Lorne are back in West Division 3 action next Saturday as they look increase their lead at the top of the league. Paisley are the visitors to Glencruitten with kick off at 3pm.

Oban Lorne (West Bowl winners 2013): L. Burns, R. MacQueen, T. Sutherland, J. MacMillan, L. MacLachlan, S. Smith, A. MacDougall, C. Louw, F. Matheson, G. MacEachan, C. Ferris, C. Smith, R. Wright, A. Wright, C. Wright.

Subs: M. Downie, D. Williams, R. Anderson, C. MacLean and D. Kemp.



Adding the West Bowl to the Oban Lorne trophy cabinet are, from left: club president Dee Bradbury, team manager Darrell Williams, head coach Corrie Louw and Allan Wright, man of the match in the cup final. 15_109westbowl03

New trial format at doubles

BOWLS

THE ANNUAL open doubles competition held in Connel Village Hall on February 16 was well supported with 30 pairs taking part.

The new trial format with a start time of 3pm was successful and enjoyed by bowlers from a wide area, each pair playing three games before reaching a semi final for the Falls of Lora Shield and prize money.

Results: Semi-final pairs - John Aitken and Alec Allan, Carl Luke, versus Sandy Carr and Iain Boyd, Connel; Iain and Ronald MacMillan, North Connel, versus Adrian MacKay and Colin Clark, Cairnbaan.

Final - John and Alec lost to Adrian and Colin.



Winners Colin Clark and Adrian MacKay, centre, with runners-up John Aitken and Alec Allan.

Tough test for Saints in Scottish Cup last 16

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team head for Motherwell this Saturday when they take on Colville Park in the last 16 of the Scottish Amateur Cup. The game will be played at Colville Park Country Club with a 2pm kick-off.

This will be a tough test for the Oban side as Colville Park sit top of the Central Scottish League Premier Division, not having lost a game this season, but Saints manager Iain Jackson is confident his team can get a result.

"We know this is going to be tough as Colville are one of the best teams in the country, packed with players who have played at a high level, both amateur and junior, but if all our lads play as they can do we are capable of beating anybody on the day."

"We met Colville a few years ago in the Scottish Cup, drawing the first game in Oban and beating them down in Motherwell in the replay, so we know it can be done."

The full 7th round draw: Bank Street Athletic v Wellhouse; Campsie Minerva v Hurlford Thistle; Colville Park v Oban Saints; Drumchapel v Cambusnethan Talbot; Greenock HSPF v Dumbarton Academy FP; Shotts Victoria v Cupar Hearts; Star Hearts v Giffnock North; Westerlands v Auldhouse.

Last Saturday's West of Scotland Cup 3rd round tie between Saints and Pollok had to be called off after a pitch inspection found Glen 2 to be frozen.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 0, PFD United 1; Antonine 0, Under 14s 3. On target for Saints were Jay Cooper, Ben Coates and Lomond MacPherson. Under 15s 2, Drumchapel United 3. Scoring for Saints were Stuart MacLean and Ross MacMillan. Under 16s 1, Kilpatrick 3. Saints goalscorer was Stephen McMullen.

Next weekend's fixtures: Ardencaple v Under 13s; Clydebank v Under 14s Under 15s v Castle Rock; Helensburgh v Under 16s.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

WINTER League Week 8, played February 24: 1 Norman MacDonald 37 pts; 2 David Johnston 36 pts; 3 Ruairadh MacIntyre 36 pts. 72 css.

SAFL results and upcoming fixtures

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: West of Scotland Cup, 3rd round - Oban Saints v Pollok, postponed; Premier Division 2 - Carlton YM v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Division 1A - Port Glasgow United 5, Tarbert 2; Division 1B - Lochgilphead Red Star 2, Bothwell and Uddingston Albion 0.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup 7th round - Colville Park v Oban Saints; Coronation Cup quarter final - Tarbert v Easthall Star; Premier Division 2 - Clydebank v Campbeltown Pupils; Dumoon v Carlton YM; Division 1B - Goldenhill v Lochgilphead Red Star.

Oban Pool League

POOL

RESULTS: Cellar 6, Lancaster A 4; Lancaster B 6, Kelvin 4; Lochavullin 6, Claredon 4; Lochnell 6, Markie Dans B 4; Markie Dans A 6, Gluepot 4.

Fixtures: Gluepot v Lochavullin; Lancaster A v Markie Dans A; Cellar v Lochnell; Claredon v Lancaster B; Markie Dans B v Kelvin.

