

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Business update

OBAN MAN TO LAUNCH NEW SPORTS SHOP

- New Peacock's store opens
- Award winning businesses join forces
- VisitScotland stumps up £1m

### DRIVING FORCE

Find out what's hot in the motoring world in our 4 page feature

### FUNDRAISING FOR RED NOSE DAY

See our feature on page 4



Also inside this week: Lochaber Renewable Energy and Heat Fair • Saints go marching on with league win

### Sleeping coach driver was three times limit

A GERMAN COACH driver was found drunk, asleep and slumped at the wheel of his empty coach with the engine running just hours before he was due to take German tourists from Oban to Aviemore.

Armin Heinz Wolfgang Kuhn, 47, of 3 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London, was nearly three times the drink/drive limit when found by police at 2.30am on Oban's Esplanade on June 27 last year.

Kuhn was fined £900 and banned from driving in the UK for 18 months when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

A toxicology report produced by Kuhn's defence showed that there was a chance he would still have been over the limit at 1.30pm.

### Teenagers fully committed on Oban attempted murder charge

TWO teenagers accused of attempted murder are now fully committed to trial after appearing in private at Oban Sheriff Court this week.

The men, who are 17 and 19 years old, were again remanded in custody following their appearance on Tuesday.

They are accused of inflicting multiple stab wounds to the head and body of their victim - a 37 year old man - with a knife or similar instrument, and dousing him in bleach in the early hours of Sunday, February 27.

Meanwhile, the victim has been released from Lorn and Isles Hospital in Oban but is still receiving treatment for his injuries.

### Kilmore Games bid for Mossfield Park

KILMORE Highland Games has made an application to Argyll and Bute Council to move the annual games to Oban's Mossfield Park for one year.

The event will take place on Saturday July 30 and is being moved for this year as the current Kilmore games field is being reseeded.

## 'Immediate' fix promised for Argyll potholes

Oban resurfacing work on hold again

WORK to repair potholes on Argyll's trunk roads will 'commence immediately'. Three areas in Argyll have been identified for major projects while road workers are already getting the job completed in the most complained about sections, after the Scottish Government boosted trunk roads operating companies' coffers.

Using a share of £2million cash set announced by the Scottish government on Monday, Scotland Transerv are planning works on the A85 at Tyndrum, A828 at Duror and the A83 at Butterbridge on the Rest and Be Thankful.

Scotland Transerv said: 'We are working with the local authority to look for a shared vision for the roads. This additional £120,000 will have an impact on the trunk roads network.'

'We identified the routes during our weekly inspections and from problems that have been reported to us. Any complaints that are received are fed into the planning of future works.'

The spokesman confirmed there

**"This additional £120,000 will have an impact on the trunk roads network."**

spokesman Transerv

would be three areas of works near to Tyndrum on the A85.

The extra cash was announced by Cabinet Secretary John Swinney.

He said: 'The winter has caused a lot of defects on our national roads. This additional £2 million will enable our operating companies to repair much more potholes and larger areas of damage in the coming weeks and follows the previous allocation of an additional £2m earlier in the winter. Additional works will commence immediately.'

Meanwhile in more good news

for motorists, a decision on a further £3 million for Argyll and Bute's roads will be decided at a capital budget meeting at Kilmory today, Thursday.

Over a three-year period papers identify £15.5 million for roads reconstruction. In 2011/12 it is proposed there will be £4 million from capital projects plus a further transfer of £1.582 million.

Discussing funding for roads at the Oban, Lorn and the isles area committee, councillors heard the proposals for each area for roads resurfacing and trunk road treatments. However, in a blow to improvements for the trunk road through Oban, they heard the funding may be in jeopardy. The Scottish government to date have not agreed funding for a town centre upgrade due to capital funding cuts.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said he was in talks with the government.

Scotland Transerv said it is due to unveil plans for pavement repairs in Oban town centre in the next few weeks.

### Oban marks 200 years with 10 Days in July

OBANITES are to be treated to 10 historic days in July to celebrate 200 years of the town as a burgh.

Festivities will run from July 9 until Sunday July 17.

With a royal visit in the offing along with a celebration of all that is the best in the west coast town, it will be a year for all relatives and friends to come home.

Working together, community councillors and elected members

see the 10 Days in July as the highlight of bicentennial celebrations in the town.

On the core day, on July 12, a celebration will wind its way from Station Square to the Corran Halls with a rededication service, a harbour review whereupon the Freedom of Oban will be bestowed on cultural ambassadors for the town.

Tall ships are due to arrive in Oban Bay at the start of the 10

days while there will be historical theatre productions from drama company Three Crows; a Oban War and Peace Oban 200 Exhibition, plus input from The Oban Times, Caledonian MacBrayne and Visit Scotland - all showing the best of the last 200 years in Oban.

On Thursday 14 a Bicentenary Gala Concert will be held in the Corran Halls with special musical guests.



'Water' lot of money: Sisters Emma and Zoe Brown and fellow club member Ashlynn Rennie hold aloft the £500 cheque. 16.1105savvrs2

### Lifesavers club get splash of cash

MEMBERS of Oban Lifesavers have been given a boost after receiving £500 from the MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust.

The lifesaving club, which trains at Atlantis Leisure, will use the donation to renew its ageing equipment and, in turn, teach more children lifesaving techniques.

The donation was one of 16 grants handed out by the charity

trust to groups in and around Oban that total about £5,000.

The Oban Lifesavers cheque was handed over by Graham MacQueen and John Cameron from MacQueen Bros last Saturday.

Oban Lifesavers treasurer Josephine Grant said: 'This is a major boost to the club because we don't usually get donations.'

'The money will go towards buying flippers, which we have

been talking about buying for the past year. The rest of the money will be used to replace some of the ageing equipment that is now almost beyond use. I would like to extend a big thank you to MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust from everyone at the club.'

Seventeen local organisations have received financial awards from the trust since January this year.

### Meeting told short term loan would solve Mull's PCC problem

A SENIOR Argyll and Bute councillor has written to housing and communities minister Alex Neil MSP to raise his 'grave concerns' over delays in payment of a grant for the Isle of Mull's progressive care centre project.

However SNP councillors say the council only needs to loan the money for a short period and the problems would be solved.

Councillor Robin Currie, spokesperson for rural and island affairs, said a proposed delay in the provision of Housing Association Grant (HAG) to West Highland Housing Association in relation to the Mull Progressive Care Centre (PCC) exposed the association and all other partners to 'unacceptable levels of risk'.

'The proposed delays in the provision of this HAG for up to a five year period exposes the housing association and all other partners to unacceptable levels of risk,' he said.

He added: 'The government's decision to delay the payment of funding, which has previously been approved, is creating severe difficulty for all the housing associations in Argyll and Bute as it puts them in the position where they have to consider significant amounts of additional borrowing to honour their contractual agreements.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish has taken advice from colleagues at local and government level and believes there should be no problem in finding a short-term loan to fund Mull PCC.

Speaking at the island's Community Council meeting, he said: 'There is a strategic housing fund in Argyll and Bute that has a balance of £8million.'

'It would be a great shame to bring hardship to the organisations connected to this project if they were not able to loan the relatively small amounts required in this case.'

'It is a shame that the council spokesman wants to spread alarm and doubt when there is no case to do so. The loan would be safe, as the Scottish government have already guaranteed to pay the money.'

'Developers throughout Scotland deal with issues such as these every day and have no problems.'



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### Councillors behaving badly in school debate

THE BEHAVIOUR of Argyll and Bute councillors came into sharp focus when elected members were given a stark warning.

As a tirade of claim and counter claim bounced across the political divide, Charles Reppke, head of governance and law, stepped in to remind elected members of the code of conduct for standards in public life.

Mr Reppke said: 'At paragraph 3.2 in the standards document it states 'You must respect all council employees and the role they play, and treat them with courtesy at all times. It is expected employees show the same respect in return.'

He continued: 'Making allegations or showing a lack of respect to officers or indeed each other is not acceptable. 'It is important to show respect in the chamber at all times.'

Shocked parents who had gathered to hear news about a proposed closure of their schools commented: 'They are behaving like children - they need a head teacher.'



Prize writer Lilly Hargreaves from Tobermory who attends Salen Primary School Gaelic Medium Unit. t10prize1no

### Mull's Lily wins Gaelic writing award

WHEN little writer Lily Hargreaves from Tobermory on the Isle of Mull won a national Gaelic writing award, she thought she would be on her own collecting her award in Glasgow.

However, quick thinking teachers set up an interactive system with a computer and a whiteboard meaning all of Lily's classmates could attend the event, while still being at school on Mull.

The little writer, a pupil at Bunsgoil an t-Sailein (Salen Primary School Gaelic Medium Unit), won the under-7 age category in the annual Royal Mail Gaelic Writers Competition.

The title of the competition was Cò iad? and the pupils had to think of a member of their family and write a description of that person.

Lily chose to write about her mum.

### Westering home with a 'pong' in the air as cuts cause a stink

BUDGET cuts to a recycling group are causing a stink on Islay, following an Argyll and Bute Council proposal to sort waste on the mainland.

Under the plan ferries would potentially carry waste, or at best, discarded beer cans, food tins and milk cartons on board.

The council currently collects recyclable material from homes on Islay and Jura and takes it to

Gartbreck civic amenity site, near Bowmore. From there, Re-JIG sorts cans and bottles and sells them on to be recycled.

The award-winning third sector group has a service level agreement with the council and has surpassed recycling targets for the past six years. It also runs a Re-use Shop from Whin Park, Bridgend, and employs between six to eight people.

But these jobs are now at risk following a meeting between the recycling group and the council last Friday.

Argyll and Bute Council has proposed to fund a six-month service level agreement, instead of a year, by which time it hopes to have come up with a funding solution. One of these solutions would be to transport the island's waste to Edinburgh to

be sorted. Re-JIG project manager David Protherough said: 'Notwithstanding the environmental impact of this particular proposal, vehicles with untreated waste would sit on ferries for two and a half hours on busy tourists routes on already cramped ferries.'

Argyll and Bute Council had made no response as The Oban Times went to press.

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CalMac launches search for local produce suppliers

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne (CalMac) is searching for local producers to meet the demands of the growing cafe market aboard its fleet of ships. CalMac, in partnership with Scotland Food and Drink, is hosting a series of buyer briefings within the next two or three months when it will accept tenders for its main food categories - frozen, chilled and grocery, including butcher meat, fruit and vegetables.

requirements of the tendering process, logistics in supplying a busy ferry fleet and the avenues open to primary producers. The proposed buyer briefings are scheduled for three west coast venues starting on Thursday March 24 at The Tontine Hotel, Greenock, between 9.30am and noon, followed on Tuesday March 29 at The Corran Halls, Oban, and finishing in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis on March 31 between 9.30am and noon. There is no charge for attending these events but tickets need to be booked in advance for each of the three venues.



Van Harris Wilson and his mum and dad, Junelle and Stuart, examine his lifeboat bell. Photograph by Les Hazelgrave

Lifeboat baby will take 'Oban' bell to Australia

A BABY who bounced into the record books as the first boy born on board the Oban lifeboat will have something special tucked in his suitcase when he emigrates to Australia.

his parents, Junelle and Stuart, last Thursday. Douglas Craig, Lifeboat Operations Manager at Oban, who presented the bell as the crew looked on, said: 'It's a Navy tradition that if a child is born on board a navy ship they are presented with a ship's bell when they are 18.'

Craignure on the Isle of Mull for the past three years, will leave the island to start their new life in Australia in May.

Taking up around two kilos of 19-month-old Van Harris Wilson's seven kilo luggage allowance, when he flies to Melbourne, will be his very own lifeboat bell, engraved with his name and date of birth.

'We have adopted that tradition, but because Van's family are emigrating to Australia we thought we should present him with the bell now, because it would be a long way for us to go when he is 18.'

Mrs Wilson said: 'I think it's a lovely idea to give him the bell, it will be on show in our new home and it will be a good story to tell people.'

The brass bell - an exact replica of the one on board Oban's RNLI lifeboat the day Van was born in August 2009, was presented to the little boy and

Mrs and Mr Wilson, who have been running a camp site at

Van, who weighed in at 9lb 4ozs when he was born, was delivered by a midwife from Mull, who accompanied Mrs Wilson on the lifeboat, with help from lifeboat crew member Donald 'DM' Matheson of Oban. Van's birth certificate gives his place of birth as Oban Bay.

Government told to think again on Barra marina plan

'Plans to grow the island's economy by investing in renewable wind energy would be dashed', claims campaign group

CONTROVERSIAL plans to create two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) near Barra were politically, rather than scientifically, motivated it's been claimed, days after the proposal's public consultation ended.

"We hope the Scottish Government will wake up and realise the mistake they have made here."

Chairman, island campaign group.

Campaign group SHAMED allege that the catalyst for designating the cold water reef east of Mingulay and the Sound of Barra as SACs was the Scottish Government asking Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to gather scientific evidence after deciding on the site to meet EC quotas.

Mr MacLeod said: 'We hope the Scottish Government will wake up and realise the mistake they have made here.'

Worse, they say that, should it get the green light, the designation would permanently alter nearly every aspect of life on the island. SHAMED submitted its formal objection to the plan prior to the end of the consultation.

In its objection, SHAMED say that the Scottish Government has failed to: meet the sustainable aims of the EC Habitats directive; consult honestly and meaningfully with the public; demonstrate a rounded scientific case for designation; and adhere to the agreed UK designation process for marine SACs.

The chairman of the group, Angus MacLeod, has now called on SNH and the Scottish Government to revise their stance and look elsewhere for sites that could meet the EU quota for SACs.

Mr MacLeod said: 'We are not going to be fobbed off any more with the finger of blame for conservation designations being pointed at Europe.'

He said: 'This would only represent 0.03 per cent of the quota required by the EU. They should look elsewhere as this could affect the entire future of the island.'

'We are looking for action in these islands to ensure that public consultation and processes of law in all spheres of government are adhered to, and not just in those areas where politicians feel they have the most to gain.'

Not only would large swathes of the island have to cope with far more stringent planning matters, but plans to grow the island's economy by investing in renewable wind energy would be dashed, as they would not be able to lay a cable to the proposed Argyll Array to export power to the grid; something that is essential if Barra is to grow its economy.

Western Isles SNP MSP Alasdair Allan says he is also against the proposal. He said: 'I've already stated I'm opposed to this designation. I don't think it will be good for

the people of Barra and I've made that absolutely clear. I asked the Scottish Government to do an economic impact assessment and that very much confirmed that there's no gain or potential gain for the people of the island.'

'The scientific evidence I also don't agree with, as there's no evidence to show that any species found at Barra cannot be found elsewhere. 'But the Scottish Government has little choice about EC legislation over designations. It's almost like a quota in reverse. The penalty for not meeting them is a fine of tremendous sums of money; millions of pounds. 'The whole legislation is crudely put together.'

He stopped short of saying the decision was political though, saying it may have been taken because a survey existed from previous failed SAC designation attempts there.

'If what Angus means is that it was easy for governments to go back to the previous survey because it's an easy option, that's a fair point.'

A spokesperson for SNH said: 'The Scottish Government tasked SNH with carrying out the consultation into the proposed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at East Mingulay.'

Responses 'We are delighted to have had a number of responses, including the recent public meeting which took place in Barra in January. 'All comments made during the meeting will be included in the report to go before Scottish Ministers, as will other correspondence and responses received within the allotted 14-week timeframe.'

Kennedy calls for clarity in coastguard row

LIBERAL Democrat MP Charles Kennedy says his own government's proposals for cuts to the coastguard service show a 'worrying lack of clarity'.

Ireland - Kintyre ferry link plan folds again

Current financial climate creates big risk for potential operator

Mr Kennedy, who represents Ross, Skye and Lochaber, made the comments in welcoming news of an inquiry into the government's decisions to remove the emergency tugs that protect the coastline and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) proposals to drastically reduce the service.

A PROPOSED three-way ferry service between Campbeltown, Ballycastle and Ayrshire is dead in the water.

consideration is presently being given by the Scottish Government to the timing of further work on the re-establishment of the Campbeltown-Ballycastle ferry service.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The Transport Select Committee's Inquiry is a welcome reflection of the level of public concern that exists around our coast.'

The potential operator has stepped back from negotiations because of the current financial climate.

However, The Scottish Government claims that in light of Westminster imposed spending cuts, priorities within the ferries budget continue to be existing contracts, including that with Caledonian MacBrayne and North Link, along with the vessel and harbour projects to which the Scottish Government is already committed.

'Both the loss of emergency tugs and the closure of either Stornoway or Shetland Coastguard stations raise serious concerns for the safety of seafarers and the marine environment which sustains so many jobs in the Highlands and Islands. On the issue of the tugs, the government has said it believes shipping firms should pay for emergency tugs to protect our coastline from disasters, but there is a worrying lack of clarity about how that can happen.'

At a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council, Councillor Dick Walsh expressed his 'extreme disappointment' at the advice that there is now unlikely to be any progress in the foreseeable future for the development of the ferry service. This was in part due to the lack of an interested operator and in part to the non-availability of funding for this service.

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: 'It was recently announced that there is to be a new passenger service, delivered by Kintyre Express, a West Coast Motors company, between Campbeltown, Ballycastle and Troon.'

'I hope the many people in the Highlands with knowledge and experience of the Coastguard's work will submit evidence to the committee so it is fully aware of the issues that arise in this part of the world.'

He said this was despite promises by the Scottish Government that funding would be available.

Councillor John Semple, a long time campaigner for the service, said: 'This is a missed opportunity for opening up links on the west coast. 'It is a great shame that there was an investor interested but he walked away when the financial crisis hit. They couldn't take the risk.'

'I hope the many people in the Highlands with knowledge and experience of the Coastguard's work will submit evidence to the committee so it is fully aware of the issues that arise in this part of the world.'

'Instead of turning this issue into a slanging match we need to look at a positive way forward. With rising fuel costs options like this to move people around the country will become imperative.'

'I recognise the benefits that this will bring to people across Scotland and Northern Ireland and wish the company every success for the future when the service begins next summer.'

Youth parliament to quiz political leaders

ARGYLL and Bute members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MYSYPs) are getting the chance to quiz the leaders of the country's five major political parties in a sitting on March 12 in Inverclyde.

The MYSYPs will be questioning their Holyrood colleagues on key issues affecting young people.

provides for me to question Scotland's political leaders on the main issues affecting young people.

Key issues The three MYSYPs are Sarah Taylor from Lochgilhead, Ryan MacAllister from Oban and Jeanna Sally from Helensburgh.

Excited They will touch on things like sectarianism, equal pay and more help for first-time buyers looking for a home.

'I know people in my constituency are worried about government cuts, the future of higher education and how we create a fairer and better Scotland.'

Lorn primary pupils take to the catwalk for fashion fundraiser

PRIMARY Seven pupils from Lochnell, Dumbeg and Achaleven primary schools will be heading off to Lochgoilhead Outdoor Centre on March 21 for five days, thanks to the generosity of local businesses and fund raising by parents.

Childs and Martine Henriksen, saw more than 40 models of all ages take to the floor, some of whom had been to Argyll College earlier to have hair and make-up done thanks to Hair and Beauty students.

£6,000 to send the 26 P7s to Lochgoilhead and thanks to this, the other fund-raising ventures and donations from local business and grants, we should be able to cover all those costs. It's a fantastic experience for the youngsters and I am told they come back from it a little older, wiser and raring to move on to high school. The fashion show was a last push to raise the final funds needed and we are extremely grateful to all those who came along on the night, the models, Argyll College and M&Co and the staff for giving up their Friday evening.'

A sell-out fashion show on Friday evening, hosted by M&Co in Oban's Station Square, concluded the fund-raising events which included a soup lunch, bag-packing at Tesco and a Zumba session.

Cover all costs A total of £612 was raised from the evening and the raffle, organised by Martine, with prizes including vouchers from Ee-usk/ Piazza, Flower Basket, Lochnell Arms Hotel, Soroba House Hotel, M&Co and goodies from Trinity Hairdressing, Breckenridge, soft toys, chocolates and more. Marian said: 'It costs nearly



Here come the girls: Lochnell pupils showing off their new looks thanks to Argyll College and M&Co.

Islay lifeboat rescues diver

ISLAY lifeboat was called in to rescue a diver suffering from the bends after rigging on his ship, the Lady Isle, prevented the rescue helicopter from airlifting from the deck.

The helicopter Rescue 177 was called to help the diver in the Sound of Islay on Sunday evening. But after encountering problems with the rigging on board the vessel the casualty had to be transferred to the lifeboat before being taken up in the helicopter. The diver was then taken to the hyperbaric chamber at Dunstaffnage near Oban for treatment.

Tobermory postmaster admits £80,000 fraud

A FORMER sub postmaster on Mull admitted embezzling more than £80,000 from the Post Office at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Peter Dugdale, aged 56, who gave his address as Ardale, Western Road, Tobermory, admitted that, between November 28 2006 and March 19 2009, while employed as sub postmaster at the branch on 36 Main Street, Tobermory, he embezzled £81,494.98.

Sentence was deferred until March 28 for reports.

Argyll and Bute could be key seat

THE LEADER of the Liberal Democrats has said Argyll and Bute is a key seat.

Nick Clegg said that under Scottish Lib Dem leader Tavish Scott the Scottish party could take a positive message on education, the economy and public services to the country and win more seats. He identified Argyll and Bute, Edinburgh central and Roxburgh and Berwickshire as targets.

Kilmelford fish farmer had methadone

A FISH farm manager has been found guilty of being in possession of methadone after two bottles were discovered in his car.

James Gisbey, aged 37, of 46 The Glebe, Kilmelford, had denied being in unlawful possession of the Class A controlled substance when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Gisbey was discovered with the drug in his car after being stopped for speeding in Dalmailly on May 5 last year. A search was carried out after officers smelt what they thought was cannabis smoke, although no cannabis was found. A bid by defence solicitor Laura Russell to have the search deemed illegal because no cannabis was found was dismissed by the court. Sentence was deferred until March 29 for reports.

Oban man grabbed mother by throat

AN ARGUMENT over a midnight snack resulted in a man grabbing his mother by the throat, then assaulting another man.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Lewis MacLachlan, aged 29, whose address was given in court as c/o Victoria Guest House, Oban, was fined £400 for his behaviour on December 4 last year.

MacLachlan was staying with his mother at the time of the incident. She had offered him accommodation in her one bedroom flat after debts forced him from his own home.

Sentencing, Sheriff Douglas Small told MacLachlan: 'Your solicitor has rightly described this as being 'disgraceful' as your mother had been particularly generous to you in offering to share her home with you.'

Sturgeon avoids defibrillator row

HEALTH secretary Nicola Sturgeon has refused to get involved in an argument on whether defibrillators should be carried on board Caledonian MacBrayne vessels or not.

She has however stated that there is no legal requirement for ferries to carry defibrillators.

Plumber bit door steward's hand

AN OBAN plumber has been fined £315 after biting the hand of a door steward while being evicted from a licensed premises in Oban's town centre.

Gavin Stobart, aged 23, of 3A Lismore Crescent, admitted the assault when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

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# Parliamentary candidate cleared of wrong-doing in school closure row

THE ARGYLL and Bute parliamentary candidate for the SNP, Michael Russell MSP, has been cleared of any wrong-doing by Holyrood's Presiding Officer over his decision to speak to parents regarding school closures in Argyll and Bute.

Political opponents claimed he breached rules by involving himself in the campaign to halt school closures in the area where he is a candidate in the polls in May, but which the cabinet minister does not currently represent as an MSP.

Critics also claimed his intervention was hypocritical because he was intervening on an issue in an area where he is a candidate when he should be carrying the can, as Education Secretary, for all such closures in Scotland.

The first complaint about Mr Russell's conduct to the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner was dismissed as being not within his remit, and now a second complaint has been rebuffed by Holyrood's Presiding Officer.

Alex Fergusson, Presiding Officer, has written to Mr Russell saying: 'I have now considered your letter and have decided not to uphold the complaint against you. I have also dismissed a further complaint which I received on the same issue. I have written

to both complainers informing them of my decision.'

Mr Russell claimed all along that, provided he got the permission of the local MSP, in this case his Argyll and Bute colleague Jim Mather whom he hopes to succeed and made clear that as

he was acting as a candidate, not as Education Secretary, he was entitled to become involved.

A spokesman for Mr Russell said: 'Mike's conduct was totally appropriate and in order and we are pleased the Presiding Officer has confirmed that.'

## Benderloch teenager stole and crashed van

A FISHERMAN has admitted stealing a van in North Connel during a party in the village.

Neil Alexander MacGregor, aged 17, of 7 Keil Gardens, Benderloch, stole the van on November 7 last year and drove it without insurance or a licence. He then lost control and crashed it into a ditch. On returning home, he confessed to his mother, then reported the matter to the police.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Sheriff Douglas Small fined MacGregor £540 and added a total of 15 points to his licence, which will come into effect if he applies for one.

## Connel primary school meeting

A COMMUNITY meeting to discuss the future of Achaleven Primary School will be held this Friday, March 11, at 7pm in Connel Village Hall.

Everyone welcome.

## Jura ferry returns from dry dock

THE EILEAN Dhuira, the ferry that operates between Islay and Jura has returned to service.

The ferry was back on normal service from Port Askaig on Tuesday, having completed her annual maintenance docking.

## Charity sports dinner sellout

A SPORTSMAN'S charity dinner tomorrow (Friday) organised by the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund, has sold out of tickets.

The event, held in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls, will be attended by 250 guests who will be entertained by former footballers and after-dinner speakers Frank McAvennie and Gordon Smith.

Ryan's mother, Amanda MacPhail, who organised the event, said tickets sold out very quickly.

## Kayak goes astray in Kilmore

ACTIVITY organisers Stramash lost a kayak in the Kilmore area at the weekend.

It is a blue and white Inazone 243 River Kayak and it was lost on Saturday March 5.

Paula Turnbull, marketing manager, said: 'It completes a set of kayaks we use when doing activities with local young people.

'If anyone knows anything about its whereabouts contact us on 01631 566080.'

## Pubs encouraged not to use glass

LICENSED premises across Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to replace traditional glasses with toughened glass or other safe materials.

Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Licensed Trade introduced the initiative last year to encourage the use of safe drinking vessels in all licensed premises throughout Strathclyde.

Argyll and Bute Council said: 'I would urge all of our licensed premises to take this opportunity to replace their traditional glasses if an equivalent, safer product is available.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000

# Twelve schools named for closure

Argyll and Bute councillors vote 19 to 14 in favour of closure consultation plan

REPORT  
by  
LOUISE LEE  
lee@obantimes.co.uk

**"Head teachers are telling me that there is a difficulty with providing curriculum for excellence with very small numbers of pupils."**

**Councillor Ellen Morton**

'I have done a great deal of probing.

'Head teachers are telling me that there is a difficulty with providing curriculum for excellence with very small numbers of pupils.'

Clelland Sneddon, community services executive director, said: 'This is a positive approach. People are interested in what we are doing and other authorities are watching how it is going on.'

Councillor Morton was questioned on the amount of time she had spent in each of the schools. She said: 'I was guided by the school as to what was best. In some places I met parents groups, in some there was no will to meet me, but everywhere I went I spent time with teachers, pupils and staff.'

SNP, Argyll First and The Argyll and Bute Independent Councillors Group all opposed the motion to go out to pre-consultation.

TWELVE schools in Argyll and Bute will go forward to a pre-consultation process for closure.

Proposed for a Christmas closure date are St Kierans, Ardchonnell, North Bute, Toward, Luss, Achaleven, Ardchattan, Minard, Rhunahaoirne, Clachan, Skipness and Ashfield.

Argyll and Bute councillors voted 19 to 14 in favour of plans to discuss the impact that closure would have on local communities.

Opposition councillors argued that the plans should be put on hold as new legislation was due to be published by the Scottish Government which may change the state of play for rural schools.

Councillor Ellen Morton visited 66 schools within Argyll and Bute before bringing forward plans for a pre-consultation process - the first of its kind in Scotland.

Councillor Morton said she wanted to meet with communities to find out their views and discuss the real impact of closing individual schools before going into the consultation stage proper.

She said: 'No councillor would ever close a school on a whim. There is danger of this process becoming a tick box list and that is not the right approach. I have taken a holistic approach. I have looked at every school considering the number of pupils, how many are on placing requests, the capacity of the receiving school, educational benefits, transport, the journey to the receiving school, school building conditions and so on.'

'We want to create a sustainable school estate in Argyll and Bute. I took into account the schools consultation criteria from the Scottish government, professional advice.



Catherine Gillies with her charity shop treasure. 16\_t10gillies1

# Charity shop painting proves a little treasure

A LOCAL Oban historian has picked up a £40 charity shop bargain buy worth approximately £750.

A forgotten picture hanging on the wall of the MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust Shop caught the eye of Catherine Gillies of the Hope MacDougall Collection and she bought it.

Catherine thought the artist had a nice style, 'especially in the depiction of the vase'.

**Well known artist**

After taking the oil painting home she realised it was signed by Will C Penn.

Catherine said: 'It was very exciting to think I might have picked up a valuable painting.'

'A little research told me that Penn was a painter and influential teacher at Liverpool School of Art from 1911 until post World War II. Penn lived in Birkenhead for many years but died in Brampton, Cumberland.

As an artist in oil, Penn was noted for his sparkling, luscious technique.

'He was particularly famous for his figurative paintings which can fetch substantial amounts at auction.'

'If I ever sell it I would obviously share the money with the charity.'

The painting is still in its original Edwardian frame. Grace Scott, of MacQueen

Brothers Charity Shop, said: 'I am glad for anyone who gets a bargain.'

'I remember the day that Catherine came in to look at the picture. She seemed quite interested in it but it is not to everyone's taste. The picture, of red hot poker flowers, hung unwanted in the shop for a long time.'

## Oban Common Good boosts funds

THE FINANCIAL statement of Oban's Common Good Fund has now been published.

Grants were awarded to more than 26 organisations over the year. The largest grant was to Glencruitten Golf Club for youth development, but trustees also made payments to individuals.

Other substantial donations included £3,000 to Oban Youth Cafe, £2,500 to MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, £3,000 to Argyll and Bute Council for Creative Arts in Schools and £7,500 for Kilmore and Oban Parish Church Renovation. The total amount given to charities last year was £43,812. Trustees meet quarterly basis to monitor the fund's financial position.

# Oban's dental gap to be filled

A SOLUTION may have finally been found for investing in dental services in Oban.

NHS Highland has revealed plans to make a multi-million pound investment within vacant wards of the Lorn and Islands Hospital and subsequent plans to increase car parking spaces.

Proposals will include space for six treatment rooms, almost tripling the capacity for appointments for NHS dental patients.

Previous plans for a facility at the Harbour Bowl on Shore Street have fallen through after the Scottish government demanded health boards maximise the use of existing buildings.

The hospital will have two semi-vacant wards in April and

it is understood a separate entrance is planned for the dental practice.

**"It is more cost effective to use the hospital."**

David Whiteoak

The decision to re-focus plans from the Harbour Bowl building to the hospital came at a Community Health Partnership (CHP) meeting last week.

David Whiteoak, locality manager for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'Members of the community in Oban and the surrounding areas have supported the plans by Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership

to provide new dental facilities in the town which will meet the needs of the local population for many years to come.

'To develop these proposals we have been investigating a range of options that will allow us to provide the services required and as many people know one of these options was utilising the Harbour Bowl. However a decision has been taken to withdraw our interest for this site.'

'The result of this decision is that our plan will now be to provide the new facilities from within Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban as we have more than adequate space at the hospital to provide the services that are required.'

'It is more cost effective to use the hospital rather than pay rent and other associated costs for another site and, as we are all well aware, keeping costs to a minimum is essential - especially in the current financial climate.'

'The next state of the process is to gain final approval for the plans at the CHP Management Team meeting later this month.'

'If it is subsequently approved at this meeting we will move forward with the development of our plans with the business case completed and submitted later in the summer for approval and funding from NHS Highland and the Scottish government with work beginning early in 2012.'

# Fuel company apologises for heating oil minimum delivery confusion

BROGAN Fuels has apologised after discovering its Oban depot increased its minimum order for heating oil without the knowledge of the company's directors.

Staff at the depot had upped the minimum delivery from 500 litres to 700 litres around December during the cold snap, at which time the price per litre for heating oil also increased.

Now at 61.54p per litre - correct at time of going to press - plus

VAT of five per cent, the increase saw customers spending an extra £130 just to get a delivery of fuel.

The company is to speak to staff about the change and will discuss compensation with those customers affected.

Brogan Fuels' Claire Chalmers, PA to the directors, said: 'As we thought, the minimum delivery is actually 500 litres. That is what has been stipulated to staff and there has been no increase to that.

We were not aware of the change in Oban and staff have again been notified of the correct minimum.

'Our directors knew nothing about this.

'Any customers that have had problems as a result should give myself a call. We can discuss their situation and things can be looked at.'

Brogan Fuels were bought by GB Oils in April of last year following approval by the Office of

Fair Trading. Ms Chalmers said: 'I don't know if it's something that's happened at Brogan Fuels in the past, GB Oils only recently acquired the company.'

Meanwhile, Gleaner Fuels' Oban depot has also increased the minimum delivery to 700 litres.

While managing director David Todd said he had no direct input into the increase, he said that was in line with the staff's duty to ensure every customer was satis-

fied and able to get deliveries of fuel throughout the year. He said: 'In the past the minimum delivery was actually 900 litres, but we brought that down, sometimes to 500 litres, sometimes slightly higher. There's a flexibility there and we look at it on a case to case basis.'

Highland Fuels, which also services the area, has no such limitation, offering deliveries in quantities of 500 litres upwards.

The legal minimum delivery is 500 litres.

While all three companies offer a payment scheme to existing customers towards a delivery, new customers are required to pay their first delivery in full.

A spokesperson for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) said it does not comment on individual companies or whether or not they have received complaints, but said they are conducting a market study.

# Oban's clean-up crew looking for extra help

SELF-seeded trees have now all been removed from the sides of Oban's Black Lynn Burn.

However, as Oban Litter Busters completes the first phase of the tidy up programme, they will need more volunteers for phase two of the Stevenson Street clean-up.

Group leader Graham MacQueen said: 'The next phase of works will involve the removal of all litter and debris from the Stevenson Street section of the burn and will require a large turnout of volunteers.'

'The work carried out to date on this section of the burn is now highly visible and large numbers of people are now admiring the burn and feeding the ducks.'

'The ducks are enjoying themselves in the burn. Their environment will be an important part of future plans for the burn.'

To volunteer for the next phase call Oban 564848.



The Light of India Restaurant in Oban's Stevenson Street showed their appreciation of the clean-up by volunteers working on the Black Lynn Burn by supplying the hard working group with a variety of light refreshments 16\_t10burn1

## Royal Mail 'lost' Christmas parcels claims Dunbeg woman

A DUNBEG woman is at her wits end with Royal Mail after Christmas presents have still not been delivered and maternity clothes didn't reach the mother before her baby was born.

Angela Marshall has tried to send two parcels to her family in Blackpool but, despite paying £12 for postage, packages have still not arrived. She said: 'I sent Christmas presents on December 23 worth £126 and then maternity clothes and other bits and bobs - but to date none of them have been received.'

'It has cost me a fortune to phone Royal Mail customer services and still nothing seems to be getting done. I have been told it might take months to get a refund.'

Royal Mail said: 'We are not aware of any issues with deliveries of mail between Oban and Blackpool. Customers are advised to wait until 15 days have passed before they claim for lost or damaged inland items. Our Royal Mail Customer Services team aim to fully respond to cases within 30 days of receipt.'

'Royal Mail always takes the security of mail extremely seriously.'

**MacPhee & Partners**

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Fort William Office: Airds House, Fort William PH33 6BL

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Estate Agent Jo-Anne MacDougall will be on Mull on 15th March 2011.

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Lorn Lines

PRESIDENT Alex Clark introduced the President of Edinburgh Photographic Society, George Neilson, to members of Oban Photographic Club at their regular weekly meeting in the Regent Hotel last Monday.

George, a very well known photographer, then gave a very interesting and informative show about sports photography. There were images from many sports including golf, tennis, motor racing, motorbike racing and cycling.

The images were excellent and there were shots of well-known sports people such as Sandy Lyle and Colin Montgomery as well as a few of what looked like painful crashes in the motorbike racing.

There is no meeting next Monday evening (March 14) as the club is holding an open evening in the Victory Hall, Benderloch, on Thursday, March 17 at 7.30 pm, when Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond will give an 'Old Benderloch and Oban' presentation.

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments (tea, coffee and home baking) will be served at halftime. There will be a collection for entry.



A SMALL gathering attended the January meeting of Oban and District Needlework Group to hear an interesting talk by Susan McCallum about traditional kilt making.

Covering not only the practicalities and background history, but her route to becoming proficient in this skill. Susan brought along a display of kilts and equipment to explain the complicated process.

The March meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 at the Guide Hall, Soroba Road, Oban and features Yvette Jelf who is one of the UK's leading milliners, designing couture, hand-made hats and head dressings.



Everything came up roses for Marion and Gary McPherson when they won a bottle of champagne in a prize draw. The champagne prize was offered by McPhee and Partners at Forthwith Foodservice's West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow, which was held at the Corran Halls last month. Marion and Gary run Poppies Garden Centre and Tea Room at Dunstaffnage. Presenting Marion with the bottle of champagne is Sandy Henry, partner with McPhee and Partners, watched by Gary McPherson and John Forthwith (left). 15\_110mcphee01

Mary's Meals founder thanks shop volunteers



Mary's Meals founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow called in at the charity's shop in Oban to thank the many volunteers for their work. Magnus visited the shop last Wednesday and was surprised at how quickly the stock had increased since his last visit and expressed his gratitude to the staff. The shop was presented with flat pack boxes by the Rotary Club of Oban and the MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, which donors can take home with them and return once they are filled. Volunteer Debbie Curran is also backing a 'Spoons for Schools' donation drive to collect as many spoons as possible for schoolchildren in Malawi. Spoons can be donated at the Mary's Meals shop in Oban. Magnus, left, is pictured with some of the volunteers at the Mary's Meals shop. 15\_110marys01

Shop staff threatened

SHOP staff who refused to sell alcohol to a drunk man were chillingly told 'you better hope I don't see you in the street, or I will \*\*\*\*\* have you.'

Jobless Robert Armstrong, 45, of 13 Meadow Road, Oban, admitted shouting at and threatening shop staff on November 16 last year.

Armstrong was fined £400, reduced from £600 because of the timing of his plea.

Microgeneration seminar at SAMS

FARMERS, landowners and rural business owners are being invited to a microgeneration seminar at Scottish Association for Marine Science.

The series of short briefings by industry experts will offer impartial advice on the incentives, feasibility and economics of wind, hydro, photovoltaic, biomass, heat pump, anaerobic digestion and solar thermal technologies.

The free event will be held on March 22 between 12.30pm - 2.30pm.

Taynuilt man hit car with belt

A TAYNUILT man was fined £200 for stepping out in front of a car and hitting the windscreen with his belt.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Philip Colewell, 24, of Lonan Cottage, Glen Lonan, Taynuilt, admitting committing the breach of the peace in Oban's George Street on July 31 last year.

Oban man stole power tools

AN OBAN man admitted breaking into a house in the town and stealing power tools and copper piping when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

Mark James Petrie, 22, whose address was given in court as 32b Glencruinn Drive, Oban, pled guilty to carrying out the theft between November 9 and November 10 last year.

Sentence has been deferred until April 24 for reports.

Missed appointments cost Oban hospital £200,000

PEOPLE should tell their local hospital if they cannot attend an appointment and in turn help reduce the cost of healthcare in NHS Highland.

Missed appointments at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital alone cost the NHS more than £200,000.

That is the strong message from Christine Gillies, service-planning manager who wants people to communicate with them.

'Let us know,' said Christine, 'if you can't make it to the hospital for an in-patient or out-patient appointment. Staff will make every effort to make you

another appointment as soon as possible. When patients tell us they cannot make it in, it means that appointment can be reused for someone on the waiting list for another appointment.'

DNAs, or Do Not Attend, are becoming a burden on the health board with national waiting times getting longer and the cost of missed appointments rising.

'Every slot, every appointment is precious and we want to make sure that each one gives value for money,' said Christine.

'Whether it is an appointment for a two-hour surgery slot or a five minute check-up we need

to know whether a patient can attend or not.

'All we need people to do is tell us if they cannot make it. It is a waste if they simply do not turn up. It is a growing problem in Oban.

'People should simply phone us up if they are unable to make the appointment, if they are waiting for surgery and change their address or phone numbers.'

In a bid to reduce the numbers of people who are missing appointments the hospital will continue to phone patients before appointments a week before the date of the appointment.

Argyll and Bute Council IT team win ACHA information contract

A THREE year contract has been signed that will see Argyll and Bute Council's Information Technology (IT) team delivering Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) core information technology service to the public.

The council team won the contract against national private sector suppliers for the £1.5million project.

Following the signing of the contract last week Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'I am delighted that the council has been given this opportunity to form this shared service partnership with ACHA. 'We are incredibly proud of the

council's IT service and I hope that this initial contract period is the start of a long relationship in the technology sector with ACHA.'

**Mutual benefit**  
ACHA's chairman, Norman Beaton, said: 'The IT department of the council is to be congratulated on winning the contract to provide services to ACHA.'

'We look forward to seeing the benefits of this partnership rolling out to our tenants, other service users and our staff over the next three years.'

'In these difficult economic times we are delighted that we are able to work closely with the council to deliver a mutual benefit.'

FUNDRAISING FOR RED NOSE DAY

Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales), SC039730 (Scotland)



The Oban Times has teamed up with local businesses to help raise money for Red Nose Day 2011. 20% of the advertising revenue generated from this feature will be donated to the charity. But it doesn't have to stop there, Comic Relief's website has a whole host of fund-raising ideas that you can use to help raise even more money for this worthwhile appeal.

18 March 2011

RECENT CHARITABLE DONATIONS  
£ 4 0 5 : 0 0

Was donated by the Oban Times and their advertisers to Children in Need on 1st February 2011 in response to our feature published in November 2010

Advertisement for Comic Relief 2011 in Gaelic, featuring the text 'Gàidhlig ann an Sgairne an Obain' and 'Toilichte taie a chur ri Comic Relief 2011'. It also mentions 'CO-ROINN GHÀIDHLIG LATHARNA/LORN GAELIC PARTNERSHIP'.

Red Nose Day is on Friday 18th March. It's a day like no other when the whole country gets together to do something funny for money and change countless lives in the process. It all

culminates in a night of cracking TV on the BBC with some of the biggest names in comedy and entertainment. And the best bit? All the fun and mayhem helps to raise cash and transform lives

across the UK and Africa

**YOUR FUNDRAISING TRANSFORMS LIVES**

Red Nose Day is all about having a great laugh while raising

money that makes a serious difference. To get involved and start transforming lives, join in the fun and get fundraising.

**WHAT YOUR CASH CAN DO**

All the Red Nose Day

money you raise is spent on a wide range of projects that help those most in need both here in the UK and across Africa.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

The work they do with young people in

this country as many are facing enormous challenges and problems that no one should have to go through alone. With your help they have been able to help thousands of young people to make

positive changes in their lives but many more still need support.



Advertisement for Wetwall featuring a woman in a grey dress and the text 'Pleased to support Comic Relief'.

Advertisement for MGM Timber Oban, stating 'MGM TIMBER OBAN IS A PROUD STOCKIST OF WET WALL PANNELLING - The ideal choice for modern bathroom design!' and providing contact information for MGM Timber Ltd.

Advertisement for OBAN HARDWARE, featuring the text 'RED NOSE DAY Do Something Funny for Money Happy to support Red Nose Day 2011' and contact details for Lochside St, Oban.

Advertisement for R A Clement Associates, Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors, with contact information for 5 Argyll Square, Oban.

Advertisement for krisp print, stating 'Pleased to support Red Nose Day 2011' and offering competitively priced printing and stationery.

Advertisement for HAPPY TO SUPPORT COMIC RELIEF, featuring 'Quality Portable Toilets for Construction & Events' and contact information for West Coast Loos WC.

Advertisement for The Oban Fish Chip & Shop and Restaurant, featuring a red nose character and contact information for 116 George Street, Oban.

Advertisement for United Auctions, Scotland's Leading Livestock Auctioneers, with contact information for the Area Office in Moleigh, Oban.

Wear Something Funny for Money

Get your friends, family and colleagues to change their clothes for a small donation or get sponsored to don something totally ridiculous!

- 1 Get classmates or colleagues to donate to get dressed up or dress down for a day.
- 2 Get sponsored to wear your PJs all day at work or in school.
- 3 Hold a fashion show and sell tickets for the big event.
- 4 From sci-fi to 70s chic, set a theme and pay to wear fancy dress for the day.
- 5 Raid your wardrobe for your worst fashion faux pas and get sponsored to wear it.
- 6 Hold a clothes swap with friends and all donate to walk away with something new.

For more fundraising ideas visit www.rednoseday.com



# Sub-sea cable repairs get underway

## Major project to reinstate underwater power supply to Islay, Jura and Colonsay

A LARGE-scale operation to fully repair the sub-sea electricity cable between the islands of Jura and Islay is to begin next week.

Three ships, a dive vessel and two riggers with crew, and 25 Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) staff will undertake the work, which will take a total of four weeks to complete.

The sub-sea cable runs from the mainland to Jura and then to Islay and Colonsay, supplying all three islands with their mains power.

However, the link between Jura and Islay was damaged at the end of September last year and both Islay and Colonsay had been running off a back-up generator in Bowmore, Islay, before temporary repairs were carried out at the end of 2010.

A full repair to the cable is scheduled to begin next Monday (March 14) for two weeks. Workers will break for Easter on March 28 before a further two weeks of scheduled work. There will be brief interruptions to the power supply during the repair but SSE said islanders will be notified in advance of these.

A spokesman for SSE said work was initially due to commence at the end of February but the weather and tides were unsuitable to undertake the repair.

**"We have two ships at Port Askaig and they will be joined by a third vessel."**

**spokesman Scottish and Southern Energy**

He added: 'We have two ships berthed in Port Askaig ready for the work and they will be joined by a third vessel.

'The power will still be on while this work is taking place, as the connection will be through a temporary cable. However, there will be short periods when the power is off. Anyone who will be affected will be notified well in advance.

'For the vast majority of the time people won't notice any difference at all.'

The spokesman also stressed that the timetable for repairs is subject to change, depending on weather and tides.

He said: 'We invest millions of pounds in our network every year but if there is a fault, especially sub-sea, there is a lot of effort to repair it.

'This is a big exercise but the main thing is we keep the lights on for our customers.'



Fighting the council plans to close Achaleven School are parents and community councillors. 08\_t09achaleven1

## Achaleven primary kicks off fight for its future

ACHALEVEN Primary School's Parent Council kicked off its new campaign to save the Connell school from council cuts.

Gathered in the school's playground with community councillors Les Stewart and Sandy Dunlop, the group vowed to fight the new proposals, saying they will do everything in their power to keep the school open.

The vice chair of Achaleven's

Parent Council, Ami Watson, said: 'What the council are not taking account of is that, over the next three years, we'll have an intake of 44 pupils. They're only looking at next year, but that's too short term. We are compiling a list of children who want to come to Achaleven and would be grateful for any parent or potential parent to get in touch with us.

'It is an absolute shame that this school should be shut. There are plenty of children in Connell and due to placing requests there are very few children in the school. People do not realise the monumental decision they are making by moving children away from Connell - the school will close for ever.

'The council will be carrying out a community impact on

the loss of the school. I would encourage as many people as possible to come along to the meetings and tell officials why they are not using the school. We want to keep this school upon - the future of the village depends on it.

'We will fight this all the way and we're hoping to gather the support of every person in Connell over the next few weeks. It's

with their support we'll save the school.'

Ami, who has three children at the school already and another due to join soon, is preparing a petition and will ask parents to put pen to paper and commit to sending their children there.

Les Stewart said: 'It's just about supporting the school. It's a focal point of the community and vital to the area.'

## Mother of five jailed for 90 days after theft

A MOTHER of five is beginning her 16th custodial sentence after stealing a television from an Oban supermarket.

**Just released**

Appearing from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Patricia McGuire, 46, of no fixed abode, admitted stealing the £130 television set on January 26; days after she was released from prison for another offence.

She will now spend the next 90 days behind bars, backdated to February 7, when she was last taken into custody.

Defending agent, Duncan Durbin, said substance abuse

was the root source of his client's problems. Originally from Dumfriesshire, she started committing crimes aged 26, when she became involved in a relationship with a man addicted to heroin.

**Plea for probation**

The nature of her last release from prison didn't help matters, he said, asking the court to give her another chance and release her to a friend's address.

Sentencing, Sheriff Douglas Small told McGuire: 'You have been given the opportunity of probation before and on each occasion you've breached it.'

## Dunstaffnage hosts renewable energy seminar

PROPERTY owners and landlords in and around Oban are being invited to a seminar in Dunstaffnage this month on how to benefit from renewable energy.

**Cut confusion**

The event, organised by land agents Bell Ingram, is designed to cut through the confusion surrounding small scale renewable schemes and microgeneration projects to help locals save money by going green.

Hundreds of rural settings in Oban - including pubs, hotels, guesthouses, farms and private estates - are eligible for lucrative government incentives to produce sustainable energy from wind, hydro, biomass, anaerobic digestion and solar schemes.

The seminar will be held at the Scottish Association for Marine Science's base on the shores of Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg, led by microgeneration consultants Nigel Benson and Joe Ferguson. Additional advice will be provided by Ian Clark of the Clydesdale Bank's AgriBusiness department.

The event will cover three main areas; taking advantage of feed in tariffs, funding for wind and hydro microgeneration; and renewable heat incentive schemes.

Paul Nicoll, director for Bell Ingram's Oban division, said: 'The drive towards renewable energy is showing no signs of abating, so this is a superb opportunity for people in Oban and

the surrounding area to learn more on a subject that will only play an increasing role in their lives.

'Although microgeneration can seem a daunting prospect, this seminar will provide an insight into what can be achieved and the work involved. I believe this region has great scope to contribute in a major way to the rural renewables revolution.

'We would encourage anyone who has an interest in renewables to attend and of course contact us at our local office if any further questions need answered.'

The seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 22, from 12.30pm-2.30pm, at the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences (SAMS) in Oban.

## Inveraray man faces twice limit drink driving charge

AN INVERARAY man will return to court in Lochgilphead next month to face a charge of drink driving.

Andrew Montgomery, of Tombrec House, Inveraray, who works for Argyll Estates, pled not guilty to allegedly driving whilst nearly twice the legal drink drive limit on an unclassified road between the A819 Inveraray-Dalmally road and the A83 Glasgow to Campbeltown road in the grounds of Inveraray Estate on Christmas Eve last year.

The 45-year-old appeared before Sheriff Thomas Ward at Lochgilphead annex of Dunoon Sheriff Court last Wednesday.

Defence agent Sandy Mitchell, acting on behalf of Glasgow firm Liam O'Donnell and Co said the defence would produce a map of the area where Montgomery was stopped by police.

Montgomery will return to the court on April 27 for trial.

## Oban man threw victim through shop window

AN OBAN man who threw another man through a shop window in a vicious assault admitted his guilt at the town's sheriff court last week.

Sean Kelly, 26, of Flat 1/1, 19 High Street, admitted that, on June 22 last year, at George Street near Stevenson Street in Oban, he repeatedly punched his victim on the head and body before pushing him through the shop window.

Sentence has been deferred until March 29.

## Oban's 'cabby cat' returns home

READERS of *The Oban Times* will be pleased to learn that Mystery, the taxi-loving black tomcat, has now been reunited with his owner.

A few weeks ago the adventurous cat jumped into the cab of taxi driver Lorna Wylie and was taken in by her until the cat's owner was found.

A few days after the cat appeared on the front page of *The Oban Times*, its owner came forward to reclaim their pet.



OBAN High pupils behaviour was a credit to the school on a recent skiing trip to Mont Blanc, Courmayeur in Italy.

Teachers said that the youngsters were a credit to themselves and other pupils. Fellow skiers commented on their behaviour and manners.

In girls football, Eilidh Hegarty has signed for Motherwell as a goalkeeper.

Oban High School Pipe Band competed at the Dumbarton Quartets on Saturday and did very well coming home with two first places, one second place and two third places. Jamie Killorn, Alistair MacLean and Lewis Thomas took part in their first competitions.

Pupils Kirsty and Jenna MacInnes have been selected to dance at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This is a fantastic achievement for them as it is very difficult to be selected for such a high calibre event.

Exam season is getting underway with music exams taking place over the next few weeks. Higher drama exams will take place on May 3 and 4.

The Pipe Band drumming exam will take place on Monday March 14 between 9.30am-10.30am while Main Performing (exc piping and pipe band drumming) will take place on Tuesday, March 22, through to Friday, March 25.

Advice from the department is that children should be practising for at least five nights a week between now and the practical exams in order to reach their full potential. Pupils are welcome to come to the department and practice any day of the week, at lunchtime or after school.

The H2o Lock-in will be taking place on Friday April 1 at Atlantis Leisure from 10pm until 8am.

The School Nurses will be in the school on the morning of March 22 to immunise girls who require their third Human Papilloma Virus vaccine. If anyone would like to discuss this with the school nurses they can be contacted on 01631 789042.

Oban High School Calendars for 2011 are still available. The calendar includes the school holiday dates for the forthcoming year. It also contains pictures of the school football teams, rugby teams, school trips, senior pupils and staff. The calendars are priced at £4.50 - cheques made payable to Oban High School.

## Local memorial fund bids for record breaking Open Day

THE RYAN MacPhail Memorial Fund are hoping that the people of Oban and Lorn will give generously to support the local charity.

Fire fighters Dougie Black and Dougie MacLean are organising a Charity Open Day and Evening Dance with all funds raised going to the support local organisations such as playgroups, swimming clubs, Riding for the Disabled, music groups as well as paying for treatments for childhood illness not available through the NHS.

The fund was set up in memory of Ryan, a keen and active youngster who tragically died as the result of a sledging accident in January 2003.

Watch commander Black said: 'We are

two local firefighters who are keen to raise money for this local charity as Ryan's father is a local firefighter serving Oban for 18 years.

'We would be extremely grateful for donations in cash and kind, such as raffle prizes, bottles and vouchers to be given to support our endeavours.

'We are eager for our fund raising event on August 27 to be as successful as possible as the more money we raise the more youngsters we are able to support.'

To make a donation or for more information contact watch commander Black on dougieblack@hotmail.co.uk or Dougie MacLean on obanmemorials@btconnect.com.



Oban High School's young entrepreneurs who are running a weekly cinema in the Corran Halls. 08\_t09ent1

## Oban High school pupils run successful cinema club project

IF YOU GO down to Oban's Corran Halls on a Saturday you are sure of a big surprise. Because a students' group from Oban High School is running an enterprise project in running a cinema club.

Proving that cinema in Oban can turn a good profit means the teenagers may pass their project with flying colours.