Atlantis Leisure Indoor League

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atlantis	8	8	0	0	24
Oban Times	9	6	0	3	18
Carpet Fitters	7	6	0	1	18
RM Builders	7	6	0	1	18
Oban HS	8	5	1	2	16
Handy Men	9	3	0	6	9
Stoddarts T&T	7	2	1	4	7
Glenorchy	9	2	0	7	6
Royal Hotel	8	1	0	7	3
OES	8	0	0	8	0

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If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Another long trip in the space of a week for Fort

'We should hopefully be a bit stronger for this weekend's trip to play Wick Academy'

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William face a third arduous journey in the space of a week when they travel to take on league leaders Wick Academy on Saturday.

Manager Danny Conlon's small squad has been stretched to the limit in recent weeks, with an away game against Huntly last weekend was followed by a trip to Nairn yesterday (Wednesday).

Missing out

Michael Gillespie, Andy Maclean and Sean Grant are expected to be involved for the game against Wick after missing out against Huntly.

Conlon said he was actively

searching for a new goalkeeper after Inverurie Locos recalled on-loan goalkeeper Daniel Bell last week. The decision forced Conlon to choose Robert Lewandowski to play in goal against Huntly, despite the Pole working night shift the night before.

Strengthen

Conlon said: 'We are looking to strengthen that particular position. Robert played well considered he'd only had about two hours of sleep. 'We were down to the bare bones. We should hopefully be a bit stronger for this weekend, but we really need to be close to full strength to get anything from the game.'

Chris Macleod played his first game since March 2012, and Lewis Corbett was thrust back

FOOTBALL

into the side after being out of action for a number of weeks.

In a surprisingly even first half, Fort held their own but went into the break a goal down.

As the game wore on, Huntly superior strength showed and they ran out 3-0 winners, the loss leaving Fort four points adrift at the bottom of the league.

No complaints

Conlon said: 'I've got no real complaints about the result. We did well in the first half and there wasn't a lot of difference between the sides.'

A rollover jackpot of £500 is up for grabs in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw this weekend. Last weekend's numbers were 4, 5 and 17.



Fort forward Daniel Stewart battles with Beaulieu's Scott Macleod during the second half - 20_f09fort01

Shinty boys are prepared and ready for the off

FORT William's strong preseason form continued with a 3-1 win over Beaulieu at a sun-drenched An Aird on Saturday.

The good weather brought out a decent home support, but Beaulieu gave as good as they got for much of an open first half.

Fort co-manager Adi Robertson was able to name a strong starting line up, with Scotland international forward Gary Innes making his first appearance in a Fort

William shirt since last July. Innes' musical commitments mean he will again miss much of the season, but said after the game he plans to play as often as he can.

Scotland under 21 international Stevie Stewart is being tipped to make a big impression in the Orion Premiership this season, and he enhanced his credentials with two well taken strikes against Beaulieu.

His second of the game came with virtu-

SHINTY

ally the last hit of the game, with his shot flying into the top corner from around 20 yards out. Innes also scored, with Marc MacLachlan scoring for Beaulieu.

New Fort captain Liam MacIntyre will lead his side out at Winterton Park to take on last year's Camanachd Cup runners up Inveraray this Saturday.

Tony hits top individual game

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER 11 weeks of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre Alleycats maintained their 10 point lead in the scratch division.

Council are second place on 41 points with Splitheads in third place on 36 points.

The handicap division is much closer with Alleycats leading on 37 points whilst Council move into second place just two points back. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio are third on 31 points.

Top individual scores this week came from Tony Whitlocke (Alleycats) with a scratch game of 193, handicap game of 220, two game scratch series of 347 and two game handicap series of 401.

Top team games of the week were 579 scratch from Alleycats and 781 handicap from Council. The best two game team series were from Council with 1,103 scratch, 1,517 handicap.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitlocke (Alleycats) with 166, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 152 and Colin Pinkett (Council) on 147.

Skye Sixes

GIRLS' SHINTY

Young female shinty players from across Skye competed in the island's first girls' shinty sixes competition in Portree High School.

North West Skye ran out winners ahead of the five other teams who took part on the day - South Skye, Elgol and Portree A, B and C.

Portree A met North West Skye in the final, with Catriona Martin scoring the winner to make the score 3-2 for North West - f09sixes1no

Lochaber at home to Uni Medics

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club will get the second half of the season underway when they welcome Aberdeen University Medics to Banavie on Saturday.

After a strong start to the season which saw them win their first five games, Lochaber's form slipped and they have now lost four of their last five league games.

The latest defeat was a narrow two point loss to Ross Sutherland in January, which saw Lochaber slip to seventh in RBS Caledonia regional league division two north.

Brave fightback not quite enough

SHINTY

KILMALLIE almost staged an almighty comeback against Kingussie after finding themselves 4-0 down at half time during Saturday's friendly.