Pupil Helen Petrie explains: 'We all put in £10 for our project to run a cinema in the Corran Halls.

'We were a bit worried the first week as we only managed to make a profit of £6.50, however since then we have seen our sales going through the roof and on the last week before we took a two week break we sold out.'

The cinema has been showing children's films such as Up, Toy Story 3 and How to Train your Dragon from the company Film Bank who distribute films - that are more than 12 weeks old, to audiences. The group pays 35 per cent of the ticket sales back to the Film Bank.

This week the film is Despicable Me with doors opening at 1.45pm. Tickets can be purchased beforehand at the Atlantis Leisure Centre and at the Corran Halls.

## Guys and Dolls ticket winners

TICKET winners for the fabulous night out at the Spotlight production of Guys and Dolls in Oban were Chrissie Thomson, Irene MacDougall, Joyce MacFarlane, Valerie Black and Mrs B Smith, all from Oban.

## Common Good cash returned by Hogmanay party organiser

OBAN Common Good Fund received a cheque back, un-cashed, from a recipient.

Councillor Neil Mackay, organiser of Oban Hogmanay returned the cheque for £3,000. A letter of thanks accompanying the cheque stated that all expenditure commitments had been met and assistance from the fund was no longer required.

At the meeting, applications for assistance were considered for Lorn and Oban Healthy Options, Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce and Oban Community Council. A grant to pay an invoice for Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce was agreed while other matters, including funding for the work of the community council were carried over.

Councillor Donald MacDonald requested that a discussion on the appointment of a chairman. The chairman deferred this matter to a future meeting.

## Oban Speakers Club

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club had an interesting evening last Thursday when they heard about events from places as far apart as the Channel Islands and Ballachulish.

Chairman Jim Fraser introduced speakers Frank Walton who talked on 'The Oban to Ballachulish Railway', Guido Facenda who talked on 'An after dinner speech' and Peter Abbott whose subject was 'World War II in the Channel Islands'.

In closing the meeting president Archie McPhail reminded members that the meeting on 17th would be the last one of the session and an AGM

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LISMORE

SOUP, sandwiches, teas, coffees and home-baking were on offer at a well-attended Valentine tea organised by the hall committee. The hall had been attractively decorated and the event raised more than £200 for much-needed hall funds.

A CHARITY tea held in the wee Manse, in aid of the Oban and Lorn branch of Alzheimers Scotland, raised £250.

Margaret Black organised the event and said every penny would be going to the local charity to help with carer and outreach support and transport to day care, outings and holidays.

LISMORE Primary School children visited Salen recently to see the raised beds where Roger and Gilly Dixon Spain grow a huge variety of vegetables.

The children are keen to start growing their own and to maybe offer them to school catering manager Hazel MacCormick to use in their school dinners.

Roger told the children that the 'no-dig' raised beds had increased soil fertility resulting in a great increase in the worm population.

After seeing his beds covered for the winter in local seaweed - a fertiliser and weed suppressant - the children asked a number of questions about their project which is supported by the Lismore Energy Project run by John MacCormick and Stephen Green.

The children will have two raised beds which the energy group will supply. One will use the 'no dig' method and the other will be dug so an interesting experiment will see which one the vegetables favour.

Roger presented the children with a signed copy of 'Organic Gardening the 'No Dig' Way' by Charles Dowding who wished the children well and said he will be keen to hear how the experiment goes.

AS PART of the ongoing fitness drive which started with classes by Face West Fitness, a walking group will exercise outside once a week starting from different meeting points.

The group meets on Wednesdays at the cafe car park for about an hour's walk. Fit or unfit, everyone is welcome.

Please wear appropriate clothing, bring hand weights if you wish to power walk and dogs on leads are welcome.

ISLAY

EVERYONE connected with Keills Primary School was relieved to learn that the newly published list for proposed school closures did not include Keills.

However, this situation is still not secure as the council stated: 'Argyll and Bute Council will consider holding consultation meetings with communities which could affect any future decisions to amalgamate primary schools.'

'The additional consultation will give community representatives the opportunity to have their opinions included in



Acharacle pupils dress up for World Book Day

PUPILS and Staff from Acharacle Primary - Bunsgoil Ath-Tharracail - got into the spirit of World Book Day last Thursday by coming to school dressed as favourite or famous characters. Lots of book related activities were planned for

'If anyone knows anything about the trophy and the society the community council would be glad to hear from them.'

SKEABOST

TWO P7 pupils from MacDiarmid Primary School in Skeabost featured in the North End team that came so close to glory at the Gilmour Sports First Shinty Festival at Fort William on February 26.

John Gillies and Marcus Ross and their five teammates from Kilmuir and Staffin primaries had looked like overcoming eventual winners Banavie in the semi-final, but lost out when Banavie scored in extra time.

John's dad, North End coach John Angus, and mum Ann were among 14 adults from north Skye who made the trip to Fort William for the event.

Ann told *The Oban Times*: 'I really thought we would do it. It was a cruel way to finish. It was a long, but a great, day out.'

GREAT GLEN

A VALUABLE piece of Great Glen history has been entrusted to Fort Augustus and Glen Moriston Community Council by the local minister.

The Glen Mor Horticultural Society trophy had been in the safe keeping of the Rev Adrian Varwell for almost a decade, kept safe in a box in a cupboard in the manse.

But the Rev Varwell is retiring to Drumnadrochit at the end of April and handed over the cup to the community council at its February meeting for safekeeping.

The Rev Varwell, who has been Church of Scotland minister at Fort Augustus and Glenargy church for 10 years, told *The Oban Times* he can't remember who gave him the trophy, which dates back to the early part of last century.

He said: 'The last inscription in the early 1930s and I presume after that point the association must have gone into dormancy. I was chairman of the community council when it was handed to me.'

during February, including one from Letterfinlay - the first call from outside the Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge area since August.

SPEAN BRIDGE

THE LAST month saw a slight increase in the number of call-outs for Spean Bridge first responders.

In all there were five call-outs

of the signal box, to apply for a change of use.

Although a new function for the box has yet to be identified, there is no lack of ideas from local people, including turning it into a waiting room for the station, a community meeting place or a cafe.

However, FirstGroup, which runs the train station, may scupper any potential new use for the box. It is concerned about an increase in the number of people using the path to the signal box, claiming it could be unsafe.

APPIN

AT THE February meeting of Appin SWRI, president Doreen Evans welcomed almost 30 members.

After the usual business, the meeting took the form of Handy Hints and how the SWRI works.

Firstly there was a talk about how the SWRI works by Doreen, then members were given hints about presenting work for competitions by Alison MacCorquodale and Pat Wyeth Webb.

This month's competitions were: Design for wrapping paper - Gold, Doreen Evans; Silver, Pat Wyeth Webb.

Peach Chutney - Gold, Ellen MacCorquodale.

The special competition for Mrs Ross' Cup was won by Margaret Massey.

KILBRANDON

A HOUSE group connected to Kilbrandon Parish Church has got underway on the island.

Taking place twice a month on the first and third Thursday, people of all ages from a religious background or simply interested in finding out more are meeting at different locations on the island.

The next meeting at Clachan Dubh is on March 17 where the group will be watching excerpts from a film followed by a discussion. Everyone welcome. Contact Souvy Page on 01852 300547.

KILLIN

PETER MacNab, head chef at the Bridge of Lochay Hotel, Killin, has been named as one of Scotland's top young chefs.

Peter picked up a Merit Award in the Villeroy and Boch Junior Chef Finals at ScotHot 2011 at the SECC in Glasgow.

He was one of eight chefs from Scotland selected for the final cook-off in front of a daunting group of renowned chef judges. This was Peter's first competition and his experience has whetted his appetite to enter again.

He said: 'It was a great experience to be cooking for such an austere group of judges and a privilege to have them eating my food.'

'I can't wait to do this again. It's a great challenge and recognition of my hard work and a great chance to show the kind of food we are serving at The Bridge of Lochay Hotel.'

INVERARAY

AN INVERARAY resident has been presented with a Life Members certificate by the Kintyre Piping Society.

Robert Stewart was presented with his award earlier this week by Willie MacCallum of the Kintyre Piping Society.

Mr Stewart was unable to attend the Society's 60th Anniversary Dinner, held last Saturday in Campbeltown.

Mr MacCallum travelled from his home in Kintyre to present Mr Stewart with his award, which recognises the contribution he has made to the society over the years.

Mr Stewart was delighted to receive the award, which he describes as 'a great honour'.

MULL LINES

A COMMUNITY coffee morning, hosted by Sue and Reg Morgan, was held on Saturday in Pennyghael Community Hall. The coffee mornings are held on the first Saturday of the month and everyone is welcome to attend. The next event will be held on April 12.

MEMBERSHIP renewals at An Tobar are now due. Anyone who would like to renew or become a member of the arts venue should contact the centre on 01688 302211.

This next couple of months at An Tobar are very exciting. Kicking off the season were Brit Award Winners Mumford and Sons, supported by Rachel Sermanni.

In Gallery I the exhibition is Conversation, an exhibition stemming from a photographic project between two women photographers, Jenny Escrib in Birmingham and Sarah Darling on Mull. Admission is free.

The exhibition runs until April 29. In Gallery II there is Book, a survey of a transatlantic travelling sketchbook from Oliver Jeffers, Rory Jeffers, Mac Premo and Duke Riley.

THE ROSS of Mull Historical Centre in Bunesan is pleased to announce it is joining forces with the Ranger Service and Growth at the Edge and will soon be offering a visitor information service for the Ross.

An open day is planned for Saturday March 26 for all businesses including tradesmen as a joint leaflet is planned. If you are unable to attend but would still like to take part contact Brik Halcrow.

BRIDGE evenings are being held every Tuesday and Sunday in Salen Resource Centre from 7.15pm. Everyone is welcome and coaching is given to beginners. For more details contact Bill on 01680 812303.

A MEETING of Torosay Isle of Mull Gardening Club will take place on Monday March 21 at 7.30pm in Craignure Village Hall. The group's annual coach trip is to the National Trust Garden in Perth on Wednesday June 8.

MULL Drama Festival will take place on March 24 in Aros Hall. This year's festival takes the form of a non-competitive evening, however, constructive criticism will be offered for each of the four plays. Curtain up is 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale from Tackle and Book, Main Street, Tobermory, from March 12.



Left to right: Police constable Steve Brown, Chief Inspector Ryan Chan Kwok Kuen and Sergeant Mark Stephen.

ISLAND cops of two islands apart got together last week to see just how different two worlds can be.

Sergeant Mark Stephen and other members of the Mull Community Policing Team welcomed Detective Chief Inspector Ryan Chan Kwok Kuen of the Hong Kong Police Force to Mull to discuss community policing in an island setting.

Sergeant Stephen said: 'The Detective Chief Inspector is completing a strategic management course at the police training centre at Tulliallan and following a discussion with Oban's Chief Inspector Glen Bland he was invited to visit our team.'

'It was surprising how many things myself and Ryan had in common.'

'We are both married to teachers, both have two young children, one boy and one girl, and both of us work on an island.'

'However, there were one or two differences. Mull has 360 miles of coastline with a population of about 3,000, takes four or five hours to drive around and is served by five officers in total. Hong Kong is a fair bit smaller, you can drive around the island in about three hours, has a population of 7 million and is policed by the 27,000 officers currently serving with the Hong Kong force.'

During his brief visit, Ryan also had the opportunity to visit the Loch Frisa RSPB Visitor Centre to hear about the Mull Sea Eagle partnership followed by a meeting with a Tobermory pub owner to discuss licensing issues.

'We also discussed the benefits of the community policing model employed on Mull and our recent change of shift pattern allowing us to have a higher profile presence during peak times of demand and when the island is busy with tourists.'

'We both agreed that our islands, although completely different, have something in common, namely that they provide fantastic holiday destinations,' said Sergeant Stephen.



Mull Chamber of Commerce with Nicky Archibald, left, and Robert Pollock, left, of Argyll and Bute Council.

MULL and Iona Chamber of Commerce held a busy and businesslike conference in the Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory.

The recruitment event outlined the advantages of membership for island businesses as part of the Chamber movement. Robert Pollock, Argyll and Bute Council's Economic Development head of service, and Nicky Archibald, of Business Gateway, made presentations to the busy meeting.

Sandy Brunton, chamber of commerce president, said: 'This is the second networking event we have held. The feedback is very positive.'

'It is good for businesses to know what each other is doing. It is also good to know that since our affiliation with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce that we have a range of incentives available for businesses who sign up to being members.'

'Together we are much stronger as a lobbying group. We want to encourage all businesses on the island to become members - there are a number of good reasons to do so, including a legal advice scheme.'

The Chamber meets on the first Monday of the month at the Isle of Mull Hotel in Craignure. Meetings are open to all members and potential future members.

If you would like to come along, please contact a board member before the next meeting to let them know you will be attending. To contact the group phone 01688 302851, email or look them up at www.mullchamber.org.



Olya Maiboroda, left, from Oban, and Mairi Fleck, from Kilmelford, travelled to Kilmartin to take part in the felt workshop.

Argyll craftspeople enjoy 3D felt-making workshop

CRAFTSPEOPLE from across Argyll travelled to Kilmartin House Museum on Saturday February 26 to take part in a 3D felt-making workshop.

From sheep to faces and rocks, there was no stopping the 12 ladies who attended the workshop with Liz Gaffney.

Liz travels to Kilmartin House from her home in Ayrshire once-a-year to give the full-day workshops.

'I'm teaching people how to use needles to create 2D and 3D felt pieces,' explained Liz. 'We're also experimenting with needle embellishes to cross fibres,' she added.



Tree clearing opens up splendid views of Loch Awe

PASSENGERS on the Oban to Glasgow rail line now have new views over beautiful Loch Awe thanks to the Friends of the West Highland Lines Society.

About half-a-mile of trees and bushes have been removed from the banks of the loch, opening up splendid views of historic Kilchurn Castle. Network Rail contractors have been working round the clock to remove rocks and trees and stabilise the slopes of Ben Cruachan.

The society - which has more than 350 members throughout the UK - took the opportunity to pay for the additional removal of trees west of Loch Awe station. Now rail travellers, especially visitors to the West Highlands, can enjoy seeing a large expanse of the loch and its famous castle.

The work was only made possible with the co-operation and support of Network Rail and the assistance of its contractor QTS Rail.



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**DOWN YOUR WAY**

**This week - Bonawe**

AN OPPORTUNITY for people of all ages to explore faith in a new way is being offered at North Connel Hall.  
The event, organised by the Church of Scotland and called a 'Half Hour Happening', takes place on Sunday March 27, starting at 6.30pm.

THE NEXT meeting of Ardchattan Community Council takes place on Tuesday March 15.  
It will be held in the Victory Hall, Benderloch, starting at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to the public.



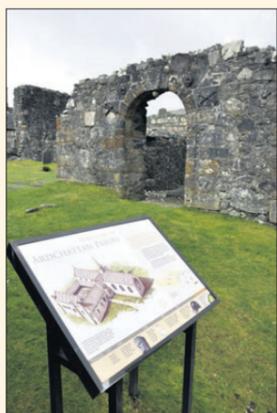
Julie MacFarlane Barrow receives a cheque for £130 from the pupils at Ardchattan Primary School.

TWENTY-two underprivileged children will enjoy a school dinner for a year thanks to the efforts of youngsters in Bonawe.  
The pupils at Ardchattan Primary School decided to support Mary's Meals with profits from a Burns Supper they held earlier this year.  
The charity's Julie MacFarlane-Barrow visited the school to receive a cheque and to talk to the children about the work Mary's Meals carries out around the globe, telling them that the £130 raised would feed 22 less fortunate youngsters for a school year.  
She explained that Mary's Meals works in partnership with the schools it supports.  
'We will invest in them so they have a proper kitchen, proper store and we will buy big pots in which to cook the food.'  
'The school has to provide the volunteers to cook the food and promise to feed the children every day. We do our bit and the local people do their bit.'  
Julie also explained the charity's back pack project, which takes disused back packs along with everything from pens, pencils and paper to toothbrushes and toothpaste, shorts and T-shirts which children here have outgrown and even flip-flops and sandals.  
'The child who receives a back pack then has clothes for school, shoes for their feet, a pen and paper and something to write on,' said Julie.  
She said 45,000 back packs had been distributed last year alone.  
School head Jacqui McLarty said about 70 people had attended the Burns' Supper, and although it was not designed as a fundraiser, surplus funds remained afterwards.  
The children decided half of the money would be used to help pay for an outdoor adventure and the other half would go to a Scottish charity.  
'Mary's Meals was a very appropriate choice,' she said.



The P4 and P7 children from Ardchattan Primary School who are producing a new leaflet which will be available to visitors to Ardchattan Priory.

VISITORS to Ardchattan Priory will have no reason to leave without knowing everything about the historic site - and it's all thanks to children from Bonawe.  
During a clean-out at the village school, staff and pupils came across a booklet all about the priory which was compiled by children almost 40 years ago.  
They decided this would be a good basis for a project of their own which will culminate in the production of a new leaflet which visitors to the priory will be able to pick up while they are having a look round the ancient ruins and stunning gardens.  
To ensure they have the most up to date information, the youngsters enjoyed a tour of the priory and also visited the Tourist Information Centre, in Oban.  
They are each making their own booklet about the priory and the leaflet will be a joint effort.  
They have also studied all different types of tourist leaflets for all types of different tourist venues.  
Ardchattan Priory dates back to the 13th century and its stunning gardens are popular with summer visitors.  
Behind the priory, which is now a private house, lie the ruins of the chapel which are in the care of Historic Scotland.



Right: Historic: The ruins of the chapel at Ardchattan Priory.

**Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Iona**  
with senior reporter Louise Lee.  
You can contact her at 01631 568000 or email llee@obantimes.co.uk.

**JURA**

ISLANDERS aged over 60 are being invited to an Islay outing next Friday (March 18).  
Jura Care Centre has received a donation to provide transport from Jura to Ardbeg Distillery by Alec Dunnachie's bus and Mobility vehicle and a short tour thereafter.

JURA Cinema will be starting in May showing two new release films in the refurbished village hall.

The films come from a charitable organisation, Moviola, which takes care of the public performance licence for a reasonable fee and a percentage of ticket sales.  
Equipment has also been borrowed from Islay.

**LOCH AWE**

THE ANNUAL meeting of the Loch Awe Safety Company, formerly Loch Watch, has been scheduled for June 14.

The meeting will be held in Kilchrean Village Hall and will start at 7.30pm.

**PORTSONACHAN**

LOCH Awe Safety Committee is inviting loch users and locals to an open day this Saturday at Ardbrecknish Boat Yard.

The committee hopes former Oban police sergeant Neil Owen will be attending and demonstrating an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), a hi-tech radio controlled plane that can use heat-seeking technology in search and rescue. There will also be demonstrations from the coastguard.

The committee has also begun spending the £8,000 raised by the families of the four fishermen, who drowned on the loch in 2009.

They are marking reefs in the loch and part of the open day will be to explain the markers to loch users.

**ARUAINE**

A HOTEL owner has won a scholarship to a master class at a Boston university.

Calum Ross, owner of the Loch Melfort Hotel, Arduaine, has won the prestigious hospitality industry scholarship, awarded by the Hospitality Industry Trust.

The leadership scholarship is granted to people who show exceptional talent and dynamism within the Scottish hospitality industry and can be relied upon to continue growth in their field.

This year, Calum was the only winner of the award. Taking place at Cornell University in Boston, USA, Calum will join hotel general managers and emerging leaders from across the world for a two-week master class in January, 2012.

Calum, who is chairman of the British Hospitality Association (Scotland) and vice-chairman of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) said: 'I am surprised and delighted to receive the scholarship and I am sure the experience will provide insight from some of the best hotel operations around the world.'



**Fairytales come to life in Dunbeg**

The magical world of fairytales came to Dunbeg Primary School last week as the nursery children held a fairy tale ball, as part of a topic. Over the past few months the 17 children have also planted magic beans, built a castle in the classroom and made porridge for Goldilocks. Nursery teachers Lorraine Mackay and Christine MacPhee also dressed up for the ball last Thursday.

**KILMELFORD**

KILMELFORD Village Hall will yet again host the annual Race Night on Friday, March 25, from 7.30pm.

First race starts at 8pm with free entry and a licensed bar. Costumes are optional but there is a prize for the best hat.  
Organisers say the event may not be suitable for children aged 12 or under.

**ARDFERN**

THE ANNUAL Craignish Boat Jumble will be held on Saturday March 26 from 10.15am until 2.00pm in the Craignish Village Hall.

This year a park and ride service will be in operation from the car park at Ardferrn Yacht Club.  
A number of special offers will be running in the shop during the day. For more information or to book a space call 01852 500689.

**KILMORE**

A PLANNING application for six houses, near Barran Estate, Kilmore are due to go to a public hearing meeting in the village hall.

A date for the meeting has yet to be set. Full details of the application can be found on Argyll and Bute Council's website.

**INVERARAY**

HISTORY buffs in Inveraray discovered their artistic flair when the Inveraray and District Local History Society were treated to a painting master class.  
Artist Don MacNeil and his wife Jean, from Newton, joined the society for their March meeting to deliver a 'Scottish Art and Artists' presentation.

But the talk soon became a workshop as members were told they were about to create their own 'work of art'. Setting up all the paraphernalia in an artists studio Don charged the group with painting a landscape.  
Attendees took great delight

in the project painting their own seascapes complete with seagulls - all with minimal supervision.  
Jean produced a splendid seascape of Loch Fyne, with Inveraray as a background, in a matter of minutes, showing the group how the professionals do it.

**KILNINVER**

KILNINVER residents are reminding motorists of the speed limits in the area.

Along the main road the speed limit is 30 miles per hour, while on the low road to Seil the single-track road means that drivers must give way if there is a car travelling faster behind them.  
Police are maintaining patrols in the area.

**LERAGS**

A LERAGS resident has reported a number of sightings of a large black and white she believes to be his kitten.

Although there have been sightings recently the animal seems to have been using an outhouse in the area for shelter.  
If there are any more sightings of the beast contact Louise Lee on llee@obantimes.co.uk.

**LISMORE**

PROBLEMS with the bin collections continue to frustrate islanders, who will now have to wait at least three weeks between refuse collections.

On Wednesday, February 23 refuse workers collected the cardboard and paper bin and were due to collect refuse the following week.

However, because of a fault with the bin lorry this was not done. Argyll and Bute Council informed residents the collection would take place the following day (Thursday, March 3) but again this was not carried out.

The island's fortnightly refuse collection means yesterday's collection was scheduled to be for paper and cardboard, meaning another week of refuse waste being held by residents.

**NORTH KINTYRE**

A SUBSTANTIAL investment is being made in the electricity supply in North Kintyre.

The low voltage power network in the area is currently being refurbished with the latest high-tech electrical equipment as part of a wider multi-million pound investment programme.

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) is making the £700,000 investment in the North Kintyre area alone to ensure a safe and reliable supply of electricity.

Samantha O'Connor, a spokeswoman for SHEPD, told The Courier, that this would help ensure supplies are restored as quickly as possible in the event of power failures.

She said in 2010/2011 the company plans to invest around £210million in its distribution networks.

**CARRADALE**

RECENT southeasterly gales have left the beaches around Carradale in a mess, the East Kintyre Community Council members heard at their meeting last week.

They have decided to organise a beach clean before Easter and ask the GRAB Trust to get involved as well.

PLANS for improving the gardens around the Carradale War Memorial include, fittingly, a poppy bed.

The appeal went out at last week's meeting of the East Kintyre Community Council for donations of plants, seeds or seedlings.

**PENINVER**

PENINVER Youth Players have applied to East Carradale Community Council for a grant to help them pay for the cost for their trip to the youth finals of the Scottish Community Drama Association, which are being held in Stranraer this year.  
The council is to consider their application.

**FIONNPHORT**

A WORLD premiere of a film will be held in a village hall on the Ross of Mull.

The Fisherman's Daughter, a film made on the island with many local characters will be aired for the first time with many members of cast and crew present.

The event will take place at Creich Community Hall, near Fionnphort, for an evening of storytelling and short films on Saturday March 26 from 7.30pm.

**EASDALE**

SUMMER starts early on the Island of Easdale as the first annual dinner dance tickets go on sale this week.

The island will be transformed on March 26 when The Puffer spills out into the community hall for an evening's entertainment with a six-piece swing band and a three-course dinner.

For more details contact Keren at The Puffer on 01852 300022.

**CLACHAN**

A SOLAR panel made by Clachan Primary School pupils will be used to create a hot water system for washing their hands after gardening.

The children were given a talk about renewable energy of Kerr MacGregor of MacGregor Solar and then got the chance to make their own solar panel.

Mr MacGregor held workshops in the village hall and in the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown recently.

The system will be run with recycled rain water.

A BEACH clean will be run at the end of April in Clachan.

Organised jointly by Clachan Youth Group and Clachan Primary School the annual event is due to take place at the end of April with children and parents from north Kintyre taking part.

EVERY Thursday children from Clachan Primary School venture out into the woods in the area.

They learn about wildlife and the woodlands around about them with the help of Morag Duff, forest school leader, who lives in the village.

LATER this month Clachan Primary School will be taking a trip to the Science Centre in Glasgow.

The children will be going to the centre on March 30 to learn about and watch a film about the sea, which is their topic for next term.



Lochside for Fairtrade! Jodie McDermott, front, gets the message across with Anna Brayshaw, Raynor Jenkins, Tommy Chisholm and Jazmin McFauld.

**Lochside primary supports Fairtrade Fortnight**

THE FAIRTRADE Committee at Lochside RC Primary School have been busy organising events to mark Fairtrade Fortnight, which ends tomorrow.

Every pupil was given an information leaflet explaining how the Fairtrade system benefits producers in poor countries by guaranteeing them a fair price for their goods, meaning families can afford decent food and housing, education for their children and medicines.

Representatives from Caol Co-op, Room 13 Art Studio and One World Highland gave presentations at the school, while Lochside is playing host to

pupils from other local schools interested in setting up their own Fairtrade committee.

Activities include wordsearches, quizzes, colouring sheets and puzzles and making Fairtrade merit stickers.

Lochside tuck shop is well stocked with Fairtrade goodies such as fruit, cereal bars and chocolate, while over 80 pupils have entered a competition to design a Fairtrade poster.

Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'The standard is high and the judges are faced with an extremely difficult task in deciding winners.'



Donald Melville, left, and David Smart raised more than £2,000 for two charities close to their hearts.

**Marathon cycle from Easdale just the beginning**

A CYCLE ride from Easdale Island to Arbroath got two men fighting fit and ready for another fundraiser next year.

Donald Melville and David Smart took up the gauntlet of raising money for two charities close to their hearts in three days of madness in May.

Now that the cash has been handed over to the Beatson Unit and to Brain Tumour Research - a huge total of £2,042, Donald reflects on the journey to the east coast and the charities he and his cycling buddy managed to raise.  
Donald said: 'We have eventually gathered all the money in from the

very generous donations that people made to us.

'The money has been presented to the two causes we were cycling for.

'Prostate cancer and brain tumour research are close to my heart as I have one friend recovering from cancer and I lost a friend very rapidly to an untreatable brain tumour therefore this cycle ride was for Billy and Stuart.'

The two men are planning to have a training event this year before undertaking another feat of pedal power. Next time the two men may try from Southend in the Mull of Kintyre to the Butt of Lewis.

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# Bonniest Baby Competition 2011

Please note - entries for this competition are now closed



**Iain MacDonald,**  
Tobermory, 8 months.



**Matthew Rankin,**  
Inverlochty, 6 months.



**Eilidh McCahey,**  
Oban, 7 months.



**Savannah Scott,**  
Oban, 11 weeks.



**Keira Carney,**  
Oban, 5 months.



**Gillian Cameron,**  
Oban, 11 months.



**Madelaine Brace,**  
Oban, 6 months.



**Olly MacIntyre**  
Oban, 12 months.



**Caillin Swanson**  
Port Ellen, 14 months.



**Sophie Lloyd**  
Fort William, 13 months.



**Ruaraidh MacLean**  
Salen, Mull 5 months.



**Dylan MacKie**  
Port Ellen, 18 months.



**Brodie Glennie**  
Glasgow, 19 weeks.



**Sam Hutton**  
Bunessan, 14 months.



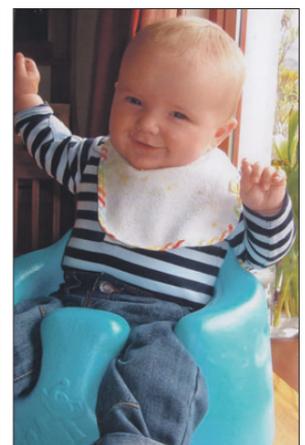
**Anna Telfer**  
Oban, 7 months.



**Caitlin MacColl**  
Oban, 11 months.



**Freya Grant**  
Oban, 13 months.



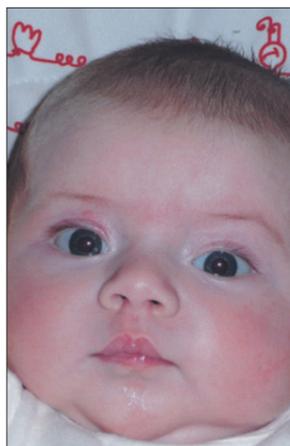
**Alistair MacGillivray**  
Acharacle, 14 months.



**Cameron Clark**  
Barmill, 8 months.



**Leon MacLean**  
Tobermory, 12 months.



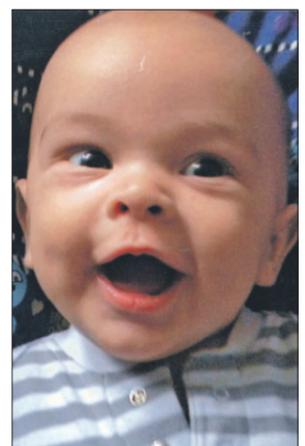
**Aimee Spreadbury**  
Oban, 2 months.



**Alyssa Spreadbury**  
Oban, 16 months.



**Neisha Lopez**  
Oban, 9 months.



**Ewan MacCrone**  
Oban, 9 months.



**Alana Sweeney**  
Tobermory, 5 months.



**Marco MacGregor**  
Oban, 27 months.



**Amy Harrison**  
Blantyre, 10 months.



**Mia Grant**  
Oban, 19 months.



**James Black**  
Oban, 3 months.



**Kyle Dammarell**  
Dunbeg, 21 months.

**Green light for Lochailort fish farm scheme**

MARINE Harvest has been given permission to press on with its plans for a new fish farm at Lochailort.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee granted planning permission for the 30,000 square-metre farm at a meeting in Dingwall on Tuesday afternoon.

The company, which can trace its roots at Lochailort back to 1965, plans to redevelop the existing fish farm complex and erect a new building for the rearing of smolts.

The new hatchery will produce five million smolts a year and employ about six people. All the operations will be housed within the new building and the existing complex will be demolished.

The planners said: 'The building is of a size that is well beyond the local character and does not accord with the existing settlement pattern.'

'However, the design and finish of the building helps to mitigate the visual impacts and the removal of the existing facility represents a visual improvement.'

Councillor Donald Cameron said the expansion was good news for people in the area. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We welcome Marine Harvest's investment and expansion. Hopefully this is safeguarding jobs for the future.'

Arisaig Community Council, which was shown the plans at a meeting last year, lent its support to the expansion.

**Backing for laird**

MALLAIG Community Council (MCC) has given its backing to local laird Sir Cameron Macintosh following a suspected arson attack on his estate.

A 12-foot dinghy belonging to Sir Cameron was discovered burnt out on Loch Morar days after he won a Scottish Land Court battle against local crofter Donald Cameron. MCC chairman John MacMillan said publicity surrounding the case had failed to mention the laird's contribution to the community.

# 'Finish the job' demands parent group

## No date set for third phase of work at Lochaber High School

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has pledged his support for a £10million final upgrade of Lochaber High School and welcomed a parents' campaign to ensure work gets underway as soon as possible.

The move follows the dramatic intervention of Lochaber High School Parent Council this week, which sent a leaflet and covering letter to all Highland councillors urging them to ensure the half-finished school is not left in limbo.

Contractors Morrison Construction will complete Phase 2B of the 'Lochaber 21' refurbishment project next month, bringing the total investment to £15million.

New state-of-the-art sports facilities and classrooms have transformed part of the school, but no start date for the final Phase 3 has been set, leaving staff and pupils to work in temporary classrooms and library.

Roofs are leaking elsewhere on the campus and access and toilets for disabled children are inadequate.

Speaking on Tuesday to *The Oban Times*, Councillor Foxley said a series of budget discussions in the coming weeks would decide when Phase 3 would start.

Three high schools were most in need - Kingussie, where 'ceilings are falling in', Wick Academy and Lochaber High School. Some £30million has already been

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

allocated to Inverness Royal Academy.

Other projects, he said, including flood prevention and new-build Catholic, Gaelic medium and Fort William/Upper Achintore schools in the Greater Fort William primary schools project, were also vitally important.

**Priority**  
He said: 'The completion of Lochaber High School is a major priority for me. Capital is tight, we have less to spend and there are huge demands, therefore it is a question of priorities.'

'The kitchen, dining area, the classrooms, the library, the pupils' social area, the staff rooms, disabled access and dealing with the built off areas will be part of Phase 3, while other non-essential works will not. The refurbishment will be in the order of £10million.'

He added: 'I think it is very good that the parent council has taken positive action in writing to all the councillors. The more people that are contributing to the case for Lochaber High School Phase 3, the better.'

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'We are delighted with all the work so far, but it is a project that is incomplete. We have always seen the refurbishment as

a whole school matter and to have it delayed at this stage would be very disappointing for pupils and staff.'

'We have waited so long for these improvements and have endured over three years of building work on the campus.'

**Unacceptable**  
Chairman of Lochaber High School parent council Moira Tregaskis said stopping work halfway through was 'totally unacceptable'.

'It is really worrying for the school that there is no end time. We don't know if the work is going to finish next year, in five years time, in ten years or at all.'

'This is our children's future we are talking about here. I think they do want to find the money. I have no doubts when they tell us they want to finish the school that that is not a lie, but there has to be more than a commitment. They have to say 'here is the funding and here is the completion time', because a finished school will be absolutely fantastic.'

Highland MSP Dave Thompson has raised the matter with education minister Mike Russell at Holyrood after visiting Lochaber High.

He said: 'Now we are close to the end of the current financial year, staff and pupils deserve to know what Highland Council is going to do to get the funds for Phase 3 to be completed.'



Plockton Primary School pupil Ciorstaidh Caimbeul: accordion winner at Polmont.

## Accordion award for Plockton pupil

A PLOCKTON Primary School pupil has won the Under 12 Trophy for Traditional Accordion at the 37th Annual Accordion and Fiddle Championships in Polmont.

Ciorstaidh-Sarah Caimbeul from Kyle previously won the Under 13 Accordion Trophy at the Oban National Mod in 2009, but last weekend's success marks her step on to the overall Scottish stage.

Ciorstaidh-Sarah, a Primary 6 pupil in the Gaelic unit at Plock-

ton, has been playing the box for two years and is taught by David MacKenzie of Dingwall and Thurso. At the Polmont event, organised by the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs, adjudicator Jimmy Cassidy praised Ciorstaidh-Sarah's playing.

Mr Cassidy, who was himself the all-Scotland champion at the age of 16, said: 'A lot of adults competing here today could not have played these pieces as well as this little girl.'

Ciorstaidh-Sarah played three tunes to take the Pentland Trophy at Polmont - Scott Skinner's Compliments to Dr MacDonald, Miller o' Hirn and Spey in Spate.

Ciorstaidh-Sarah was brought up in Sleat on Skye and now lives with her family in Kyle. Her other siblings are well known musicians too - her sisters Mairi and Steaphanaidh having been in the Radio 2 Folk Award Finals and her older sister Brigbide is already a prize-winning piper.

## Police unveil new station to cover Glencoe

THE NEW Glencoe Police Station was officially opened this week by Northern Constabulary top brass.

Northern Joint Police Board convener Norman MacLeod and Northern Constabulary chief constable Ian Latimer unveiled a plaque at the new premises on Tuesday. Glencoe Mountain Rescue team leader John Grievie was in attendance as special guest.

The new building is located on the site of the previous station, which was built in 1970. It was originally a shared base for police and mountain rescue but was deemed unfit for purpose and lacking in the necessary infrastructure to support the needs of a modern service.

Sergeant Donald Campbell and his team of five constables, a part time member of staff and a Special Constable moved into the new station in December.

In his last station opening before retiring, Chief Constable Latimer said: 'The community of Glencoe deserves a quality service and modern sustainable assets that support police service delivery. This ideal is well understood by us and by the Northern Joint Police Board whose investment in this police station recognises the importance of the police in this community.'

'This is an impressive facility and as well as bringing service access to the community, it provides an excellent workplace for the officers working here.'

## Village to host Fairtrade night

BALLACHULISH is to host a Fair trade open night tomorrow in the Jubilee Park meeting room, starting at 7pm.

The event is part of the Fairtrade Fortnight and is a joint venture between the Co-op and Ballachulish Primary Parent Council.

The night will consist of a presentation from the Co-op on Fairtrade products and then a sampling session.

Ballachulish primary head teacher Sam Clark said: 'It is a free event and we hope to attract a good turnout.'

## Explosive find near British Alcan factory

BOMB disposal experts were called into Fort William on Tuesday to deal with an unexploded World War II relic found near the British Alcan factory.

A member of the public came across the two-foot long metal shell in woodlands near Claggan.

The bomb appeared to have been dropped from an aircraft but it is unclear whether the shell is of British or German origin. It has a yellow line around its centre and it is unknown if it contains explosives or if it is a dummy bomb.

A three-man bomb disposal team from Faslane Naval Base planted two eight-ounce plastic explosives on the bomb, which failed to have any impact on the metal casing when detonated. The shell was taken back to Faslane for further investigation.

## New rules for operation of grass roots councils

A NEW scheme governing how community councils in the Highlands are run has been announced by Highland Council following public consultation.

Community councils are expected to adopt a new consti-

tuion and standing orders before the end of June and to hold an election in November. Elections will then be held on a four-year cycle.

The core membership of each council will be seven members

with the maximum 13, depending on population.

The minimum membership will be four.

Convener Sandy Park said: 'Community councils play an important role in representing

the views of local residents. The major review should result in a more consistent operation of community councils and better representation in our communities, through more contested elections.'



Looking after Glen Nevis: Inverloch pupils Stephanie McKenna and Caitlin Gilchrist, centre, Duncan Stevenson and Ryan Fjortoft show off the bags of rubbish with Sense of Place co-ordinator Anna Trafford, left, and volunteers Steve Tait and Helen Hogan who made the trip from Gillingham, Kent to help out. 10\_1105ense01

## Finishing touches to Glen Nevis project

INVERLOCHY Primary School pupils joined Friends of Nevis volunteers at the former curling ponds at Nevis Bridge on Friday to put the finishing touches to the newly landscaped area and collect litter from the riverbank.

The ponds were re-designed and refurbished as part of a larger Glen Nevis Sense of Place Project run by The Nevis Partnership, the charitable company formed in 2003 to co-ordinate environmental and visitor management in the Nevis area.

Managed over the last 18 months by Anna Trafford, this project has also seen the publication of the book, *Nevis - The Ben and the Glen* and a walks leaflet featuring eight walks in and around Glen Nevis itself.

Still to come are a range of new interpretation boards and a huge split boulder entrance marker for the glen.

The transformation of the curling ponds will be complete once the earth areas around the ponds have been re-seeded.

Anna, also chairwoman of the Friends of Nevis board of trustees, said: 'We're delighted with the progress made so far at this prominent site near the entrance to one of Scotland's most beautiful and well known glens and I'm also really pleased that the pupils and staff from Inverloch Primary School are going to take up the challenge of looking after the area once it is complete.'

'The children will help to keep litter at bay, monitor re-growth of scrub and weeds and make sure the surrounding paths are tidy and maintained.'

'At the same time they'll be able to enjoy games and outdoor learning in a safe and attractive environment.'

## MP urges OFT to look into 'frightening' price of fuel

AS MOTORISTS and business in the Highlands and Islands face escalating fuel costs Scottish politicians are warning Westminster the region could grind to a halt.

Many are unsure whether the proposed 5p per litre (p/l) reduction for island communities will be the answer but everyone is sure the costs are too high at present.

Colonsay topped the diesel price levels last week when it peaked at 163p p/l and petrol in Port Ellen, on Islay, was recorded at 157p p/l.

One Colonsay resident said last week: 'Our diesel went up by 13p p/l overnight and petrol is 150p p/l. We only have nine-and-a-half miles of bumpy and disintegrating road on the island. What are we paying for?'

Carradale has had its last delivery of petrol and diesel as James Semple and Son is closing down its pumps.

The rest of the business, the

shop, post office and garage will continue but as proprietor Kenneth Semple said about selling petrol: 'I'm working as a tax collector.'

Haulage contractor Peter McKerrill and Co, based in Kilmacdonnell, Campbelltown, has been in the industry for 30 years and runs a fleet of 40 heavy goods vehicles.

**Frightening**  
He said: 'The past two weeks have been quite frightening. I don't know where we are going with this.'

'I have never seen an increase like this before. In the past, if there was an increase of a penny in a week you would be shouting about it.'

'But it jumped by three pence in a week and from January 2010 to now my fuel costs have seen a jump of 14p p/l. These costs have a huge impact on haulage and I predict a lot of businesses will go bust if we continue like this.'

Chief Secretary to the Treas-

ury, Danny Alexander, whose ward covers Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey, has sought European approval to reduce fuel duty by 5p in island communities.

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil wrote to Mr Alexander on Tuesday urging him to get the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to look at fuel distribution in the Highlands and Islands.

**Big profits**  
Mr MacNeil said: 'In June 2010, the difference in price between Stornoway and Inverness was 8p a litre, now nine months down the line we have seen the price difference escalate to nearly 20p in these two areas. Somewhere along the supply chain big profits are being made and it's certainly not being made by the filling stations.'

'We need answers on this fast, if fuel carries on spiralling upwards and out of control many people in island areas will find life grinding to a halt.'

**20 Years Ago**

Those Were The Days  
The Oban Times

Thursday, March 7, 1991

**Co-operative supermarket plans backed**

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society have been granted permission in principle to build a new supermarket in Oban.

Last Wednesday's meeting of Argyll and Bute District Council's planning and building control committee unanimously agreed to pass the proposal.

The plan has still to go before the full council next week, but no problems are expected to arise.

In the report on the planning application by director of planning George Harper, it was mentioned that there were two other sites earmarked for the provision of a supermarket in Oban - at Lochavullin and as part of the Waterfront development.

However, planning consent for the Waterfront has lapsed and the Lochavullin site is still not attractive to retail food operators.

In recommending approval, Mr Harpers also states that a detailed application should have no more than 10 per cent of the net retail floorspace given over to non-food goods to protect other non-food retailers in Oban and that mother and baby changing facilities and disabled toilets be provided.

**Island children at risk**

CHILDREN in South Uist are at risk from a fatal disease spread from sheep's carcasses and the crofters responsible face prosecution.

The grim warning comes from South Uist community council chairman Neil Johnstone, who has received increasing complaints about unburied fallen stock on the machair or low lying coastal plain on the west coast.

'Dogs gorging on the carcasses can transmit a bacterium causing liver cysts,' said Mr Johnstone, who is also secretary of the South Uist Crofters' Union.

'This can be a very nasty disease, especially where children are concerned.'

'Dogs who have been round the carcasses can catch the micro-organism and lick the children, creating liver lesions which can be very dangerous and sometimes fatal.'

He said carcasses were also attracting a greater number of hooded crows, black-backed gulls and ravens.

These were a particular problem with the lambing season approaching and one of his own ewes has already had its eyes poked out.

Mr Johnstone said the birds were difficult to control without rifles, but firearms certificates were difficult to obtain.

**Bid to force septic tank to be installed at new house fails**

WHILE 2117 tonnes of raw sewage is being dumped in the sea at Connel ever year, the planning committee of Argyll and Bute District Council has granted permission to build a house without a septic tank.

Councillor Campbell Cameron moved to make the inclusion of a septic tank a condition for planning permission for the house, which is to be sited in Deidre Road, but he was defeated by 10 votes to two.

Mr J Gailey, who lives in a neighbouring house, sent two letters of objection to the council where he voices the concern that the house will be sending yet more raw sewage into Loch Etive unless a septic tank is installed.

This is the second time in the past year that a house has been built in Connel without a septic tank.

Mr Cameron said afterwards: 'The district council should take a stand on this so as to put pressure on Strathclyde Regional Council to get more funds from the government to install an adequate sewerage system for the area.'

He had been alerted to the situation by the chairman of Connel Community Council.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

**Across**

7 Mention a spit for the first time? (6)

8 Delivery service (6)

9 Combustible heap (4)

10 Own code (4-4)

11 Make (7)

13 Written work (5)

15 Large North American mammal (5)

17 Letter to pants! (1-6)

20 Light (8)

21 Not us (4)

22 Clear (6)

23 Discordant (6)

**Down**

1 Words uttered in reverence (6)

2 Unclothed (4)

3 Science (7)

4 A while (5)

5 Small drink (8)

6 Rice dish (6)

12 Untidy (8)

14 Remove from self or truck (7)

16 Decide not to join in (3,3)

18 Boring tool (6)

19 Profundity (5)

21 Captured (4)

**Last Week's Solution**

B	L	S	D	E	P	C
B	L	O	U	S	E	A
O	M	A	T	T	C	
A	T	O	M	B	E	C
A	T	O	M	B	E	C
S	H	O	R	T	E	N
A	T	G				
U	S	A	L	W	O	D
B	N	C	R	I		
P	E	D	I	C	A	T
E	N	G	L	A	P	E
S	S	F	M	R	D	

OT

**Teenage cyclist seriously hurt in collision with car**

A TEENAGE cyclist had to be airlifted to a Glasgow hospital after suffering serious injuries in a collision with a car in Fort William on Monday night. The 18-year-old was travelling down Lundavra Road, Upper Achintore, when he collided with a Subaru Impreza going the opposite way. The collision occurred near the junction with Connochie Road at 9pm. The cyclist, originally from Stirling but now living in Fort William, was initially taken to Belford Hospital but his injuries were so serious he was flown to Glasgow Royal Infirmary by helicopter. Ambulance and police were called to the scene of the accident and the road was closed for several hours. Northern Constabulary said an investigation was ongoing and a report would be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Fine for driver who left crash scene**

A PORTUGUESE man who drove off after crashing into a car near Fort William has been fined £490. Alindo Soares, of 143 Elm Park, Tulse Hill, London, failed to stop after colliding with the car on the A82 north of the town on July 27 and failed to give his name and address to any person. The crash left the other car badly damaged and it had to be towed away. Police traced Soares after finding his registration plate near the scene of the collision. Representing himself, Soares told Fort William Sheriff Court he didn't realise how bad the crash had been. He said: 'Only later did I realise it was bad. My intention was not to run off.' Sheriff Douglas Small also endorsed Soares' driving licence with eight penalty points.

**Youth Voice reflects on first 10 years**

HIGHLAND Youth Voice is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and is hoping former members will help create a book of memories. The Highlands' youth parliament will hold its summer conference at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on June 9-11 and is looking for members both old and new to help create the book. It will record members' memories of their involvement, as well as featuring photographs and a 'Where are they now?' section. Highland Youth Voice executive chairman Stuart Davidson said: 'Contacts in the local community will play a vital part in helping us to trace former members so we would be delighted if anyone with information could get in touch.' Highland Youth Voice is an elected body of young people drawn from across the Highlands. Its 100-plus members are elected through secondary schools and the local area youth forums.

**Open day to mark new premises**

LOCHABER Women's Aid (LWA) will today host an open day to celebrate moving into self contained new premises in Fort William. The event will showcase how LWA works with other social care professionals to help those living with domestic abuse. Art and crafts produced by women, children and young people LWA has supported since 2004 will also be on display. A balloon release will also take place at 1pm to commemorate the women killed each year as a result of domestic abuse. The event takes place at LWA's new base at 3 Belford Road, Fort William, between 10.30am and 3.30pm. A buffet lunch will be served between 12.30 and 1.30pm.



Looking for clues: Lochaber Archaeological Society members David MacFarlane, Martin Briscoe, Robert Cairns and Bridget Willoughby with Glasgow University archaeologist Natasha Ferguson, right, at the Torlundy site. 10\_1104dig01

**Dig uncovers secrets of dummy plant**

IT MAY not look like much now, but this forest-ringed field north of Fort William once helped protect one of Scotland's most important industrial plants from German bombers.

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

The wartime site, off a woodland cycle track behind Torlundy, once housed huge canvas-covered wooded sheds built and lit at night to resemble the nearby British Aluminium smelter for the air. The dummy plant was designed to fool the Luftwaffe by drawing attention away from the heavily camouflaged real factory on the outskirts of Fort William three miles to the south, which throughout the war produced thousands of tons of precious aluminium for aircraft manufacture. The decoy buildings did their job, but since they were taken down, little has been done to catalogue the site - until now. Armed with a £1,000 grant from the Scottish Community Foundation, Lochaber Archaeological Society (LAS) volunteers last weekend took their metal detectors, levels and clipboards to the remote clearing to begin recording the shape and plan of the site for posterity. Advised by Glasgow University

archaeologist Natasha Ferguson, the team traced the foundations of the giant sheds by unearthing iron nails, their position a clue to where the sheds once stood. Little remains visible, save for mounds of earth marking the foundations and a perimeter ditch. The society has already uncovered the underground pow-

erhouse for the decoy factory a short distance away, from where high voltage cabling powered hundreds of lights at the dummy plant, their pattern from the night sky appearing as an industrial complex through the German bombsights. Speaking to *The Oban Times* on site, LAS chairman Robert Cairns said: 'All this was built to fool enemy bombers. It would be lit up while the real factory continued its production untouched. 'It's an important project. We have involved the children in seven local schools in Lochaber and have handed out packs for them to enter a competition to produce a picture of how the place might have looked in reality. The winning picture will go into the pamphlet we are producing.' The project is ongoing and Mr Cairns is looking for more volunteers to help record the site. 'Anyone interested in archaeology can get in touch with us,' he said. 'The site has never been recorded since the war.' Mr Cairns also thanked Forestry Commission Scotland and Rio Tinto Alcan for their co-operation. He can be contacted on robertcairns363@btinternet.com.

*"It's an important project. The site has never been recorded since the war."*

**Robert Cairns, chairman of Lochaber Archaeological Society**

**Archie reflects on his Afghan mission**

A MAN brought up on a south Uist croft has been leading efforts to bring stability to war-torn southern Afghanistan.

Archie Lightfoot, who spent much of his childhood at his grandparents Archie and Kate MacDonald's home at Garryhallie near Daliburgh, has just returned from working in Helmand as head of operations for the joint civilian military mission there. Based in the main town Lashkar Gar, as head of the reconstruction team Archie travelled routinely across the rural province working with local governors, elders and farmers to help establish a more stable society, dealing with issues such as local representation, accessing funding and disputes over irrigation, land and productivity.

Archie, whose mother is renowned Gaelic piper, singer and storyteller Rona Lightfoot, told *The Oban Times* the team was made up of 15 different agencies and organisations from five nations, each with its own chain of command, agenda, objectives and reporting needs - one of the most complicated organisations he had ever worked in. He said: 'Without unity of purpose and unity of effort, the whole edifice would collapse with in-fighting and petty squabbles about who reported to whom on what. But it does not - thankfully we are able to keep everyone pointing in the same direction and moving at about the same speed. 'Afghanistan has three clocks running on different speeds. The fastest is the military clock



Archie Lightfoot, right, with stabilisation advisor John Browning in the Helmand province village of Khan Neshin.

since it, and especially the US Marine Corps, is institutionally impatient. The second is the international civilian community clock which runs at what you and I would recognise as normal speed. The third clock runs on Afghan time, which runs at snail's pace - think the Hebrides, only slower.' Looking back over his ten months in Helmand, Archie

Also, heroin poppy production was down 37 per cent as local farmers were encouraged to switch to food crops such as wheat, while more judges, prosecutors and Huquqs (community mediators) were bringing a fairer and less brutal form of justice. More schools have opened too - a vital breakthrough. Archie said: 'Education is the most asked for service if you take the time to walk the bazaars and ask ordinary people what they want. Education first so children get to know there is an alternative to the Taliban way of life. 'After that, it's healthcare - no surprises there because people want their children to survive.' Of the US Marine Corps, Archie described it as 'a 200lb bulldog straining at the leash - you'd better know what you want it to do when you let it off the leash otherwise its target will be your leg'.

Asked if ten years of war and reconstruction had been worth it, Archie said: 'I think we have grounds to be optimistic. Progress that has been made is, however, fragile and there are all kinds of forces and events that could derail what we have done so far. 'Most of the people I met were generous and kind; many are to be admired for their fortitude and for their determination to restore civil order. 'It was a privilege to be allowed to make a small contribution to the coalition mission and I left Helmand having developed an enormous affection for it and its peoples.'

counted progress on a number of fronts. Most of Helmand's district governors are properly qualified civil servants now, 'a step on the road to reducing corruption', said Archie, while more districts have an elected interim district community to deal with local education, justice, dispute resolution, rubbish collection and other matters.

**Offender jailed for series of crimes**

A FORT William serial offender has been jailed for nearly a year and a half for a string of crimes in and around the town.

Michael MacDonald, of Dalriada, 71 Camaghal, appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court to hear his fate.

MacDonald took his father's pick-up truck for a drive in the early hours of February 26 despite being drunk. Procurator Fiscal Emma Knox said members of the public saw the 21-year-old 'wandering about the road and unable to hold a straight line' and called the police, who caught up with him on Fassifern Road.

A high-speed pursuit followed, but when MacDonald reached the west end roundabout, he crashed off the road damaging 60ft of railing. He then veered across the carriageway and hit the central reservation. Undeterred, MacDonald kept going, driving at speeds of up to 60mph on North Road. As he continued along the A82 towards Torlundy taking blind corners on the wrong side of

the road, officers decided it was unsafe to continue following. Not long after dropping back they saw smoke in the distance and found the badly damaged car by the side of the road.

MacDonald was found more than 90 minutes later walking near houses at Torlundy. He was breathalysed and found to be nearly one-and-a-half times the drink drive limit.

**Banned** Sheriff Douglas Small jailed MacDonald for 140 days and banned him from driving for four years.

MacDonald was found guilty last year of having an offensive weapon without reasonable excuse or lawful authority in a lane next to the Ben Nevis Bar on July 14, with sentencing deferred for good behaviour.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said MacDonald had picked up a four foot metal bar from a nearby building site after he and his friends got into a fight with three men from Inverness outside the bar. Police saw him with the pole before he got back

to the fight. Mr Kennedy said: 'He has problems with drugs and drink and he had taken both. He has very little recollection of this.'

Sentencing MacDonald to seven months in prison, Sheriff Small said: 'You could have done serious damage to one of the other youths involved.'