But second half goals from Grant Mackenzie, Michael Rodger and Mark Graham weren't quite enough as Kings held out to lift the Festival Cup in front of their home fans.

Kilmallie start their Marine Harvest north division one campaign with a home game against Beaulieu on Saturday.

Primary cross country at Glencoe

CROSS COUNTRY

YOUNGSTERS from across south Lochaber took part in the third annual Nether Lochaber primary cross country competition in Glencoe last Wednesday.

Kinlochleven, Ballachulish, Glencoe, St Bride's and Duror primaries all sent teams of four senior pupils to compete on a 1.8 mile course at the National trust Centre

St Bride's dominated the boys race, with Alex Dent winning in a time of 12 minutes and 30 seconds. His schoolmate Matthew Swingler was second, 1 minute and 2 seconds behind.

Dan Maclean of Ballachulish was third in 14 minutes and 39 seconds.

The girls race saw Kinlochleven youngster Caitlin MacGillivray beat her schoolmate Courtney MacGregor by 10 seconds to take the win. Kate Leitch of Glencoe was 27 seconds back in third, in a time of 14 minutes and 30 seconds.

Active Schools co-ordinator Roz Newman thanked the volunteers who helped with the event.



Lachlan Veitch has enjoyed a good start to the year.

Lachlan picks up the silverware

A YOUNG Lochaber skier has represented Team GB under 16s in four competitions across Europe since the start of the year.

Lachlan Veitch, aged 15, took bronze in the Giant Slalom event in Chamonix in the French Alps before heading to Switzerland where he won gold in the Welsh Alpine Championships.

The Torlundy youngster then

travelled to Andorra where he competed in the Slalom, Giant Slalom and SuperG, finishing fifth in his age group in the Slalom.

Short break

After a short break back at home, it was off to Slovenia and Croatia again with TeamGB.

In Slovenia a mistake in Slalom put him out of the race

SKIING

but in Giant Slalom he managed 11th place in the '98 category. In Croatia Lachlan managed sixth place in the Slalom and eight in Giant Slalom.

He is next due to compete in the British Championships in mid-March.

Lovat defeat Skye to win the Thomas Ferguson Cup

SHINTY

LOVAT won the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Cup for the third year in succession with a fine 3-0 win over Skye Camanachd at Paire nan Laoich in Portree on Saturday.

Greg Matheson got Lovat's opener with a smart turn and finish and was on the mark again soon after to earn his side a 2-0 lead at the break.

Skye fought hard to get a foothold in the match but Lorne MacKay's powerful 25-yard drive on 54 minutes put the issue beyond doubt.

The islanders came more into the game in the final half hour but Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald was never troubled.

Ally MacKinnon presented the Thomas Ferguson Cup to Lovat captain Calum Cruden. Allan MacKinnon was awarded the Glasgow Mid Argyll Shield after Lovat nominated him as Skye's best player.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae told The Oban Times after the game: 'It was quite a good performance from us and once we got the third goal that sealed it.

Skye were a good physical and fit team - you always get a competitive game there.'



Lovat captain Calum Cruden lifts the Thomas Memorial Cup. Photo: The Tartan Lens

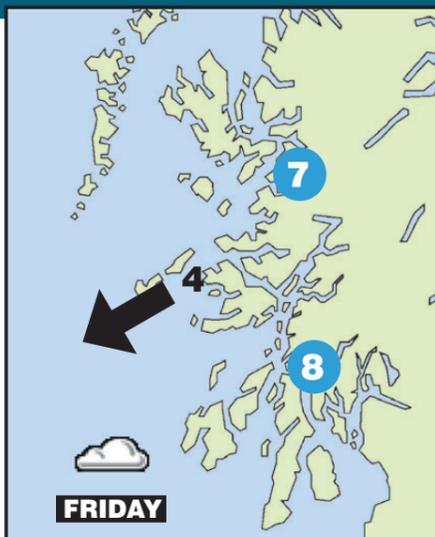
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light, north north westerly
Temperatures 3C to 8°C

Friday Cloudy
Winds light, east north easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy
Winds light west north westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 28, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	07.02	4.0	13.30	0.8	19.19	3.9
Thur	01.02	0.5	07.02	4.0	13.01	0.8	19.53
Fri	01.37	0.5	07.33	4.0	14.01	0.8	20.32
Sat	02.15	0.6	08.09	3.8	14.37	1.0	21.17
Sun	02.59	0.8	08.49	3.6	15.22	1.2	22.15
Mon	03.52	1.1	09.38	3.3	16.22	1.4	23.45
Tues	05.00	1.3	10.46	3.0	17.43	1.6	24.50
Wed	06.23	1.5	13.01	2.8	19.11	1.6	** **

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



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