MacDonald was found guilty at a trial in December of assaulting his partner Lisa MacKinnon by repeatedly seizing her by the throat, pushing her and restraining her on a couch, presenting and waving a knife at her, all to her injury.

It happened in Miss MacKinnon's house at 83 Carn Dearg Road on September 25, with sentencing deferred until last week. MacDonald received 90 days in jail for the attack.

The court heard he had also pled guilty to taking and driving a friend's car without the owner's consent, and driving whilst disqualified.

For this offence, Sheriff Small jailed MacDonald for a further 90 days.

**Girlfriend 'shaken like a rag doll'**

A FORT William man drunkenly assaulted his girlfriend before trying to force his way into her home.

Iain Dunleavy, of 46 Lundy Road pled guilty to assaulting Simone Black on the High Street by seizing and shaking her.

**Admitted** He also admitted conducting himself in a disorderly manner by shouting, swearing, repeatedly banging on the door of 65 Lochaber Road, trying to force entry and struggling with Ryan Black and Nigel Eaton.

Both incidents occurred in the early hours of February 2.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard 18-year-old Dunleavy had been drinking with Miss Black in the town.

**Argument** As they were walking home, the couple got into an argument when Dunleavy grabbed his partner and shook her.

A passer-by told police: 'He shook Simone like a rag doll.' Miss Black went home alone and one hour later saw Dunleavy banging her front door and

demanding to be let in. Friends of the couple who live nearby, heard the commotion and came out of their houses to try and calm Dunleavy down.

**Out of control** Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said his client had been 'out of control'.

He added: 'He is a young man who had far too much to drink.'

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing Dunleavy for nine months for good behaviour, saying: 'We're going to keep an eye on how you behave.'



Departing conductor Sheana Fraser with the society's new CD.

**Conductor Sheana bids farewell at launch of CD**

LOCHABER Strathspey and Reel Society launched its latest CD at its 25th Annual Fiddlers' Rally last weekend.

The concert also saw the last appearance from conductor Sheana Fraser, who is leaving the society after being involved

since its inception. Mòd gold medallist and TV and radio presenter Mary Ann Kennedy, whose partner Nick Turner produced the CD, appeared as a guest artist at the concert in Lochaber High School. The album, called 'Lochaber

Gathering', features traditional music with a west coast flavour, with tunes including 'The Hills of Lorn', 'Major Man's Farewell' and 'Loch Liabhainn'. Society secretary Isobel McKellaig said: 'The society welcomes our fellow musicians

from across Scotland and gratefully acknowledges the support of all whose practical assistance ensures a successful evening. 'We are also grateful to Isobel Campbell MBE and her team for the catering.'

**£500 Kilmallie hall boost**

LOCHABER councillors have agreed a £5,000 contribution towards re-roofing Kilmallie Hall from their discretionary budget.

Nether Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club receives £600 to help establish new premises, while young golfer Alasdair Ross gets £700 for training costs. Voluntary Action Lochaber receives £500 for a social enterprise conference and Safe Highlander £650 towards staging an event. Other awards include £600 to Upper Achintore Parent Council and £700 to Lochaber Pubwatch.

Instead of reading this 40,212\* readers could be reading your advert.

Audit period Jan 2009 - Dec 2009  
\*ICRE data as at 01/01/2011

Telephone: 01631 568000 **The Oban Times**

**Attacker believed victim had 'broken into house'**

A FORMER Fort William resident has admitted a violent attack on another man in the town.

David MacKinnon, now of 2-2, 617 Duke Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow, admitted assaulting Jamie Leighton by repeatedly punching him on the head and body, knocking him to the ground all to his injury. The attack happened on a footpath from Fassifern Road to Monzie Square on the afternoon of August 10.

Procurator Fiscal Emma Knox told Fort William Sheriff Court 28-year-old MacKinnon, who had been drinking, approached a group of friends who were also drinking on a set of steps. MacKinnon approached the group and 'without warning' punched Mr Leighton on the

back of the head knocking him to the ground. He continued to punch him on the ground.

Stephen Kennedy, defending, said the assault was 'not premeditated in any way' and said his client believed Mr Leighton had been involved with a recent break-in at the house of a friend.

Police arrived and found Mr Leighton with a swollen face and blood on his t-shirt. They traced MacKinnon, who had changed his bloodstained clothes, but admitted the attack.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It seems to me if you have too much to drink you get out of control.' The sheriff sentenced MacKinnon to one year on probation, 100 hours community service and ordered him to pay £300 compensation.

**Fury as embezzlement case against accused is dropped**

THE LONG-RUNNING case against a Ballachulish woman accused of embezzling £195,000 from her former employers has been dropped because of a UK Supreme Court ruling.

Police interviews with Doreen MacKenzie, 43, were deemed unlawful as she was not offered access to solicitor. A recent ruling by the Supreme Court means police can no longer question suspects without allowing access to their lawyer.

A spokesperson for the Chisholm family, who own Chisholm's Garage, slammed the decision, saying: 'It is now apparent to one and all that the rights of criminals and alleged offenders are now being placed before those of the law abiding and victims of crime due to this perverse ruling from a court that holds no consti-

tutional place in our independent criminal justice system.'

Ms MacKenzie was also only cautioned once during 30 hours of interviews over two days in July 2007, and was not told of her right to remain silent, in keeping with Scottish law at the time.

But at a debate in Fort William Sheriff Court in January, Sheriff Douglas Small upheld a challenge from defence solicitor Allan McLeod that evidence from the interviews could not be used in a trial.

The Chisholm family spokesperson said: 'We are very disappointed that the Scottish Government has allowed the newly-created Supreme Court to interfere in our independent Criminal Justice System under the guise of the Human Rights Act and has failed to challenge them.

'Our own Judiciary looked at this matter and concluded that the Scottish police standing procedures were fair to the accused/suspect and that the system was more than robust enough to ensure the human rights of all concerned where not infringed. 'We cannot understand how the law of the land that was applied at the time of this criminal enquiry, carried out several years ago, can be retrospectively overturned without having due regard to the consequences on the law abiding majority. 'Yet again the majority are suffering at the hands of a Judiciary that seem to ignore their human rights.'

Ms MacKenzie, of 68 Loanfern, Ballachulish, denied committing the fraud while she was bookkeeper for Chisholm's Garage between 2001 and 2006.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Road repairs can't come soon enough

NOT a minute too soon!  
That can be the only reaction to this week's announcement that work to repair potholes on Argyll and Bute's crumbling roads is to begin immediately. The area is to receive a share of £2 million announced by the Scottish government this week.  
It should see a fairly rapid improvement to the surface of some of our main routes including the A85, A83 and A828.  
But anyone who has to drive between Oban and Lochgilphead on the A816 - one of the worst - will have to continue to worry about their tyres, wheel trims and springs.  
Hopefully, this stretch of road - and we use the term loosely given that in some parts it is becoming almost impassable - will benefit from some of the extra cash Argyll and Bute Council is expected to agree for roads projects from its capital budget.  
Wherever the money comes from, let us hope that the work is much more than a patch-up job, otherwise we will be faced with the same costly situation in 12 months time.

## Embrace the bicentenary

THIS summer could be one to remember, as Oban's bicentenary celebrations begin to take shape.  
We are promised 10 historic days in July, with everything from a royal visit to Tall Ships.  
However, the most important ingredient is that those who live here truly embrace the event.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Glasgow Islay Association

#### Annual Gathering

GLASGOW University Union was the venue for the 149th Annual Gathering Concert and Dance of the Glasgow Islay Association.

Unlike previous Gatherings, it was held on a Saturday evening and not on a Friday.

Any worries the committee may have had about numbers attending were quickly dispelled as the hall was packed when president Malcolm Campbell and his platform party entered.

It was Malcolm's pleasure to introduce for the evening the chairman, John Carmichael, no stranger, of course, to an Islay audience.

Having taken the chair as far back as 1984, John was delighted to be back amongst his Islay friends and took the opportunity to reflect on the changes to island life in that time. He made mention of many of the positive changes while at the same time emphasising his concern at the lack of Gaelic speakers on the island and the need for those learning the language to absorb the culture as well as the spoken tongue by speaking to as many of the native speakers as possible.

If this all sounds terribly serious it was not the case and John was at his humorous best throughout with many stories, some fictitious, but many describing the fun he had growing up on the island.

Last week, when I wrote about the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir concert, I commented on the importance of choice of person in the chair and the choice of John was a huge contributory factor to the success of the concert.

As a result of the homely relaxed atmosphere created by John each of the soloists, Jennifer Campbell, Jane MacQueen and the two lains, both of them Mod Gold Medalists, Carmichael and MacLean, was in top form with many of their popular songs encouraging audience participation.

The instrumental items on the programme were provided by pipers Linsay MacArthur and Sandy McLellan, who play in the successful Islay Pipe Band, and Ballochmyle Ceilidh Band who also played for the dance which followed the concert. Norma MacDougall was the accompanist for the singers.

Early in the concert proceedings, young Anna Thomson, daughter of Fergus and Katie and granddaughter of Kenneth Thomson and the late Valerie, gracefully presented

John Carmichael with a memento of the occasion.

#### Glasgow Uist and Barra Piping Competition

THE COLLEGE of Piping, Otago Street, will be the venue for this year's piping competition with the morning session starting at 9am and the afternoon session at 1.30pm.

This is a prestigious event on the solo piping circuit and features some of our best pipers.

#### GG Concert

THE ANNUAL concert of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association will be held in the Partick Burgh Halls tomorrow evening (Friday) at 7.30pm when the soloists will be Donald Iain Brown, Eilidh Davies, Fiona MacIntosh and Ruairidh MacIntyre.

#### Diary dates

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

**Friday March 11:** Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Annual Concert - see above. Clydebank and District Highlanders' Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

**Saturday March 12:** Uist and Barra Association Annual Piping Competition - see above. Paisley and District Highlanders' Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Oban High School FP's Annual Dinner Dance, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7.30pm. Blaz'n Fiddles, MacLaren Hall, Killin.

**Tuesday March 15:** Gaelic Society, Glasgow Gaelic School, 7.30pm, Ragnall Mac ille Dhuibh.

**Wednesday March 16:** Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.

**Thursday March 17:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Anarkali.

**Saturday March 19:** Highlander's Club, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, Mhairi Cotts Band.

#### Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar this weekend it will be Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Dodgy Ground on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Moran on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday.  
**Neil Murray. Telephone: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



## Tighnabruaich wedding - 1931

Peter Wilberforce of Connel, by Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which features the wedding of William Alfred Wilberforce and Cecelia Egerton Guest in Tighnabruaich on January 12 1931. The photo was taken at the Blair Arms Hotel, later known as the Kames Hotel, which was owned by the bride's parents, seated left. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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### Democracy comes at a price

Sir,  
I refer to last week's front page article in *The Oban Times* on the cancellation of a planning site meeting at Corriemollie to consider an application for 19 wind turbines.

The decision to meet on site on March 1 was made in Fort William on January 25 by members of the planning committee.

There was no request made for a site hearing which would have allowed a spokesperson(s) to address the committee on behalf of the objectors detailing their written objections.

If any local councillor for the Strathpeffer area or any other councillor had been of a mind, they could have submitted a request for a hearing at that stage. They did not do so.

Accordingly, the council's solicitor sent out appropriate papers calling a site meeting as agreed. A bus was booked for 10.30am to transfer councillors and officials to the site and thereafter back to the Council Chambers in Dingwall to consider the application at 1.30pm.

If there had been any legal doubts, indeed any doubts about what had been agreed in Fort William, bearing in mind that the decision to hold the meeting in Dingwall was made on January 25 and that formal letters calling the meeting had been sent out five days before the meeting, there was more than ample time to stop councillors/officials travelling to Dingwall and to cancel the booking for the bus and refreshments well in advance of the day of the meeting.

Instead, everyone travelled to Dingwall in the belief that the site meeting was going to take place.

However, due to pressure on councillors from the objectors prior to the meeting, the decision made previously in Fort William was overturned on a vote of five votes to four not to proceed with the site meeting. The committee will re-convene in Dingwall for a site hearing on March 22.

Democracy certainly has a price and that is to treat all objectors and applicants with equal consideration irrespective of the application or the area of its location.  
**Councillor Bill Clark, Caol and Mallaig Ward.**

### Change of attitude needed

Sir,  
When it comes to renewable energy generation, there is a cumulative sense of triumph. Not In My Back yard-ism (NIMBY) about Argyll and Lochaber.

Last week, March 3, *The Oban Times* reported that a plan for a biomass power plant at Invergarry had been rejected.

A few weeks ago, the Isle of Seil was over the moon about defeating a plan for a local wind farm and Tiree doesn't want planned off-shore wind turbines within sight of the shore.

Yet all would no doubt agree there is a need to maintain an infrastructure of roads, hospitals, schools and services, including vibrant town centres. This, in turn, means keeping a resident population that consists of a good balance of old and young and this requires generation of wealth to provide jobs.

'Renewables' can provide jobs - note the concern over the future of the Machrihanish turbine plant - but they also provide a means

of creating wealth by exporting energy through the National Grid.

This local wealth generation can then be used to bolster arguments that the region is off-setting the tax subsidy currently needed to maintain its infrastructure. Indeed, the region could be one of net wealth creation and, so, hold its head high.

No-one should actively seek to destroy the scenic beauty that makes Argyll and Lochaber attractive both to tourists and other sources of spending such as comes from retirees who take up residence by implanting unsightly energy plants in inappropriate places.

However, there are plenty of locations where development would not intrude on the majority of residents and tourists. So, we need a change of attitude, both amongst those that propose and those that object.

Instead of causing anguish, developers should propose sites that are largely out of sight and prospective NIMBYs need to proactively encourage local planning authorities to designate areas that might be suitable for developments from the point of view of aesthetics.

That way, the region can have its cake and eat it.  
**Professor Ian Reid, Duncraggan Road, Oban.**

### Well done Spotlight

Sir,  
'Luck be a Lady Tonight' is one of those iconic songs that many of us know a snatch of, but few remember it comes from the Broadway musical 'Guys and Dolls'.

Along with a large and enthusiastic audience on Saturday night at the Corran Halls, I enjoyed Spotlight Musical Theatre Group's high quality performance of the show.

It takes a lot more than luck to make a successful production. There has been a great deal of cultural talent poured in and months of hard work.  
It was not just a talented cast - and that they most definitely were - but there were things that are sometimes less noticed; brilliant costumes, scenery, choreography and direction all contributed.

The little cameo scene of a domesticated Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson was pure comedy.

Well done Guys and Dolls, one and all.

PS: Note to Argyll and Bute Council: have you seen the report from Glasgow City Council which says that its policy of actively supporting culture and cultural activities in their area has brought 24,000 jobs in its wake. Are there lessons to be learned in Argyll?

**Mike Robertson, by email.**

### Procedures for closing schools less than transparent

Sir,  
Once again the administration of Argyll and Bute Council has voted to go to consultation on school closure proposals. The administration had already voted for consultation but then decided against the original proposal at a special council meeting called by the opposition groups.

I was relieved to see the removal of some schools from the school closure consultation but dismayed to see others now included on the list. There does not appear to be clear, robust

criteria for closing schools in the heart of our communities. How can communities argue for retention of their school when the procedure rules are less than transparent?

Better productive use should be made of our schools within our communities rather than threatening to close them.  
**Councillor Anne Horn, Ward 2, Kintyre and the Islands.**

### Top Gear's Clarkson needs a lesson in geography!

Sir,  
Jeremy Clarkson, television's Top Gear presenter, has done it again. Not happy with offending Mexicans and Albanians, he has now insulted the 1,600 inhabitants of Ardnarmurchan.

On the Top Gear episode of February 27 Mr Clarkson claimed to out-ride God himself by crossing the British Isles from west to east quicker than daylight on mid-summer's night. Unfortunately he crossed from Lands End to Lowestoft, which I am sure your readers will realise does not include the most westerly point of the British mainland.

Corrachadh Mor on the Ardnarmurchan peninsula is the most westerly point on the British mainland which is 22.725 miles /36.573 kilometres further west than Lands End.

Our Longitude and Latitude roughly compare as follows: Lands End 50°04'N, 05°44'W; Ardnarmurchan Point 56°43'N, 06°14'W.

As punishment for not doing his geography homework we urge your readers to join us in challenging Mr Clarkson to retake the challenge from the most westerly point of the British mainland or consider a new driving challenge in Ardnarmurchan.

**Helen MacGillivray, Ardnarmurchan Tourist Association Administrator.**

### Mull roads a disgrace

Sir,  
I read with some happiness in *The Oban Times* about the decision that some council road departments were to be closed down in Argyll and Bute to save money.

Hopefully the roads department on Mull, which seems to make the roads worse when it works on them, is one of them and it is replaced by contractors.  
I was one of the unlucky car drivers who lost two tyres and two rims on those horrendous, supposedly maintained Mull roads.

After a year of correspondence with Argyll and Bute Council I gave up. I then had to go and buy four new tyres and rims at a cost of £520 and to insult me more I then had to pay £245 for road tax.

**An angry Mull driver, name and address supplied.**

### Blame rests with COSLA

Sir,  
It is with extreme concern I note Alan Reid MP trying to blame the Scottish Government for cutting Argyll and Bute Council's grant 'by more than any other council in Scotland'.

It is now clear that the blame for such a massive cut rests with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and not with the Scottish Government.

The largest part of the reduction relates to a cut of £5.588 million in the former Supporting People (SP) funding.

As we are now aware, the Scottish Government wrote to COSLA on December 20 2010 and offered to retain the 2010/11 shares of SP funding which would have ensured that Argyll and Bute would not have lost £5.588 million.

COSLA failed to take up that offer and as a result, the people of Argyll and Bute lost £5.588 million. Subsequently, this was partly offset by a share of an additional £5 million that the Scottish Government made available to try and help lessen the impact of this massive cut.

The net loss to Argyll and Bute is still a massive £4.280 million for 2011/12 which has contributed significantly towards the largest annual financial loss in Argyll and Bute Council's history. The council is now faced with an ongoing annual cut of £5.588 million every year for years to come.

It should also be pointed out, from the information that has been received, we have been told that when COSLA leaders were asked 'how to fix the Supporting People problem', that 'the SNP were sympathetic and looked at reallocating some of the local government family money to the councils who had lost'.

It is also clear from the correspondence that I have that Labour, Lib Dem, Conservative and Independent Council Leaders at COSLA were not willing to support such a proposal.

Unfortunately for Alan Reid, the evidence is clear that his own Liberal Democrat colleagues were party to the decision that lost Argyll and Bute such a massive sum and it was they who helped to ensure that the cut in the funding for Argyll and Bute was 'more than any other council in Scotland'.

Alan Reid and the Lib Dems should hang their heads in shame.

**Councillor George Freeman JP, Leader, The Argyll and Bute Independent Councillors Group.**

### Flying Officer James Noble Mackenzie

Sir,  
I am carrying out research into my uncle's cousin, Pilot Officer A J Fitchett, of Bontdu, Meirionethshire, who was lost on air operations with Bomber Command in June 1943.

His pilot was Flying Officer James Noble Mackenzie of Inverloch, Fort William. On the night of 24/25 June 1943, Flying Officer Mackenzie was the pilot and captain of Halifax II JD250 R of 51 Squadron, Snaith, Yorkshire, during an operation to Wuppertal in the Ruhr. At around 1.45am, whilst approaching the Dutch coast, the aircraft was shot down by a nightfighter killing the seven crewmen.

I am compiling information about the crew including photos and logbooks from their training days up until they were lost. I have no photos or any information regarding Flying Officer Mackenzie.

If any surviving relatives of his feel they would like to help me in my research I would be grateful for their assistance.

**Ian Evans, 13 Moorsfield Avenue, Audlem, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 0LA. Email ian@ian106.wanadoo.co.uk.**



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

RUGADH AILEAN ALASDAIR, an aon seanair a b' aithne dhomh sa bhliadhna 1874 agus bha e naochad 's a coig nuair a chaochail e. Dh' fhuing an duine laidir comasach sin buaidh iomadh cogadh na bheatha agus chunnaic e iomadh atharrachadh, ach nan robh e beò an-diugh, tha mi a' creidsinn nach biodh "p.c." a' ciallachadh dha ach 's dòcha pios caise!

Chan eil sin air chor sam bith a' ciallachadh nach robh modh agus giùlan thuigseach choibhneil am measg a chuid ginealaich, ach bha saoghal cruaidh agus uallach trom obrach air fir agus mnathan.

Ach ged a bha na fir ri cruadal cunnartach aig iasgach is eile, bha uabhas a' tuiteam air na boireannaich leis na fir air falbh aig cosnadh. Eadar clann a thogail, dachaigh a ghleidheadh, sprèidh a riarachadh, agus gu math tric obair cruite a dhanamh cuideachd, bha linn na h-òige a' dol à sealladh gu math tràth dha na mnathan Gàidhealach. Air uachdar gach uallaich eile bha cleachdadh agus creideamh ga fhàicinn coltach gu leòr gur ann mar seo a bhiodh beatha nam ban, agus bha fùt 's dùil ri bean a bhith a' frithealadh fear an taighe! Tha mi a' tuigsinn gum bheil an cleachdadh sin beò fhathast an siud 's an seo! Ach cha chan sinn an còrr mun sin!

Ach a' cur fealla-dhà gu taobh, bha mòr-fheum air leasachadh ann am beatha an t-sluaigh agus gu sònraichte ann an cor nam boireannach, agus thàinig e beag air bheag. Tha deagh sheirbheisean slàinte agus shochairean sòisealta ann an-diugh, agus ged a tha iomadh teaghlach boecl againn fhathast tha taicean ann. An cois an adhartais thàinig an uairsin feallsanachd na Roinne Eòrpaiche le laghan a bha ciallach gu leòr a thaobh co-ionannachd cothruim is mar sin air adhart, ach le mion-chòirichean a shaoileas mòran a tha a' dol thar nan toimhean!

Tuigidh duine ciallach sam bith carson a bhiodh daoine air an dìon bho gheur-leanmhainn air sgàth aois; gin, creideamh; neo cinneadh, ach 's e firinn na cùise gum bheil feum air laghan a dhaingneachadh sin agus gum bheil daoine fhathast a' fùlag. Ach ma tha ciall idir anns a' cho-dhùnadh nach fhaod boireannaich òga àrachas càir fhaotainn nas saoire na fir den aon aois feumaidh a' chosgais air na fir lùghdachadh agus coinneachadh ris an àrdachadh a tha dol air na boireannaich. Mura tachair sin, chan eil buannachd as a' cho-ionannachd seo ach dha luchd-reice an àrachais!

MOST right thinking people recognise that it is wrong to discriminate on grounds of age; sex; race; or religion, but we still require legislation, and many suffer despite that.

European laws sometimes seem to take political correctness to absurd levels, and if it is illegal for young women to be offered cheaper insurance than what is available for men of the same age, then premiums for men must reduce to meet the increased female rates. Otherwise this equality is only an excuse for insures to charge more!

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

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### Over confidence leads to disaster

IF EVER there was an illustration of self belief, over confidence, call it what you will, the world appears to be suffering from it in various continents.

In his years as dictator in Libya Colonel Muammar Gaddafi has carried out acts which no ruler - dictator or not - thought it possible to get away with, yet he did, anchoring his confidence in his guaranteed, life-long reign. Suddenly, despite an oppressive secret police, informers aplenty and ruthless disposal of anyone who has dared to query anything he did was 'dealt' with, unrest in another Middle East country suddenly caused his reign to disintegrate.

Bloody conflict reigns in the country he appeared to rule so effectively guaranteeing his sons would follow in his blood-soaked footsteps, having achieved some sort of international recognition through the use of vast wealth which cash-strapped universities in Britain and other parts of the world were only too grateful to receive. Their own government encouraged them to do so as they could not find money for tertiary education. Even Gaddafi's open admission of involvement in the Lockerbie tragedy did not deter nations around the world from trading with him while ringing their hands over the huge death toll which ensued. Many of us do not believe that the one man convicted of the crime did it, especially on his own even with the now specious claim by the 'mad' colonel that he ordered it and was implicit in it at every stage.

And why were the democracies of the west determined to keep in with him? One reason: Libya's massive oil revenues. Other one-party states in the region, while not ruling in such a brutal manner, are involved in practices that make them regarded with suspicion as to their democratic beliefs. However, what seemed to be a pretty stable part of the world with the rulers in fairly secure control has suddenly become a cauldron of instability and potential strife - an Arab nightmare. The cause is, of course, over confidence in the status quo lasting for ever.

I am compiling information about the crew including photos and logbooks from their training days up until they were lost. I have no photos or any information regarding Flying Officer Mackenzie.

If any surviving relatives of his feel they would like to help me in my research I would be grateful for their assistance.

**Ian Evans, 13 Moorsfield Avenue, Audlem, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 0LA. Email ian@ian106.wanadoo.co.uk.**

### Too confident candidate?

WHEN Councillor Alison Hay was adopted last year as the prospective Liberal Democrat candidate for Argyll and Bute in the Scottish Parliament there were vague mutterings that someone had wanted to make it a competition for the nomination but had been rejected because he had not renewed his membership of the constituency party.

This little 'local difficulty' was soon forgotten about and Councillor Hay has been 'pressing the flesh' in various parts of the constituency, ignorant perhaps that the gentleman who was rejected was also planning his campaign much to the delight of the SNP candidate Michael Russell as there is bound to be a split vote.

I thought no more about it until I found a leaflet stuffed in my letter box from one George White 'your Liberal Party' candidate whom, it seems, was the gentleman who failed to get the candidacy in Argyll and Bute. The document itself is illegal as it does not have the name and address of the person who has published it, or the name of his agent, and there is no such thing as 'the Liberal Party' in Scotland although there is in England. Very few of us who know Argyll and Bute's problems would agree with him that solving 'the problems of the fishing industry' will of their own be of much help to the overwhelming number of voters in Argyll and Bute. Even more ridiculous is his claim to be a 'son of Argyll' as in today's world birthplace is irrelevant.

Even worse, his obvious ignorance of the problems of vast parts of the constituency; no mention of anything north of Lochgilphead tells its own tale. We have grown accustomed to independent candidates standing in General and Scottish Parliament elections and watched them lose their deposits. The latest one I have come across is one who describes himself as 'the official independent candidate for Argyll and Bute'. Who made him such and where is his party based? It is time that the overconfidence of such weirdos was dealt with by an increased deposit of £5,000, the loss of which would be a failure to gain 15 per cent of the number of votes cast!

### The 'Old Firm' problem

OVER confidence is also at the root of many of the problems of games between Rangers and Celtic.

While many have sought to find solutions I think the best offered is by a retired policeman who had charge of policing them. If there are any problems during such games both teams should have 20 points docked from their tally. This will ensure they won't win the SPL yet won't be relegated but they will lose their right to compete in Europe and other competitions so they will quickly lose their fan base and their status.

*McCaig*

### YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

### PRESS POLICY

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**Local Producers Market**  
Thursday 17th March  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,  
1 mile along the Tralee road  
10 am to 3 pm  
**LOTS TO EAT AND DO**  
Every First / Third Thursday  
Interested Producers contact  
01631 720223  
Local Origins Rural Network  
www.lorn.org.uk

# Youngsters welcome Lazertag to town

## Something for everyone at Fusion activity nights

MORE than 100 Fort William youngsters are expected to attend the latest in a series of activity nights tomorrow.

Attractions at the event in Fusion Youth Space in the Nevis Centre include sole use of a mobile skatepark for bikes, skaters and boarders, while 'Tazball' is coming down from Inverness to do 'Lazertag' - a game like paintball without the bruises.

Fort William and north Lochaber youth development officer Graeme Livingstone said Lazertag was 'the newest craze to hit Scotland' - and is likely to prove especially popular.

He said: 'All young people of high school age welcome to attend whether you have previously been to Fusion before or not. It starts at 6.30pm and young people are advised to arrive early and get registered for the night's activities to avoid disappointment - we expect this one to be busy.'

'Fusion nights', Mr Livingstone said, have been held throughout the winter to give young people of high school age a 'positive alternative activity' during the dark cold nights.

The most recent event in December saw 112 young people attend - and similar numbers are expected tomorrow night.

The initiative has won praise from local police and other agencies, which have noted a significant drop in alcohol-related incidents involving young people and call-outs to youth related incidents across the community as a whole.

Acting Inspector at Fort William Police Station, Donald Campbell, said: 'We are very supportive of the work being done by the youth work team in Lochaber to engage with young people in a positive way and giving them a positive alternative to offending behaviour. Our jobs would certainly be more difficult without the work that they do being done for young people in the area.'

Mr Livingstone added: 'These events have proved to be very popular.'

After three events the average attendance has been 120 young people from all across Lochaber. Feedback from young people after the disco, ice-skating, climbing and bowling has been extremely positive.

**Winter sports**

'Many have taken part in a sport that they had never tried before and have expressed an interest in progressing in these sports, while many others would like to try other winter sports they have never tried before.'

The feedback we have received from partner agencies, particularly from Northern Constabulary, on the impact of this work and how it has benefited young people and the wider community speaks for itself.

Young people wishing more information can contact Graeme on 01397 707361, drop in to Fusion Youth Space during the normal youth work sessions every Thursday and Friday night from 7.30pm - 9.30pm, or to Caol Youth Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 7.15 - 9.15pm. Information is also posted on pupil bulletins in their high schools.



This Morning chef Phil Vickery and two interested tasters at last week's LORN market. 15\_110vickery1

# TV chef visits Oban for spotlight on Lorn lobsters and langoustines

TV CHEF Phil Vickery visited Oban last week as part of a new feature for his segment on ITV's This Morning programme.

The cook travelled to the first LORN market of the season at Kintaline Farm for Phil's Coastal Cuisine, where he prepared a delicious meal of barbecued langoustine with dip for a more than interested audience.

He then took a trip out on the open sea with Oban fisherman David Isaac on his creel boat, Lode Star.

The segment is to be shown on the popular daytime show later this month.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Phil said: 'We're going all over the British isles but focusing on sustainable fish, so here we're doing lobsters and langoustines.'

'I first came to this area about six years ago to film at the Inverawe Smokery, so I know the area fairly well and you can't help but be impressed because the sorts of fish you have here is absolutely spectacular.'

The owner of the farm and organiser of the LORN market, Gill Bowis, said: 'They've come here for our first market of the season and it's quite good fun. It's certainly created some interest!'

You can find a video report on Phil's visit to the LORN market on our website at www.obantimes.co.uk.

# Fort William's BA Club 'jumping' to Mumford and Sons

INDIE folk combo Mumford and Sons played a sensational gig to a packed BA Club last Thursday night.

Around 300 fans packed into the popular venue to serve up a rocking 90-minute set, at one stage unplugging their instruments to stand up on benches at the back of the club to play among the audience.

'The atmosphere was electric - jumping,' one fan told *The Oban Times*. 'The band reckoned the crowd was one of the noisiest and appreciative they had played to. They had a really good rapport with the audience.'

'They said they would come back - which is great for Lochaber.'

'Everyone who had queued for tickets thought it was well worth it.'

The support act, singer songwriter Rachel Sermanni also went down a storm. 'She really got the crowd going,' the fan said.

# New Seafood bar opens in Crinan Hotel

A SEAFOOD bar which uses only sustainable fish has opened in Crinan.

The Crinan Hotel has gone back to its roots by creating a dedicated seafood bar.

Years ago the hotel was renowned for having some of the best seafood in the area but a surge in bar meals saw the owners having to shelve their seafood restaurant as demand for pub grub increased.

But now owners, Nick and Frances Ryan, have returned to providing a dedicated seafood menu.

Mr Ryan, who can count Rick Stein as being a fan of his hotel, said: 'We've created an environment for all seafood lovers.'

'The prawns are landed here, in Crinan, by local fisherman, Chris Brown, and we want to use only sustainable fish stocks.'

Head chef Gregor Barra, said: 'I'm very excited about the seafood bar. It makes sense for us to do this as we are so close to the sea; that's what made us famous in the past so we're just getting back to our roots.'

The seafood bar is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.



@ Lock 16 Crinan Hotel  
From fish and chips to jumbo prawn Corryvreckan Families welcome.

Lunches 12 - 2.30pm daily  
Dinner 6 - 8.30pm daily

Art Gallery www.crinanhotel.com  
Telephone 01546 830261



**ARGYLL ANIMAL AID**

**FUZZY**

Nice wee boy. Must be an indoor cat only as is virtually blind. Needs company in a home without hassle, no young children, no other cats, and no dogs. Around 4 years old, is neutered.

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**gig argyll guide** your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Ceilidh Night 9pm-11pm
Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Club Night 11pm-2am
Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Club Night with DJs 11pm-2am

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**The Bishop and the Big Feller**  
Drama at Carnassarie Castle  
March 19th 2pm to 3.30pm

Bob Pegg and friends will lead you through the Castle with stories, music and songs.

**Booking is not required for this FREE event**

www.kilmartin.org or call 01546 510278

**STORIES FOR ISRAEL-PALESTINE**  
Come and hear first hand from David Mitchell, recently returned from the West Bank

Glencruitten Road Church Centre, Oban  
Sunday, March 13 at 7.30pm  
Oban Concern for Palestine

Glenduel and Collintraive Gam Club.  
**Sporting Event 50 Bird DTL. Open Shoot.**  
Saturday 12th March 2011  
Entries from 11am.  
All Welcome  
Enquiries phone: David 01369 820199.  
Saturday 12 March 2011  
Begin Time 11:00:00 AM  
Saturday 12 March 2011  
End Time 4:00:00 PM  
Glenduel Shooting Ground United Kingdom

**COFFEE MORNING**  
(with lunch - time soup)  
In aid of church funds  
Oban Congregational Church Hall  
Saturday 12th March  
10.30am - 2pm  
Tea/Coffee & Cake £2.00 Soup £2.00  
(Soup/bread, tea or coffee & cake only £3.50)  
All cakes & soup home-made  
Sales Stall

Highland Islands Music & Dance Festival  
28 April - 1 May 2011  
**SYLLABUS & ENTRY FORMS**  
Download from www.obanfestival.org  
CLOSING DATE 14 MARCH  
Ticket & info Tel. 07510841198 from 5 April, 2011

# Piping society celebrates 60 years

ALISTAIR and Glynis Dewar, of Oban, represented the Netherlorn Piping Society, at the 60th anniversary dinner of the Kintyre Piping Society held at the Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown, on Saturday.

Pipers Willie McCallum Jr, Campbeltown, and Stuart Liddell, of Inveraray performed after the dinner.

During the evening, Roddy MacLeod MBE, principal at the National Piping Centre Glasgow, presented the society with six scholarships for young pipers, to mark the occasion. 04\_c10pip05



**Animal care team needs your old towels**

THE ANIMAL care team at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary wants to get its hands on your dirty laundry.

Working with rescued seal pups is a messy business, requiring a large stock of old towels.

'We need towels to throw over the pups' heads to subdue them when they're receiving treatment,' explained seal expert Dennis Chamberlain.

'They're also invaluable for mopping up afterwards and quickly get sodden with dirty fishy-smelling sea water.'

Consequently the sanctuary gets through more towels than the average holiday hotel and is currently down to its last small bundle.

Residents threw in their old towels by the bag full to help the seal team a few years ago and now the sanctuary is once more appealing to their generosity.

'If anyone's got any old towels they were planning to throw out, we'd be very grateful if they could drop them off here instead,' said Dennis.

'It doesn't matter if they're a bit threadbare or even a bit grubby, because if they're not they soon will be.'

The sanctuary is fully prepared for both abandoned and sickly seal pups in the coming few months and needs to ensure all the equipment needed is ready for action.



A scene from Spotlight's impressive performance of Guys and Dolls.

# Spotlight group's Guys and Dolls 'best show yet'

A TASTE of old New York came to Oban's Corran Halls last week as Spotlight Theatre Group presented *Guys and Dolls*.

First class costumes, lighting and stage sets all added to the spectacle of downtown New York in this classic tale of gangsters, gambling and showgirls.

Those who attended any of the four shows said it was among the best the theatre group had put on.

Part of the success was the strength of the lead actors, Morven Wright as the glamorous Adelaide, and Ian Henry as the dashing Sky Masterson.

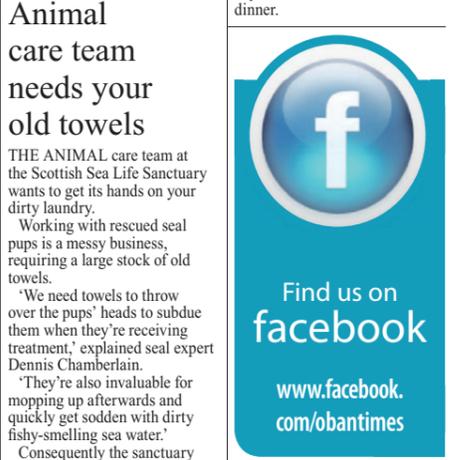
Joining them on top billing was Kevin Baker, who excels in the comic roles, and the talented John Robinson as Nicely, Nicely.

The versatile Mike Rowell became a familiar face throughout the show, playing three roles in the production.

One audience member told *The Oban Times*: 'For an amateur production I was so impressed by everything they did, especially the detailed set design and props.'

'The dialogue was quite heavy but the actors were so convincing I found myself completely engrossed in the story. I was impressed, too, with the girls who danced in the nightclub scene. They all looked fabulous!'

Attendance at the show peaked last Friday when 300 tickets were sold. There was one disappointing turnout at the Saturday matinee when 100 tickets were sold.



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# What YOU have been saying on our Facebook page?

**Angela Marshall:** I've got a story for you - ROYAL MAIL ARE GETTING WORSE. I'm getting sick of them now. I sent two parcels to Blackpool, correct address and postcode... both still not arrived, Royal Mail failing to reply to my claims as can't be traced cause parcels didn't have tracking.

**Catherine Gillies:** Oban Common Good Fund - how it is constituted and what rights the public has: http://www.oscr.org.uk/CharityIndexDetails.aspx?id=SCO21328.

**The Oban Times:** Spilt Mercury is a job for firefighters and government scientists - watch out for all those old thermometers around the house. Unless of course you want to meet a burly fire fighter!

**Lorn Argyll:** The most efficient new light bulbs are considered hazardous waste due to their mercury content. You are not allowed to dispose of them directly into your rubbish bin, and have to drive them to special council disposal facilities. Also they are sold in plastic blister packs in case they break!!!

**Andrew MacRitchie Macintyre:** The white building on [Oban's North Pier] pier should be offered to McQueens removals at a discount rate as I don't think Argyll and Bute Council will ever sell it. They are doing a good deed for the community. What are the council doing for the community in this current climate? After all this is the 21st century!

Highland Functions **girls night out**

what better way to start your summer than to leave the boys at home and enjoy a night out with the girls!

Friday 10th June  
7.30pm - 11pm  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban

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E: events@highlandfunctions.com

a free glass of bubbly for all ladies on arrival

# Fairtrade Fortnight events enjoy success in Oban

THE FIRST week of the 2011 Fairtrade Fortnight ended in Oban's Co-operative store where members of staff and supporters of fair trade in Oban and Lorn watched Liz Crawford offer a piece of fairly traded white chocolate to Mike Russell MSP in the presence of Councillor Elaine Robertson.

This very successful week included a visit from Martin Rhodes, director of the Scottish Fairtrade Forum who managed to visit not only The Co-operative but also Roxys, Dunbeg and Park schools, Imani Development Limited, Oxfam, the Chocolate Shop and Atlantis Leisure Cafe as well as broadcasting on Oban FM.

The aim is to enable Argyll and Bute to become a Fairtrade Zone thus enabling Scotland to become a Fairtrade Nation.

This week's events include the launch of a chocolate for Oban at the Chocolate Shop on Wednesday ending with a day's events in Tesco supermarket next Saturday morning.



Liz Crawford offered a piece of fairly traded white chocolate to education secretary Mike Russell MSP in the presence of Councillor Elaine Robertson. 16\_110fair1

## Oban Music brings internet to the High Street

AN OBAN business is bringing the internet into the High Street after taking ownership of a leading Scottish music e-commerce website.

Oban Music, in Argyll Square, has bought MusicScotland.com in a bid to boost its retail business and expand its customer base to a global audience.

The website specialises in traditional folk music both on CD or DVD - be it Scottish, Irish, English, Welsh or world - together with sheet music for students of instruments.

While the shop already carries a similar range of stock, the website's range far extends what would be possible in the premises, featuring thousands of CDs and DVDs, together with hundreds of books. It already delivers to addresses across the world, to everywhere from Coll or Tiree to New Zealand and Canada.

What the deal means for the customer is having access to that range without having to go online.

Owner of Oban Music and MusicScotland.com Jean Gillies explained: 'The shop and the website can aid and abet each other more than people maybe realise. We have more than 4,000 titles available on the website and you could never have all that in a shop.'

### First class

'Now people can phone or come in to the shop and if they can't find what they're looking for, we can order it for them and it will be sent to them first class, with no delivery charge.'

'It also means you don't have to have the internet or know how to use it to take advantage of the flexibility it offers.'

The deal could actually be seen as something of a homecoming for the website.

Jean said: 'MusicScotland.com was actually started in Tobermory, Mull, by Kenny Fraser, a well-known musician in his own right, who had ran it since.'

'He moved to Edinburgh a few years back, so the irony is that it's coming back here now.'

Rather than rest on that alone, Jean is hoping to build on the website further by bringing a more local flavour to it.

'What we want to do is build up a local section, for local artists. It could be for anyone, for example, Oban High School Pipe Band, or Skippinish, to release a CD on our website.'

'We could put their CD on there and expose their product to a far wider audience.'

'There are 25,000 newsletters go out each month to people who requested information on available music and new releases.'

'That audience is therefore now available to someone from this area who wants to promote their music.'



## Shoppers flock to town's new Peacocks fashion store

Oban's latest fashion outlet, Peacocks, opened at the Co-operative store on Soroba Road last week. The business has provided an employment boost for the town and has been packed with curious shoppers keen to see what the new shop has to offer. The staff of the new Peacocks store are pictured on its opening day on Thursday last week.

# Billy limbers up for new sports shop challenge

A SPORTS fanatic is to fill the retail gap left by Intersport in Oban when he opens the doors of The Sports Shop in Argyll Square next month.

Billy Thomson, Argyll and Bute's rugby development officer, previously worked in Intersport when it was owned by Roy and Irene Wood.

But after the business was sold to Rowe Sports he was given the option of moving to the centralised office in Glasgow or redundancy. He chose the latter.

Fast-forward to November last year and Oban's Intersport closed down after the parent company - the Sports Centre Ltd - fell into administration. Billy, who admits

there was no room in Oban for two sports shops, saw an opportunity to get back into the industry that is his passion.

'I loved my job when I worked there,' recalled Billy. 'I would have stayed but I was made redundant. This is quite a personal project for me because of my history in the sports trade and because I realise the desperate need for a shop of this type in the town.'

'I am excited but a bit nervous about it too. I've heard some horror stories about starting a new business in a recession and I know I am risking a lot but I've had great feedback from people about the prospect of a new sports shop.'

'That gives me more confidence.'

But Billy has an experienced squad to draw upon when he opens on April 9. Malcolm Croarkin and Derrick Armstrong, who worked in Intersport until it closed last year, will begin as part-time staff and Billy has enticed his former Intersport colleague, Jonathan MacMillan, back to Oban as his business manager.

Jonathan, who worked for Sports Centre Ltd in Glasgow, was also made redundant when the firm went bust and is experienced in the trade.

Although Billy's job dictates rugby is his principal sport, his hobbies encompass a number of

other sports and this variety will be evident on the shop shelves. 'A lot of people know me through sport,' said Billy. 'Hopefully that will be an advantage.'

'I hope we will be able to work with clubs and organisations interested in sport, as well as individuals, so that we stock the things they want to buy and they support us in turn.'

'People have really strong feelings that there should be a sports shop in Oban, as there is tonnes of sport in and around the town.'

Billy, who will continue his rugby development role, has previously managed the Footwear Discount Centre in Oban.



Billy Thomson: opening new sports shop in Oban.



Barry Moran and Alison Grieve from the Lochleven Seafood Cafe near Glencoe at the Scottish Restaurant Awards with restaurant critic Tam Cowan.

## Award winning businesses join forces to bring more visitors to region

TWO WEST coast businesses are to work together to bring more visitors to the area after taking home trophies at Scotland's most prestigious food awards.

The Isle of Eriska Hotel, near Benderloch, and the Lochleven Seafood Cafe near Glencoe will use their collective expertise to attract then keep people in the area by cross promoting each other's award winning businesses. They were named Hotel Restaurant of the Year and Seafood Restaurant of the year respectively at the Scottish Restaurant Awards.

The Three Chimneys in Skye, meanwhile, was named the Best Rural Restaurant.

Eriska's David Morton said: 'Barry Moran and Alison Grieve from Lochleven were seated near the Eriska table. We tend to cross-refer diners to each other's restaurants already as we're less than 30 miles apart.'

'Now with us winning joint awards in 2011, we can explore doing additional marketing together on a collaborative basis for our terrific region.'

## Investment in Scottish arts continues

PRIVATE sector investment in Scottish arts is set to be boosted by news that the country's match funding scheme is to be continued.

Culture minister, Fiona Hyslop, announced that the Arts Sponsorship Grants scheme was to receive £300,000 for the coming financial year, saying she hopes it will continue to help Scotland's cultural sector flourish.

Since 2006, the scheme has attracted nearly 200 new or returning business sponsors to the arts, leveraging nearly £2.4 million of business investment in the cultural sector.

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## New owners take over Raasay Engineering

ONE OF the west coast fishing industry's leading manufacturers of pot haulers for creeling has changed hands after Raasay's Donald Macleod sold his business.

Donald, 75, has been making haulers for 30 years after moving back to his native island, carving out a reputation as one of the finest in Britain.

Now though, a decade after the normal retirement age, he is set to take a back seat after selling his company to Simon and Lynn Whitehead, who will pick up where Donald left off as Raasay Engineering Ltd.

While Donald has handed over the reins, he will remain an advisor to Simon and Lynn for the time being to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The couple have now moved to the island from Suffolk, in East Anglia and Simon, who has over 20 years engineering experience within the food and manufacturing industries, is delighted with the deal. He said:

'Our solicitor in Skye advised us of a local saying - what's for you won't go by you. This certainly rings true in this situation, although it has taken a year of trials and tribulation to get to this point!'

'Donald has established a reputation for quality and service worthy of recognition. The bar is high but I fully intend to live up to this reputation.'

Raasay Engineering Ltd is the new producer of the Macleod hauler.

The range includes haulers from a quarter to one and a half tonnes, both 'P' bracket and bulkhead mounted haulers.

Other products include pumps, clutches and other necessary hydraulic equipment, as well as a number of other fishing related products.

A new range of stainless steel tanks are soon to be added to the list as Simon is also an accomplished welder including both stainless steel and aluminium.

## Jobs boost as West Coast Tool and Plant Hire opens new base in Oban

WEST Coast Tool and Plant Hire has opened its new Oban depot, adding to its long-established business in Ardrishaig.

The business's new premises, in Old Crofters Yard, stocks a range of Stihl and Viking tools, together with other ranges for almost every business or domestic requirement for sale or hire.

Three people are employed at the new Oban depot.

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Audit period: Jan 2009 - Dec 2009  
\*JCRCG data as at 01/01/2011

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Pictured receiving their certificates at the Oban Bay Hotel are, from left, Oban Bay Hotel's sous chef, Bir Bista, who accepted the certificate on behalf of the Isle of Mull Hotel, Peter Midgley from the Food Standards Agency, Marc Gardiner, general manager of the Loch Fyne Hotel, councillor Daniel Kelly and Oban Bay Hotel general manager, Darrell Williams.

## Argyll hotels pass new strict hygiene tests

THREE Argyll hotels are the first recipients of a new certificate aiming to improve the standard of hygiene standards in the catering business.

The Oban Bay Hotel, The Isle of Mull Hotel and the Loch Fyne Hotel gathered recently to receive the new Food Hygiene Information Scheme certificate after passing stringent tests last year.

The scheme means hotels, take-away shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs given similar certificates after their most recent inspection; if they pass.

The chair for public health and licensing, North Lomond councillor Daniel Kelly, said: 'The Food Hygiene Information

Scheme will ensure residents and visitors to the Argyll and Bute area are protected from illness caused by poor handling and cooking of food. A pass certificate is a great endorsement for customers wanting a good plate of food.'

Further information on the certification scheme was issued at Forteith Foodservice's West Highlands and Islands Tradeshow, held at the Corran Halls last month.

A spokeswoman for the local authority said: 'Argyll and Bute Council's Environmental Service is keen for the estimated 90 per cent of businesses who passed the last inspection will display their certificates to reassure customers that their food is safe to eat.'

## VisitScotland stumps up £1m for marketing

TOURISM quango VisitScotland has launched a new £1million fund to help attract visitors to the country.

Available over the next three years, the Growth Fund is available to constituted marketing groups of three or more tourism businesses, supporting up to half the marketing costs between £5,000 and £65,000.

Marketing activity should be new or a further development of current activity which will generate additional visitors to Scotland. Successful applicants will also

have access to a VisitScotland advisor, industry statistics and expertise.

The Growth Fund differs from the fund it replaces, in that no European funding has been granted towards it.

Support It launches in line with the Active Growth Fund, to support businesses across the adventure travel sector.

Tourism minister, Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather, said: 'The Growth Fund will support businesses to find new, innovative and collaborative approaches

to improve their tourism product or offering and in doing so provide new, exciting reasons for visitors to come to Scotland.'

VisitScotland's chief executive and director of marketing Malcolm Roughhead said: 'In the current economic climate, the necessity to harness local enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment through partnership building has become of paramount importance - the Growth Fund allows us to get involved at the very earliest stages of this.'

Email your business news to sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

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# Renewable Energy

Saturday 19th March • Nevis Centre, Fort William • 9.30am - 5.00pm

ARE YOU happy with your electricity bill? Thought not. Would you like to find out how to cut your heating costs? Thought so. Or how about making your own electricity from Lochaber's natural resources while earning cash at the same time? Interested? Then come along to the first-ever Renewable Energy and Heat Fair at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday March 19 to find out how easy it can be.



Bill Barber, 6kw Evance wind turbine, Strontian

From advice on free insulation to how to set up your own renewable energy scheme - it's all there at the Fair. Never before has there been such a good time to find out about renewable energy and heat - and Lochaber has an abundance of natural resources to take advantage of the incentives on offer. The relaxed and informal event means you can pop in any time during the day. You can have a cup of tea, chat with local experts and browse over 35 stands packed with information and gadgets on making your home more energy efficient. You'll meet dozens of local people and firms ready to advise you on what works best for your home or business. It could simply be better insulation, more efficient use of electricity or installing your own renew-

able power system - or a combination of all three. There are give-aways too - but if you want a free home energy monitor, a power-down switch, a 24-page Lochaber Renewables booklet or other goodies, you'll have to come early because it's first come, first served. Did you know that boiling only the water you need in a kettle can save around £50 a year or, if you have some spare cash, how 12 solar panels on the roof can make you £1,000 each year? With fuel prices and electricity costs going through the roof, it makes sense to insulate yourself against sudden jumps in power, gas and oil bills. The Fair opens at 9.30 am and will be formally opened by Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy MP at 10am. Workshops on renewable energy and how to tap it will be ongoing throughout the day - hydro-power, wind power, solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, heat pumps or biomass - you choose! The workshops will



Barry Edmondson, 89kw hydro turbine for the Abernathy Trust, Kilmalieu

be informal, with a few short presentations to introduce the technology and the incentives available and then lots of opportunity for questions and general chat. Communities, businesses and householders throughout Lochaber have installed all types of renewable technologies and many of them are coming to the fair to share their experiences. Remember, the government is legally bound to reduce carbon emissions by 34 per cent by 2020 from 1990 levels - so it is providing a variety of measures to encourage homeowners and businesses to generate renewable energy and switch to renewable forms of heating.



900kw hydro scheme, Conaglen Estate, near Glenfinnan





Want to reduce your heating bills?  
Want to learn more about how to generate both power and income?  
Want to meet householders and communities who have installed all types of renewables as well as companies who can do the installation?

**The Lochaber Environmental Group is holding a Renewable Energy and Heat Fair**  
**Saturday 19th March**  
**9.30am - 5.00pm**  
**Nevis Centre, Fort William**  
**Free for everyone**

- Hydro
- Heat pumps
- Biomass
- Solar PV
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The Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy MP will be formally opening the Fair at 10am

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For more details visit [www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk/fair.asp](http://www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk/fair.asp)

# and Heat Fair

There are also various incentives to insulate your home, with some free packages available, depending on your situation. These incentives are designed to make it more affordable to reduce carbon footprint, both individually and as a nation. Last April, a scheme was introduced to support the production of renewable energy in the form of mainly hydro power, wind power and solar photovoltaic.

There are three benefits from producing your own power:

**Generous payments (Feed-In Tariffs)** are made for producing power, even if you use all of it yourself. This can be as much as 41.3p/unit for solar PV.

Any power exported to the national grid attracts an extra payment (around 3p/unit) You also benefit by reducing your electricity bill as you use what you are producing before importing extra power from the grid.

As an example, it costs around £11,000 to install 12x1.5m<sup>2</sup> solar panels. They would earn you around £1,000 a year – but the income is guaranteed for 25 years. **GO FIGURE!**

technologies are biomass (wood pellets, chips or logs), heat pumps (ground or air source) and solar hot water (also known as solar thermal).

The new scheme – the first of its type in the world – is called the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The Chancellor allocated £860 million for the RHI at the last government spending review and, as payments are due to start in June, it is expected that he will announce how the scheme will work in the next few weeks. Not only does Lochaber possess wonderful wind, hydro and biomass opportunities there is also heat available in the ground, air and from the sun that can easily be tapped to heat your home or your hot water. With the current level of support (the income is tax-free for home owners) there is even sufficient sunshine to make solar PV a sound investment.

This is the first event of its kind in Lochaber – organised by the Lochaber Environmental Group and sponsored by the Climate Challenge Fund – but hopefully it won't be the last!

For more details visit [www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk/fair.asp](http://www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk/fair.asp)

The government will soon also be announcing how it intends to support homeowners and businesses to switch to renewable sources of heating. The key

### Schedule for the day:

9.30am	Fair opens to general public
10am	Formal opening by Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy MP
10.30am-12pm	Hydro power workshop (venue: main stage)
10.30am-12pm	Heat pumps workshop (venue: rear hall)
12pm-1pm	Lunch
1-2.30pm	Wind power workshop (venue: main stage)
1-2.30pm	Solar thermal workshop (venue: rear hall)
3-4.30pm	Solar photovoltaic workshop (venue: main stage)
3-4.30pm	Biomass workshop (venue: rear hall)
5pm	Fair closes to general public

### Companies taking part:

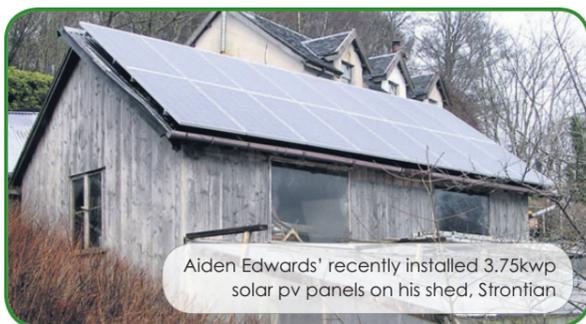
Absolute Solar and Wind	Micro Hydro Services
AES Ltd.	Monaghan and Hornal
AKD	Mould Growth Consultants
Altair Energy	Renewables Now
Anderson Floor Warming	Renewable Resources
Baby Hydro	Solar and Wind Applications
Black Isle Renewables	Solar PV Company
Britisheco (Scotland)	West Coast Electrical
Construction Licensing Exec.	Abernethy Trust
Earth Fuel Scotland	ALIenergy
Ecodyn Ltd	Community Energy Scotland
Ferguson Energy Engineering	Energy Savings Trust
Flexenergy	Forestry Commission
Fuelsave	Kilchoan Community Trust
Gilkes	Knoydart Community Trust
Glenuig Inn	Lochaber Environmental Group
Highland Wood Energy	Lochaber Housing Association
John W. Lawrie	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
ILM Highland	RENEW Project
Invisible Heating Systems	Scottish Energy and Micro-Renewables College, Inverness (SEAM Centre)
KS Refrigeration	
Lochaber Renewables	
Locogen	



Sandy & Liz MacDonald, 11kw Gara wind turbine, Ardslnigh



Michael MacGregor, Solar thermal panels in Glenborrodale



Aiden Edwards' recently installed 3.75kw solar pv panels on his shed, Stronfian

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## Lorn ploughing test set for Kilmarnaig

THIS YEAR'S annual Lorn Ploughing Match will be held at Kilmarnaig Farm, Connel on Saturday, March 19. Organisers confirmed this week that there has been a lot of interest in this year's challenge and that to-date there have been more than 35 entries, including the popular heavy horses and vintage tractors.

Refreshments will be available on the day and entry to the field will be donation to local charity Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD). The fun begins at 10am.

## Balliemeanoch bullocks to 202p per kilo at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their annual early spring sale of all classes of cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday.

All classes of cattle and sheep met a spirited trade with the bullocks averaging 179pence per kilo and the heifers 163pence.

The bullocks averaged £525 per head, showing a decrease of £38.78 while the heifers averaged £435, a drop of £39.08.

Bullocks sold to 202pence per kilo for Charolais crosses from Balliemeanoch and heifers sold to 190pence, also Charolais crosses from the same home.

Blackface hogs from Auch Estate sold to £88 per head.

# EC ban on bracken spray could be devastating to hill farms



Controlling bracken by spraying from a helicopter is often the only option on many hill farms

AGRICULTURE, tourism and the west coast's bio-diversity could be devastated if the EU approves plans to ban the only safe airborne chemical to tackle bracken.

Asulam, marketed as Asulox, is the only known chemical that can safely tackle bracken, a type of fern, when sprayed from a helicopter.

But the EU's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) will this week consider outlawing use of the chemical over worries about possible impact on spinach, despite wails of protest from agricultural representatives throughout Scotland who say it is primarily used in the UK for bracken control.

Politicians, the National Farmer's Union (NFU) and conservation groups have all called on the EU to reconsider its stance, saying the repercussions could be huge.

Niall Campbell is senior agricultural consultant and office manager of the Scottish Agricultural College in Oban. He is in no doubt that the move would prove disastrous for this area.

He said: 'Bracken crowds out other vegetation and on the west coast it is particularly problematic. The climate plays a role in that.'

'It creates a mono-culture. Other plants can't grow where it grows so it's a huge problem for both farming and conservation.'

'If it is untreated, it could also impact on the visual appeal of the area, which could become wall-to-wall bracken. That's why Asulox is so important.'

'It's a fairly specific chemical and in all my 15 years working as an agricultural consultant, I've never heard of any problems as a result of using it.'

NFU Scotland's policy manager, Andrew Bauer said: 'SCoFCAH is currently basing its thinking on the use of Asulam on food crops and not for bracken, which is crucial.'

REPORT  
by  
STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

'If bracken is not controlled, it grows rampantly, overtaking crucial grazing land and providing a habitat in which parasitic ticks thrive causing a threat to animal health and human health, for instance through Lyme disease.'

NFUS vice-president, John Picken, added: 'Such is the importance of Asulox to Scottish hill farmers that we are throwing every resource into seeking its continued use in controlling bracken.'

Highlands and Islands MSP, Jamie McGrigor, himself an Argyll hill farmer, said: 'Bracken always infests the best hill pasture and it is necessary to control it to keep areas open to grazing by sheep and cattle.'

'Also, recently there has been talk of IACS maps requiring areas of bracken to be shown which would affect the single farm payments to crofters and farmers; this is another reason why control, or the ability to control bracken, is vital.'

'Asulox for a long time has been the well recognised pesticide used in bracken control. Furthermore, it has been used extensively without any known problems and the loss of this really important pesticide would be very damaging to farmers and crofters who wished to improve their grazings.'

'To lose this tool for bracken control would potentially reduce livestock production in the Highlands & Islands, as well as damaging biodiversity.'

'I will contact the Cabinet Secretary as well as passing this to MEP Struan Stevenson, as well as the relevant EU Commissioner.'

SCoFCAH will make its final decision by this Friday.

## Market reports

### DALMALLY United Auctions

**Bullocks**  
CharolaisX: £595 (4), £570 (5) and £530 (3) and £500 (2) Balliemeanoch.  
LimousinX: £600 - Dall (3) and Tullochcan (2); £590 Stilligarry, Uist; £570 Balliemeanoch; £545 (3) and £505 Tullochcan.  
SimmentalX: £650 and £600 (3)  
Blaghair Farm: £555 Dall and Garvachy; £500 (3) Garvachy.  
**Heifers**  
Aberdeen AngusX: £420 Garvachy  
CharolaisX: £480(3) £470 Balliemeanoch  
LimousinX: £510 Stilligarry, Uist; £505 Tullochcan; £500 Morenish  
SimmentalX: £435 £420(2) Garvachy.  
**Over 30 month:** £765 - Stilligarry, Uist.  
**In-calf cows:** £600 Stilligarry, Uist.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
CharolaisX: 202p(2), 192p(2), 189p(3)  
Balliemeanoch Farm.  
LimousinX: 192p(3) Tullochcan; 190p(2) Glenhellach; 188p(2) Tullochcan.  
SimmentalX: 181p Garvachy (5) and Blaghair (3)  
**Heifers**  
CharolaisX: 190p(3) Balliemeanoch  
**Sheep**  
**Hogs**  
SuffolkX: £66 Couston Farm  
Cross: £52 Lagganbudde  
Blackface: £88 Auch Estate; £79 Claidich and Couston Farm; £68 Auch Estate; £67 Braglenmore.  
**Ewes**  
SuffolkX: £70 Couston Farm  
Blackface: £56 Braglenmore  
TexelX: £59 Larach Bhan, Kilchreann.

### STIRLING United Auctions

**Bullocks:**  
251-300kgs Outfield £625, 215.5p;  
301-350kgs Point £770, Glenhervie 220.8p;  
351-400kgs Killochrao £890, 233.6p;  
401-450kgs Killochrao £910, 221.4p;  
451-500kgs Dykes £990, Blaclochhead  
501-550kgs Point £1110, 209.4p;  
551-600kgs West Mains £1040, 166p.  
601-650kgs West Mains £1040, 166p.  
**Heifers**  
Up to 250kgs Rashiehill £425, 172.2p;  
251-300kgs Robertson Mains £590, 202.7p;  
301-350kgs Outfield £680, 9K, Killeonan 198.2p;  
351-400kgs Killochrao £840, 211p;  
401-450kgs Scalpsie 800, 198p;  
451-500kgs West Muirhouses £890, 188.6p;  
501-550kgs East Shawtonhill £990, 188.2p;  
551-600kgs Ladybank £900, 158.7p;  
601-650kgs Easter Middleton £840, 137.7p.  
**Sheep**  
Store hoggets; Auchensal (Tex) £78;  
Langfilds (Tex) £71; Glenchervie (SufX) £67; Auchernivoch (BF) £61.  
In-lamb gimmers; Woodhall (Mule scanned twins) £129 and £128; Dunsinnan (BF to BF) £78. In-lamb ewe hoggs; Cocklaw (scanned singles) £99 In-lamb ewes; Boltraisk (Mule scanned 200%) £103; £101; Cocklaw £93; Gibblaston (BF scanned 200%) £81; Gibblaston (BF scanned triplets) Dunsinnan (BF ewes aged to BF) £80; Dunsinnan (BF ewes aged to BF) £76; Keilator (BF scanned twins to tex) £70; Keilator (BF scanned singles to Tex) £50; Ardchuple (BF scanned singles) £56.

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To apply, please forward your CV along with a covering letter in support of your application to:  
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Office Manager  
Clark Thomson Insurance Brokers Ltd  
19 Airds Crescent  
OBAN PA 34 5SJ  
Email: sturnbull@clarkthomson.co.uk

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Fluent command of English language necessary.  
A vehicle is provided for estate duties only, applicants will need their own car. References required.

Please apply with C.V and covering letter to Bidwells, Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP

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tessab@crerarhotels.com  
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The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies located at our Marine Site on the Island of Mull:  
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(Salary £21,630 to £24,720 per annum dependant on experience)

The ideal candidate will have experience in fish husbandry and have the capability to lead a small team in the day-to-day operations. This position would suit someone who is self-motivated, with good communication and organisational skills and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within a small, focused team in a constantly changing and challenging environment. They should also have a good understanding of Health and Safety requirements and the awareness of environmental issues. Experience of aquaculture and boat handling is essential for this post, the Company can also offer further development opportunities. Applicants should also have good IT Skills.

**Marine Operatives (Ref MO/SM/11/03-B)**  
(Salary £15,965 to £19,570 per annum dependant on experience)

The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic, self-motivated, have good communication skills and be able to demonstrate prior experience of working within a small, focused team in a constantly changing and challenging environment. Previous aquaculture and boat handling experience is desirable but not essential as the company will also offer further development opportunities through its in-house training and also through external providers.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for both these positions.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company Pension Scheme after the qualifying period.

For an application form and job description, please contact:  
HR Department, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.  
Tel. No. 01499 600 435 Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com  
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 25th March, 2011  
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

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A competitive salary with bonus incentive will be offered. To apply send full c.v. together with current salary to craig.sutherland@hwenery.co.uk. Closing date for applications is 25th March 2011.

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for a key individual to assist with the management of our Processing Plant at Cairndow in Argyll:  
**Plant Processing Assistant Manager (A/PROC/CW/004)**  
(Salary £23,000 - £26,600 per annum dependant on experience, based on a 40 hour week)

The ideal candidate must have knowledge and proven experience of working within the food processing industry, which will include having several years' practical experience. You will be required to support the Plant Processing Manager, in all aspects of the day to day running operations of the department efficiently and effectively. In addition to co-ordinating product processing, packing, dispatch and supervision and maintenance of all equipment within your area of control, the successful applicant will assist in all aspects of staff management to ensure that the processing process is carried out to the highest of hygiene and quality standards ensuring best practice as well as customer satisfaction is reached. The candidate will have good man management skills, able to demonstrate team leadership and interpersonal skills, with strong IT, communication and organisational skills are all important for this position, as is the ability to work well within the existing team. Applicants will have the ability to problem solve, motivate staff therefore achieving the best results through applying your leadership skills and abilities to manage a large already existing team successfully.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for this position.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package.

For an application form and job description, please contact:  
HR Department, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.  
Tel. No. 01499 600 435 Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com  
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## FIAT PASSENGER CAR RANGE

A new collection of well-equipped, high value models has just been introduced across the Fiat passenger car range.

Called MyLife, the new trim level was launched last Friday (18 February) with Fiat Punto MyLife, and is followed up this week with Fiat Panda. Bravo, Qubo and Doblo MyLife vehicles will be introduced later this year.

Part of the Fiat range, the MyLife cars are not limited editions. They focus on style and technology, with a special emphasis on choice and value for money, in a car carrying an impressive equipment list. Original and distinctive, MyLife cars combine design, technology and eco-friendliness in a single product.

"We're very excited to be launching this new model strategy which offers customers the best value proposition within the core segment of each model range," says Elena Bernardelli, marketing director, Fiat Group Automobiles UK and Ireland.

"MyLife focuses on style and technology while at the same time offering a proposition that represents sheer value for money. I am sure this will be of interest to many new and existing Fiat customers."

In terms of style there are several highly visible changes to the recognised exterior of the Punto MyLife, such as a special gloss finish (Piano Black) to the front and rear bumper inserts and door pillars.

Like the GP and Sporting versions, Punto MyLife has dark tinted headlights and burnished tail lights to give a sporty look and feel. The car also gets body-coloured door handles, 15-inch sports style alloy wheels and front fog lights

Inside Punto MyLife has an enhanced soft touch black dashboard with sporty perforated inserts. As standard, it features Blue&Me telecommunications and information with the facility for TomTom sat nav, Start&Stop with Gear Shift Indicator and air conditioning.

Available with Fiat's 1.2-litre 8v (69bhp) engine, Punto MyLife current price is just £9,995 (3-door) and £10,595 (5-door).

Panda MyLife is based on the 1.2-litre 8v (69bhp) Active model and comes as standard with 14-inch alloy wheels, air conditioning and remote central locking. It is currently offered at just £6,995.

An incredibly wealthy Chinese businessman has commissioned Italian tuning firm Fenice Milano to build a one of a kind Abarth 500 convertible inspired by the 'La Dolce Vita' concept. The bespoke Abarth 500C is named 'La Dolce Vita Gold and Diamonds 200hp' and according to Fenice Milano, the car will cost a breathtaking €500,000. The starting point of the build is a Abarth 500 convertible. As the car's name suggests, at the unnamed client's request, there is abundant use of gold. On the outside, the golden pearlescent white painting includes gold particles, while the precious material also adorns the body trim and wheels. The redesigned steering wheel has the outer ring made of teak wood and comes with 24k gold inserts.

The Fiat 500 continues to lead the way in the business world after scooping the City Car of the Year title for the third consecutive year in the 2011 BusinessCar Awards.

The multi-award-winning 500, which is into its fourth year on sale in the UK, already has an impressive list of trophies, including Car of the Year in 2008, along with several from the UK's leading consumer and trade titles.

"Fiat's 500 has once more proved that business cars can make sense to both the head and the heart," says Paul Barker, editor of BusinessCar. "The 500 has great residual values and running costs combined with the ability to put smiles on faces, making it the perfect city car for the corporate market, something BusinessCar readers obviously echo in voting the 500 City Car of the Year."

"Three consecutive awards and three consecutive wins in the City

Car category - that's wonderful news and a great tribute to the Fiat 500, which continues to sell well both to private customers and into fleets," says Andrew Humberstone, managing director, Fiat Group Automobiles UK and Ireland. "We will never tire of receiving awards for this remarkable car and this latest accolade from BusinessCar and its readers is very welcome."



		<b>USED CAR STOCK LIST</b>		<b>OBAN: Lynn Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL</b> tel: 01631 566476 email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@obancarhire.co.uk">enquiries@obancarhire.co.uk</a> web: <a href="http://www.hazelbankmotors.co.uk">www.hazelbankmotors.co.uk</a>	<b>CAMPBELTOWN: 125 Longrow, Argyll PA28 6EX</b> tel: 01586 552320
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# ALL NEW FORD FOCUS



The dynamic all-new Ford Focus comes to the UK in March, with its exciting two-model line-up of sporty 5-door hatchback and stylish 5-door estate.

With over 1.4 million examples sold in Britain since its launch in 1998, the Ford Focus has become a favourite with consumers for its outstanding value, comfort and safety, and above all, for being fun to drive.

The all-new Focus also offers customers the highest standards of quality and detailed craftsmanship, outstanding fuel economy, and takes the legendary Focus driving dynamics to a new level.

"We are very excited about introducing the new Ford Focus to the European market given the strong heritage this model has here," said Stephen T. Odell, Chairman and CEO, Ford of Europe. "With its desirable combination of dynamic design, outstanding driver appeal, unmatched levels of technology and impressive fuel economy, we believe that the new car will not only delight our existing customers but also expand the appeal of the Focus brand to a whole new generation of Ford customers."

### Developed in Europe, For Sale Worldwide

Developed in Europe, for sale in over 120 markets worldwide with 80 per cent parts commonality, the next-generation Focus is the hero model created from Ford Motor Company's new global C segment platform. This platform will underpin at least 10 vehicles around the world and account for two million units of annual production by 2012.

Striking, Streamlined Design

The Focus bodystyles share a sporty and dynamic character, marking the next evolution of Ford's acclaimed kinetic design form language, which has contributed to the growing popularity of the company's latest small and medium global cars.

At 1,484mm high (on 17-inch wheels), 4,358mm long and 1,823mm wide (without mirrors), the new 5-

Door model is 16mm lower, 21mm longer and 16mm narrower than the current Focus. Its wheelbase is 8mm longer at 2,648mm.

### Stylish, Functional Interior

The dynamic quality of the exterior is reinforced by the distinctive design of the interior. The new Focus has a modern, cockpit-style interior incorporating Ford's latest generation Human Machine Interface (HMI) system with twin five-way toggle switches on the steering wheel controlling the two main vehicle displays located in the instrument cluster and high in the centre of the instrument panel.

### Unmatched Driving Quality

When it was introduced in 1998, the original Ford Focus brought new levels of agility and responsiveness to the C segment and the next-generation Focus plans to raise the benchmark once more.

An advanced Torque Vectoring Control system fitted as standard enhances cornering stability and agility and Ford engineers have also retuned and enhanced the innovative suspension concepts, developing optimised new designs for the 'Control Blade' multilink rear suspension and the semi-isolated front subframe. The chassis design incorporates a completely new Electric Power Assist Steering system.

### Ford ECONetic Technologies Minimise CO2

In addition to the highly efficient petrol and diesel powertrain offering, the new Focus range incorporates other features from the Ford ECONetic Technologies programme to help minimise fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

The Focus is the first Ford model to standardise Auto-Start-Stop technology across a significant part of the range. All vehicles with the 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost petrol engine and the 1.6-litre TDCi diesel engine are equipped with Auto-Start-Stop, with CO2 emissions starting at just 109g/km on the diesel model.

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# AUDI A1 AND A7 SPORTBACK

Audi's relentless introduction of new models continues in 2011. This March see the new A7 Sportback and Car of the year contender A1. The A7 Sportback combines the luxury of an executive saloon with the sporty lines of a coupe with prices starting from only £43755 on the road. The new A1 takes the premium feel of an Audi and condenses the quality into a small car that's taking the market by storm having already won the "What Car" car of the year accolade for 2011.

These new models complement the already impressive line up of Audi's, with high value limited editions available throughout the range and very attractive funding options available there is sure to be an Audi that fits your lifestyle and your budget.

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Official fuel consumption figures for the A6 range in mpg (l/100km) from: Urban 30.4 (9.3) - 40.4 (7.0), Extra Urban 48.7 (5.8) - 65.7 (4.3), Combined 39.8 (7.1) - 53.3 (5.3). CO2 emissions: 139 - 189g/km. For specification details visit [www.audi.co.uk](http://www.audi.co.uk)

# SUBARU FORESTER

Subaru's highly acclaimed 'boxer' diesel engine is now available in the Forester SUV where it will sit in the range above the more traditional 2.0-litre petrol models.



First introduced in the previous generation Legacy and Outback, the 2.0-litre, four-cylinder horizontally opposed Boxer diesel engine offers outstanding refinement and throttle response plus exceptional handling thanks to its light weight and low centre of gravity.

And in the Forester, the Boxer diesel catapults it to the top of the class for fuel economy and low emissions. It also offers drivers one of the longest ranges of any SUV at more than (625 miles) 1,000km before refuelling. Few competitors can match the new Forester 2.0D X's combined 44.8mpg nor its ultra-low 167g/km. This emission figure means the annual Road Fund Licence is just £180.

Based on the platform of the new Impreza, the Forester features a new multi-link rear suspension, fuel-saving electric power steering, standard Subaru Vehicle

Dynamics Control, self-levelling rear suspension, engine efficiency improvements and (where selected from the options list) a revised automatic transmission offering 'normal', 'sports' or 'manual' mode.

The Forester X and XC models have a Group 9E insurance rating.

The boxer diesel Forester range comprises three models with their own specific trim levels - the 2.0D X is £22,995, the 2.0D XC costs £24,995 and the 2.0D XS NavPlus starts at £28,995 (all on-the-road).

The Forester 2.0X and 2.0XS petrol models cost £21,295 and £25,295 OTR respectively in manual form. Automatic versions add a £1,000 premium.

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# ALL NEW OUTBACK



The original Subaru Outback has consistently broken new ground in the automotive world in the past 15 years. Launched in Europe in 1996, the original Outback pioneered the 'Crossover' concept, combining the comfort, interior space and superior on-road handling of a family estate, with the off-road capability and ground clearance of a sports utility vehicle.

With the fourth-generation Outback, this blend of abilities has been further refined. Based on an all-new platform, the New Outback is longer, wider and taller than the model it replaces. It is also more capable and more engaging to drive – both on-and off-road, offers increased space and comfort for all occupants, is safer, and has improved environmental credentials thanks to its superior fuel efficiency and lower CO2 emissions.

As with its New Legacy sibling, the character of the New Outback is enhanced by a range of unique Subaru technologies, including the

acclaimed horizontally opposed (Boxer) engine, now available in diesel as well as petrol guise, and the symmetrical AWD (All-Wheel-Drive) system honed through decades of development.

The increased dimensions and more purposeful styling of the New Outback give the latest-generation car much greater presence, and hint at the go-anywhere capabilities of the AWD underpinnings. While the exterior detailing is entirely new, the silhouette will be familiar to previous Outback owners, providing a visual echo of previous generations of this groundbreaking car.

Beneath the all-new exterior, the New Outback has a completely re-engineered all-steel unitary structure that improves ride and handling, as well as crash safety.

The new cabin features clearer and more modern instrumentation, improved ergonomics

and higher-grade materials. Increased interior dimensions – aided by a wheelbase 75 mm longer than that of its predecessor – liberate more room for driver, passengers and their luggage.

Despite its increased height and ample 200 mm ground clearance, the placement of the compact, horizontally-opposed engine and transmission afford a low centre of gravity and endow the New Outback with very high levels of cornering stability. Comfort and refinement are now boosted by mounting the engine and the front and rear suspension system – the latter with self-leveling feature as standard – on their own sub-frames, reducing vibration and noise. The double-wishbone rear suspension is another entirely new development, and its more compact layout benefits interior space, notably luggage capacity which now grows to 526 litres, up by 67 litres over its predecessor (with the rear seats upright).

# SUBARU IMPREZA

Subaru's Impreza offers the traditional strengths of outstanding handling and active safety, but in a more practical and capacious body than ever before.

Both 1.5-litre and 2.0-litre petrol models enjoy enhanced fuel economy and driveability thanks to improved 'Boxer' engines which – having their cylinders horizontally opposed – give the car a lower centre of gravity for improved grip, reduced body roll and more agile steering response.

The Impreza 2.0D with its unique Boxer diesel engine clocks up a refreshing 47.9mpg on the combined cycle to give a potential range of 670 miles on a full tank. In keeping with Impreza tradition, it's no slouch, capable of hustling from 0 to 62mph in 9.0 seconds on its way to a top speed of 127mph.

All Imprezas benefit from having an engine and transmission placed lower in the chassis than traditionally engined rivals for greater stability and grip. Most models are lighter than their predecessors and enjoy improved aerodynamics – down from 0.36 to 0.34 for the 1.5RC, for example.

All Imprezas also share a five-door body which is shorter and wider than the previous Sport Wagon and offers substantially improved interior space thanks – in part – to a 3.7 ins (95 mm) longer wheelbase.

Interior width is around 45 mm greater, while a compact multi-link rear suspension allows a wider and more useable luggage area. Subaru's aim is to compete more directly in the UK market with rivals such as the Honda Civic, VW Golf and Mazda3 while offering the added safety and traction advantage of Symmetrical All-wheel drive.

The Impreza's elegant, restrained design gives it a sporty stance with wide tracks, broad shoulder lines and subtle side-body creases for a quality look.

Premium touches include a gas strut-assisted bonnet, LED tail lamps, a flowing fascia design, double-stitched seat cloth, metallic interior decoration and padded armrest cushions.

The instruments are also sporty thanks to their clear design and subtle lighting while the extensive vehicle information display includes a fuel consumption indicator highlighting the Impreza's much improved efficiency.



## NEW PLATE. NEW MODEL. NEW REASON TO ORDER A SUBARU. ORDER YOUR 11-PLATE VEHICLE TODAY.

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Subaru range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 19.5 (14.5) to 40.4 (7.0). Extra urban from 29.1 (9.7) to 54.3 (5.2). Combined from 24.6 (11.5) to 47.9 (5.9). CO2 emissions from 270 to 155 (g/km). Prices correct at time of going to press.

# HONDA CIVIC TYPE S



engine technology to the limit and produced three powerful, economic and refined options:

A new generation 1.8 i-VTEC engine.

With electronically controlled intelligent valve timing, it's like two engines in one. This means it delivers a performance equivalent to a powerful 2.0 and better fuel efficiency than a 1.6 engine.

i-CTDi – a lightweight 2.2 litre turbo diesel engine.

Made in a revolutionary casting process that gives it unparalleled stiffness and strength, the i-CTDi is one of the quietest and most refined diesel engines available. Not only that, it's one of the cleanest too.

### Comfort

Our obsession with perfection means that when you first sit inside the Type S you'll notice that everything around you has been thought about extensively – even down to the stitching. No corner has been cut and nothing has been rushed.

The Alcantara fabric comfortably moulds to the shape of your body, holding you in perfect position to interact with the car. It's all designed to offer comfort and control, creating a place where you can be reminded of the exhilarating experience driving can be.

### Innovative Design

Everything on the Type S has been finely tuned for better driving – building on our experience in Formula One and aeronautics.

The 17" alloy wheels offer a wider tread to provide added grip, whilst the incredibly streamlined body shape creates a sporty look.

To form an instant connection between driver and car, we created the Dual Zone driver's environment. Cruise control, audio, driver information and voice recognition Satellite Navigation\* are all in your peripheral vision – so you can keep your attention on the road.

### Performance

With the Civic, we pushed our world leading

Way of Life!

### It's time for elevenses.

Join us to celebrate the launch of the new "11" registration.

**Yaris T Spirit from £10,995\*** Yaris range starts at £9,995.

Whichever model you choose, you can also enjoy our commitment to quality with a 5 year warranty, as well as 3 years free servicing when you choose finance from AccessToyota.\* That really is the icing on the cake.

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- BLUETOOTH\*
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- AUTO AIR CON

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Helensburgh Toyota  
5-7 John Street, G84 8BA  
Tel: 01436 672779  
helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

Today Tomorrow Toyota

Model shown Yaris T Spirit 1.0 litre VVT-i 3 door manual at £10,995. Metallic paint £418.72 extra. \*Price is calculated by deducting £1,500 customer saving and £200 Centre contribution from manufacturer's list price of £12,695 and is correct at time of going to press. Includes VAT, delivery charge, number plates, 1 year's road fund licence & £55 first registration fee. Subject to availability. Only available for new retail orders of model shown between 16 December and 31 March 2011 and registered before 30 June 2011 on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Free servicing offer includes the first three scheduled services at an official Toyota Centre (every 10,000 miles or 12 months whichever is first). Terms and conditions apply. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services.

Yaris T Spirit 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 45.6 (6.2), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 55.4 (5.1). CO2 Emissions 118g/km.

The Suzuki Alto from £6,953 **VAT FREE**

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- Front fog lamps†
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- Electric front windows
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- Alloy wheels†
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- ABS
- Front fog lamps
- ESP

**0% on specific models\***

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Contact us today for a test drive

\*The Suzuki Alto VAT FREE offer is based on the Alto S23 model with a customer saving of £1,392 which equals the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £8,345. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. \*\*ESP is a registered trademark of Daimler AG. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

Instead of reading this 40,212' readers could be reading your advert.

Audit period Jan 2009 - Dec 2009  
\*JICREG data as at 01/01/2011

Telephone: 01631 568000

**The Oban Times**

**CONTACT KEVIN ON 01631 568041 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING ON OUR MOTORS PAGE.**

# THE ALIENERGY CLIMATE CHALLENGE FUND ELECTRIC CAR ROADSHOW

## ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency



**AlIenergy Zero Carbon Roadshow**  
We are off again!

AlIenergy recently teamed up with Allied Cars for the first ever electric car roadshow around Argyll. Due to demand we will be setting off again soon.

The point of the roadshows is to test and demonstrate zero/low carbon transport in Argyll. We have an abundance of renewable energy resources in Argyll. Imagine we could harness these resources to get from A to B by car.

The AlIenergy Argyll Energy Information and Awareness Project, funded by Climate Challenge Fund, and has reduced Carbon emissions by thousands of tonnes in Argyll so far.

To get involved in the roadshow or if you have any other energy related queries call AlIenergy on **01631 565183**

It's amazing how quickly you get used to the silence. And yet, the absence of engine noise, apart from a fan-like whirr, is the main difference between driving an electric car and an ordinary car.

LuckyfewatAlIenergyhavejustbeen driving one of Allied Vehicles electric cars around Argyll, through towns and villages, in lanes and A-roads. This isn't a performance car, even though it steps off smartly from rest and top whack is just 70. This model is a 7 seat Peugeot Tipse; it handles well, hugs the road and delivers a nice soft, stable, quiet journey. The idea being that you drive in a more stately and saintly way than you would a petrol or diesel car, because range is more critical. If you drive your ordinary car harder than the energy saving guidelines recommend, you'll run out of fuel sooner and it will hit your pocket harder. If you do this in an electric car you'll have to wait until it recharges.

There is actually fun to be had in the act of stretching range, by conserving momentum, thinking ahead and avoiding the brakes. This does not mean that you have to travel at snail's pace, we traveled from Dunoon to Lochgilphead and then to Oban in less than 3 hours driving time, we had a few stops on the way visiting Dunoon Grammar School, Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Oban High School as well as Oban and Dunoon Campus' of Argyll College and local Cooperative stores in all three towns to let the public see what all the fuss was about.

With the help of Argyll and Bute Council we were able to charge up at Lochgilphead-2 hours, Oban-

overnight and Dunoon-overnight. The staff at each depot were intrigued to see the car and David Whyte from ABC went beyond the call to make sure everything was in place for us wherever we went.

Overall we spent two days touring Argyll covering 180 miles, at a cost of 3.5p/mile. The 180 mile journey cost just £6.30 in electricity, this is equivalent to a staggering 167 miles per gallon at current fuel prices. This is possible because electricity is cheaper, more efficient and easier to transport than petrol or diesel, how much would that journey have cost in your car? With the added bonus of no road tax and cheaper servicing costs (electric motors have fewer moving parts than internal combustion engines) this makes electric cars much cheaper to run than ordinary cars. Not to mention zero emissions when the car is charged from renewable energy, this was definitely the cleanest, greenest roadshow we have ever put on.

The difference is in the purchase price, most of which is the cost of the batteries. In the case of the Peugeot the batteries cost £28,000. The Government has put an incentive of £5000 towards the purchase price of 9 different electric cars available for sale in the UK but it is still an expensive purchase. With the help of AlIenergy's CCF project, charging stations around Argyll could be nearer to completion than you think, making an electric car more of a viable option than ever before.

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## DRIVETIMES

**IVECO DAILY CREWCAB DROPSIDE TIPPER 3.5 TON**

GOOD CONDITION FOR YEAR. TAXED UNTIL 31/08/11 AND MOT'D UNTIL 15/07/11  
Tel: 01631 570060

**£3700 + VAT**

**18FT 6 BERTH TOURING CARAVAN**

Twin axle  
Fitted with fridge, cooker and fire  
For further details telephone **07818 827945**

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**12.9FT WITH BOAT**

12.9ft With boat in vgc great summer boat no work needed ready to go  
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**WANTED**

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**VAUXHALL CORSA BREEZE**

1.2 Twinport 2005 3 Door Blue 44,000 miles.  
Telephone: **01631 564300**

**£2850**

**NISSAN NAVARA KINGCAB**

03, silver, mot till dec, one years tax, 108k miles, remote lock and alarm.  
Call for more details.  
Telephone: **07917 420506 or 01688 500240**

**£3500**

**96 LANDROVER DEFENDER 110 STATION WAGON. 300TDI**

Retro styled, 133k. MOT Feb 2012, tax July 2011, in exceptional condition, rebuilt from chassis up in 05 adapted for wet weather. Rack sliders added to improve side impact protection. Chassis was oiled inside and out. Bulk head was oiled internally. All wheel arches extended and mud flaps relocated to shed water. Rear body and roof are foam insulated to reduce condensation, floors are rubber tiled, fitted with galvanised rear body tub tops. Front and side doors new at rebuild and was oiled internally, rear door strengthened and fitted with spare wheel carrier and was oiled. Full exhaust in 2010. Timing belt at 110k, timing modification fitted as per Land Rover recall. New complete cylinder head fitted in 2010. Last complete service at 130k. CD mp3 player, tow pack. Choice of seats. Choice of wheels. Roof rack available.  
Tel: **01631 760302**

**£6900**

**WILLERBY STATIC CARAVAN, 2003**

28' x 12', 2 bedrooms, open plan kitchen living area, very good condition, currently situated in Benderloch.  
Tel: **01631 720626**

**£4800 o.n.o.**

**RENAULT LAGUNA SPORT TOURER, 2.0 LTR**

07, 07, 12 mths MOT, 6 mths tax, full service history, 1/2 leather, new tyres, alloys, park sensor, cruise, lovely condition, 57,000 miles.  
Telephone: **01546 605324**

**£3200**

**ESCORT GHIA**

P reg 84,000 miles Good mechanical condition Body needs welding attention to pass MOT.  
Telephone: **07710 034551**

**£120 o.n.o.**

**YAMAHA BRUIN 350 4X4 AUTO**

2006, 2,600 miles. 4 new tyres, good condition and a reliable atv.  
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**£1950**

**COLLECTORS CLASSIC FORD CAPRI**

1983, starts, runs and drives excellent.  
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**RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION**

5 door hatchback, auto, petrol 53 reg 54688 Miles 1 years Mot Good condition.  
Telephone: **07500 786612**

**£1500 o.n.o.**

**NISSAN NIVARA DOUBLE CAB**

52 plate, Ifor Williams Top, 85,000 miles Tax July, MOT October, Well used  
Tel: **07919 915409**

**£1500 + VAT o.n.o.**

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 DESIGN**

05 reg, 1 year MOT, 9 months tax, immaculate condition, Very fast and economical, 6 disc CD player etc  
Tel: **01546 602134 (Lochgilphead)**

**£2850 o.n.o. for quick sale**

**1996 SUBARU LEGACY SALOON 4WD**

N Reg, 2.2 ltr, good condition, MOT - April 2011, Taxed - Oct 2011.  
Telephone: **01586 552703**

**£790 o.n.o.**

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**RENAULT**

New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

**USED CARS**

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10 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0 DCI 150, Grey, 2500 miles	£15,350
10 Peugeot 207s, SWHDI Estate, Black, 19,000 miles	£10,250
59 Renault Clio Exp. Dci Sport Tourer, silver, 11,000 miles	£10,795
59 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.5 DCI, 5Dr, Silver, 17,000 miles	£9,750
09 Renault Koleos Dyn Dci 4WD, black, 13,000 miles	£14,995
09 Ford C-Max Style, 1.6, 5Dr, Blue, 12,650 Miles	£8,500
08 Renault Megane Sport Tourer Dyn Dci 130 auto, black, 21,000 miles	£8,950
08 Nissan Note Tekna, Auto, 1.6, 5Dr, Black, 18,000 Miles	£6,850
08 Renault Twingo Dyn 1.2, 3dr, black, 17,500 miles	£6,550
57 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.2 TCE, 5Dr, Black, 18,000 miles	£6,750
07 Renault Megane Extreme 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, Silver, 18000,	£5,650
07 Renault Scenic Dyn, DCI 106, Silver, 26,500 Miles	£6,950
07 Renault Clio Campus l'Music, 1.2, 3Dr. Blue, 25,000 Miles	£4,500
06 Suzuki Ignis GL, 1.4, 5Dr, Red, 43,000 Miles	£3,500
55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 38500 Miles	£4,950
55 Renault Clio Exp, 1.2, 5 Dr Black, 19,200 miles	£3,750
54 Rover 45 1.8 auto, grey, 31,000 miles	£3,350
04 Ford Focus Flight, 1.6, 5Dr, Grey, 70,000 miles	£3,250
04 Ford Ka Style, 3dr, blue, 42,000 miles	£2,650

**COMMERCIALS**

57 Renault Traffic SL27+, DCI 115, Silver	£8,000 + vat
02 Renault Kangoo	£2,150 + vat

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09 59 Volkswagen Passat S TDI 2.0cc, 4 Door, Saloon, Diesel, Blue, 11,000 miles, CD Player, Remote Central Locking, Front & Rear Electric Windows, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, 1 Owner, 19 Months Manufactures Warranty.	£11995
09 09 Kia Cee'd S 1.4cc, 5 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Silver, 22,000 miles, Central Locking, CD Player, Electric Windows, Air Con 1 Owner, Manufactures Warranty	£7695
08 58 Ford Focus Zetec 1.8cc, 5 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Blue, 16,000 miles, CD Player, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloy Wheels, Fully Serviced, 1 Owner, 9 Months Manufactures Warranty.	£8995
08 08 Ford Focus Zetec TDCI 115 1.8c, 5 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Black, 32,000 miles, CD Player, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, Music Steering Controls, Fully Serviced, 1 Years MOT.	£8995
08 57 Volkswagen Polo Match 80 1.4cc, 3 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Blue, 33,000 miles CD Player, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Fully Serviced, 1 Years MOT.	£6795
07 57 Vauxhall Vivaro 2900 SWB 2.0cc, Diesel, White, 45,000 miles, 6 Seats, CD Player, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Fully Serviced, 1 Years MOT	WAS £7995 + VAT NOW £7695 + VAT
07 07 Toyota Auris TR 1.6cc, 5 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Grey, 18,000 miles, CD Player, Remote Central Locking, Front & Rear Electric Windows, Alloy Wheels, Fully Serviced, 1 Owner, 1 Years MOT	£7795

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<b>ISUZU</b> S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	<b>SUBARU</b> S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440

**TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003  
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2005  
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION  
DISCHARGE OF TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT TO LOCH ETIVE AT  
NGR NM 9150 3480**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Mr Adrian Wilson (Melfort Care Limited) for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Loch Eive, namely: Discharge of 28.2m<sup>3</sup> per day of treated sewage effluent to Loch Eive at NGR NM 9150 3480 from 1 December 2010.

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National Grid Reference
Discharge of Treated Sewage Effluent	Loch Eive	NM 9150 3480

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the water environment or the interests of other users of the water environment.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference CAR/L/1085662:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll and telephone number 01546 602876

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
11/00543/PIP	Land to South of Blais Cottage Rosheen Glenisig Lochailort	Erection of house (renewal of 04/00432/OUT10)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/00574/FUL	The Tattie House Isle of Rum	Conversion of two houses into one	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/00604/FUL	Land at Brunery Kinlochmoidart Lochailort	Installation of hydro-electric scheme	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
UGHDRAS NAN CROITEARAN

The following decrofting Direction has been granted:  
**Part Croft**  
22b Carnach, Lismore & Appin  
Direction dated 7 March 2011 granted to John F MacGregor. Area ext to 0.297 ha.

Conditions: 1. The land is used for a house site. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.86.27806

The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Scottish Land Court.

**COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949  
2 NEW MOORINGS: DRIMMIN, SOUND OF MULL**

Notice is hereby given that Richard J Cole has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Executive, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of 2 new moorings at the following locations at Port Nam Freunh, Drimmin, Sound of Mull:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Moorings 1	56 36.650N	05 59.030W
Moorings 2	56 36.735N	05 58.920W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Drimmin Post Office, Drimmin, Morvern, Argyll

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC/2/5/440

Richard J Cole, Merryweather House, Kettlestone, Fakenham, Norfolk

**COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949  
SINGLE MOORING: INNER LOCH TEACUIS**

Notice is hereby given that Alexander McCall Smith has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of a new mooring at the following location in Inner Loch Teacuis, Morvern:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Moorings	56 37.494N	05 50.167W (WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Lochaline Post Office.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC/2/5/439

Alexander McCall Smith/ Matthew J L Wilson  
Claggan Schoolhouse, by Lochaline, Morvern, Argyll

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS**

● Ref No: 11/00247/LIB  
Applicant: Mr Bruno Schroder  
Proposal: Replacement roof covering, installation of replacement windows and rooflight, alterations to dwellinghouse, relocation of oil tank and provision of bin store  
Site Address: Dunlosail House Port Askaig Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RE  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Askaig

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS**

● Ref No: 11/00053/PP  
Applicant: Mr Alex MacRae  
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Harbour Masters Cottage 11B Easdale Island Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TB  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar

● Ref No: 11/00074/LIB  
Applicant: Mr Alex MacRae  
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Harbour Masters Cottage 11B Easdale Island Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TB  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar

● Ref No: 11/00303/PP  
Applicant: Mr Anek Swieticki  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse.  
Site Address: Aros Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JE  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt

● Ref No: 11/00324/LIB  
Applicant: Mr T Hammy  
Proposal: Installation of 3 rooflights  
Site Address: Braigh Cottage Bunnassan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DS  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 31/03/2011

● Ref No: 11/00018/PP  
Applicant: Gallagher Development Limited  
Proposal: Erection of 5 dwellinghouses and formation of new vehicular access.  
Site Address: Land At Craigsuir Lane Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PU  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00331/PPP  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Robin MacQueen  
Proposal: Site for the erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land North East Of Mo Dhachaidh Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 40B  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00344/PP  
Applicant: David Thomas  
Proposal: Change of use from garage and workshop to camping site  
Site Address: Achadh An Droma Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 60R  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig

● Ref No: 11/00352/PP  
Applicant: Mr A Syme  
Proposal: Erection of detached garage  
Site Address: 6 West Hynish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UF  
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00355/PP  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Robin And Samantha Sedgwick  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Cannich Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JP  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20 (1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be: Examined at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, PA31 8ST and the location details below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, PA31 8ST by 31.03.2011 for the following list of applications for planning permission.

● Ref No: 10/02169/PP  
Applicant: West Highland Housing Association Ltd  
Proposal: Erection of 50 dwellings comprising 21 houses and 29 flats.  
Site address: Land To North Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Durnbeg Oban Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003  
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2005  
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION  
BRUNERY HYDRO**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, than an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Moidart Hydro (Brunery) Ltd for authorisation to carry on controlled activities in connection with a proposed hydro scheme, namely Brunery Hydro:

Description of Controlled Activity	Waters Affected	National Grid Reference
Construction and operation of new impounding works (2.05m in height) to replace existing stone dam	Loch nam Paitean	NM 7288 7378
Abstraction of 1045 m3 per day of water	Loch name Paitean	NM 7288 7378
Return of abstracted water approximately 1.7km downstream of the abstraction point	Allt a'Chlair	NM 7317 7213

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities are likely to have an impact on the water environment.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1091598:

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (Except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA Fort William Office, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TL (telephone number 01397 704426)

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served."

**Oban & Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association**  
**A.G.M.**  
**Oban High School Pipe Band**  
Monday 14th March 2011  
7pm  
Oban High School, Assembly Hall  
All players, parents and interested parties welcome.  
[www.ohspipeband.org.uk](http://www.ohspipeband.org.uk)

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
UGHDRAS NAN CROITEARAN

**NOTIFICATION OF COMMISSION DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS TO CREATE NEW CROFTS**

1. Application by Mrs Elizabeth Henderson and Mrs Helen Clarke, owners of Craigmore, Gruline, Isle of Mull, Argyll. **Approved**

Parties with an interest in the above application may appeal our decision to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

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**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

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Are you a committee member of a voluntary or community group?  
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What do we need to know?  
• Child Protection Level 1  
• Protection of vulnerable groups (Scotland) Act 2007  
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**Slievanea, Stronvaar Avenue Campbeltown, Argyll**

This house is situated in a beautiful very quiet area of Campbeltown  
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1 1/2 storey 3 bedroom semi detached chalet dwelling house situated in the corner of a small development.  
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- Hall
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May I express to you on behalf of Curstan, family and myself, our grateful thanks for the sincerely appreciated tributes made to Isobel and for your kindness and sympathy at this time.

Nancy Black

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As you join your Mum and Dad

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**DEATHS**

**KEAY** - Julia Margaret, author, died peacefully at home on March 3, 2011, surrounded by her children Alexander, Anna, Nell and Sam and her husband John. Donations to Macmillan nurses 0207 840 4900.

**MACSWEEN** - Peacefully at home on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, Margot (Elizabeth), dearly loved wife of the late Malcolm, a much loved mother, granny and great-granny. Margot will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service was held at St Paul's Church, Kinlochleven, on March 8, 2011.

**MILLER - SEARS** - Peacefully at home in California, USA, on February 25, 2011, having dealt with her cancer with great determination and courage to the end, Marion, aged 55 years, beloved wife of Michael, loving mother of Sophie, Thomas, and the late Laurence, dear sister of Grace, and much loved daughter of the late David Miller, and of Isobel Miller, late of Connel, presently Portpatrick, Wigtownshire.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BRUNNER** - The family of the late Miranda; Gustl, Patrick, Lars and Donny extend our grateful thanks to relatives and friends for their support and help on our very sad loss. Heartfelt thanks for their care to all staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Macmillan Cancer Care, Easdale Surgery and the Seal Homecare Team. Thank you also to Hamish Hoey and Son and the Rev Ken Ross for their kind guidance.

**MACPHEE** - The family of the late Daisy MacPhee would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy shown to them by way of cards, letters, flowers, phone calls and baking, following our sad loss. Special thanks to all the staff at Lynn of Lorne Care Home and Dr Davis at Connel Surgery. Thanks to Ewen and staff at John MacLellan Undertakers and to Rev Alison Burnside for her comforting service. Thanks to all who have helped Daisy over the years. The sum of £250 was raised for Lynn of Lorne Residents Fund.

**McSEVENEY** - The family of the late Doris Lillian McSeveney (Doris from the Pool), would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy. A special thank you to Catherine Hamlin, Dr Shirley and the district nurses for their care and friendship, also to all the staff at the Highland Hospice for the wonderful and professional treatment during Doris' last few weeks. Thanks also to Mike McFall and Mr John Fraser for the funeral arrangements and comforting service. The sum of £1,370 was collected on behalf of the Highland Hospice.

**MEMORIALS**

**BLACK** - In loving memory of our precious son Fraser, died March 13, 2009 aged 18.

Two long years have passed without you in our lives. With so much still to say and do

You have gone away and left us missing you. Love and miss you everyday Fraser

Lots of love always - Mum and Dad xxxx

**BLACK** - In loving memory of our brother Fraser. Too fast to live

Too young to die Always missing you

- Lots of love Gregory and Ruairidh xx

**BLACK** - In loving memory of our grandson Fraser.

Our memories of your smile

And laughter can still light up a room.

Love and miss you lots Fraser.

Lots of love - May - Gagae and Grumpy xx

**BLACK** - In loving memory of my nephew Fraser.

In every memory there is a smile and a tear.

Life is dark and sad without you Fraser.

Miss you lots

Lots of love - Auntie Lesley, Kayleigh, Ryan and Liam xxxx

**BLOOR** - In loving memory of Margaret,

dear sister and sister in law, who died March 12, 1999.

- Jimmy, Cathy and family.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of our dear mother, Mary, who passed away March 16, 2007, also our dear father, James (Jimmy), who passed away January 21, 1999.

No matter how our lives have changed No matter what we do We'll never forget those precious years

The ones we shared with you.

- Gordon and Hazel.

**CAMERON** - In memory of Stephen who passed away March 7, 2006.

Sadly missed but not forgotten.

- Love Mum, Sandy and Bernard.

**CLARK** - In precious memory of our much loved daughter, sister, mum and aunt. Margaret Macdonald who was taken from us on March 9, 1997.

Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure

Loving you always Forgetting you never.

Love - Mum, Dad, Aileen, Marilyn, Matthew, Natalie, Carrie-Anne, Caroline, Robert, Craig, Sharree and Darren.

**COUTTS** - Treasured memories of my dear parents, Ishbel, died March 8, 1992 and Alex, who died June 17, 1976 my brother Alistair, who died November 2, 2007 my aunt Jean, died October 26, 1988.

Also remembering loved ones gone before and since. Loved and remembered everyday.

- Cathie, Inverness.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my brother Kenneth (renowned piper) who died February 25, 2010.

The years we shared together

The happy times we knew Are lived again so often

In my memory of you. Of all the gifts in life

However great or small To have you as my brother Was the greatest gift of all.

- Inserted by Catriona, (Tiree).

**MACDONALD** - Treasured cherished memories of my darling husband, Andrew, died March 13, 2010.

Sorely and sadly missed. Loved and remembered.

- Your loving wife Margaret.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of John, a devoted husband, father and grandfather who died on March 11, 2006

You left us beautiful memories Your love is still our guide

And though we cannot see you You're always by our side.

- Bella, Donald, John, Janette, Keith, Iain and Allan.

**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of my dear wife, mother and gran Lottie, who passed away at her home, Sunnyville, Corraige, Tiree, on March 9, 1993.

No one knows the heartache that lies behind my smile

No one knows how many times I've broken down and cried

I want to tell you something, so there won't be any doubt You're so wonderful to think of, but so hard to live without.

- Her loving husband Hugh. They say there is a reason They say that time will heal But neither time nor reason Will change the way we feel.

- Ian, Fiona, Kirsteen and Niall.

You had such special qualities Found in very few

Your caring love and kindness Mum Are our special memories of you.

- Morag, John and family, Dalnally.

In a lovely garden sleeping Where flowers softly sway Lies a precious mum

Who's loved and missed each day.

- Johann, Oban.

**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of our dear mum, gran and great gran Lottie, who passed away March 9, 1993 at Sunnyville, Tiree.

You had a smile for everyone

You left a heart of gold You left the sweetest memories

This world could ever hold Miss you mum.

- Rita, Duncan and family.

**MACPHAIL** - In loving memory of my dear nephew, Allan, who passed away on March 11, 2004.

Love and miss you always. - Auntie Ann.

**MACPHAIL** - In memory of Allan, March 11, 2004. Forever in my thoughts.

- Maureen

**MACPHAIL** - In memory of Allan passed away March 11, 2004.

Lovingly remembered. - Jennifer.

**OMAND** - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious nana, Cathie, Isle of Tiree, who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008.

We lost a mum with a heart of gold

How much we miss her can never be told

Behind our smiles is many a tear

For the mum we lost and loved so dear.

- Rosemary, Ina, John, Murray, Norma and families, Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of my dear husband Jimmy who died March 14, 2005.

Always in my thoughts. - Love Jessie.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of our dear dad, papa and old papa Jimmy, who died March 14, 2005

Miss you always. - James, Sandra and family.

**STODDART** - In loving memory of our dear mother Isabella Livingston died March 11, 1990.

Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by family, Glasgow.

**WEATHERALL** - Treasured memories of Jack, a very dear husband, dad and grandpa (Ali) who died March 6, 2010.

Always in our thoughts and hearts.

- Katie, Anne, Carine, Wolfe, Andy and Jamie.

**WEATHERALL** - In memory of Jack, died March 6, 2010, a dear brother-in-law and uncle.

Lovingly remembered. - By all in Oban and away.

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
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**Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**A tasty treat for Oban Rotarians**



OBANITES were taught the secret to cooking Indian food recently as cooks from the town's Coriander restaurant met with Oban Rotarians and friends. Restaurant owner Sukanta Debnath and chef Saleh Ahmed demonstrated the skills in preparing and cooking the Asian cuisine at a special fundraising evening. The event, held at Oban High School, raised £550 for the Rotary Foundation. The money will be used by the Rotary to fund projects all over the world. From left are Margaret Hyde, Rotary president John Hyde, Sukanta Debnath and Saleh Ahmed.

**Ping-pong proves popular with pupils**



Table tennis hot-shots gathered at the Oban Joint Campus at Rockfield last week for the annual Interschool Table Tennis Championship. Competition was fierce and standards high as each school's keenest players battled for top spot. Boys winner was St Columba's pupil Dominik Sapinsky, beating Jack Strachan, of Park Primary School, in an exciting final. David MacPherson, of Rockfield, finished third. Rachel Campbell, of Rockfield Primary School, won the girls' title, beating fellow Rockfield pupil Morven MacFadyen-Donald in the final. Park Primary's Rebecca Miller finished third. The winners each received a goodie bag and certificate for their efforts. Pictured after the final are, from left: David MacPherson, Jack Strachan, Dominik Sapinsky, Rachel Campbell, Morven MacFadyen-Donald and Rebecca Miller. 08\_10tableten1

**Large crowd enthralled by local players**

THE MONTHLY club night of Oban Fiddle and Accordion Club held in Argyllshire Gathering on March 3 attracted a large audience and a good number of local players.

Chairman Michael Garvin began proceedings on accordion and Archie Cameron, on drums. The other accordion players were Janet Graham, Cumbernauld; Murray Willis, Isle of Lismore; Gregor MacCormick, Appin;

Ross MacPherson and Sileas Sinclair, both Connel; Hector McFadyen, Oban; and on melodeon James MacArthur, Oban; playing drums club stalwart Duncan Campbell, Oban; and Nicky McMichan.

Playing keyboard was Winnie McNicol, Port Appin; Sheila Henderson, Strontian; and Ross MacPherson. Michael introduced the guest artist, Glasgow based Nicky McMichan Trio;

Nicky on lead accordion, Mathew MacLennan on second box and Shona MacPherson on drums.

The guest artist played many sets, which were thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience. The chairman thanked both the local and guest artists for a fantastic evening of music. The next club night is on April 7 when the special guest artist will be Jennifer Forrest's Scottish Dance Band.

**La Boheme heads to Corran halls**

FOLLOWING a sell-out run of performances last summer, Opera Bohemia, Scotland's up-and-coming new opera company, is taking its acclaimed first production on tour.

Performances of the company's intimate and moving take on Puccini's tragic masterpiece La Boheme will take place on April 6 at Oban's Corran Halls. Rising Scottish star Catriona Clark leads a cast of artists in the role of Mimì, the young seamstress whose failing health can't prevent her falling in love with charismatic poet Rodolfo.

This energetic and youthful production, sung in Italian with English subtitles and accompanied by violin and piano, captures all the emotional highs and lows of Puccini's romantic score: from playful friendship to the rush of first love, to the devastating pain of heartbreak and loss.

**Dunk a biscuit for Meningitis Trust**

BISCUIT enthusiasts across Argyll are being asked to dunk their favourite snack into a cuppa this month in support of the Meningitis Trust.

The Big Dunkathon Coffee Break campaign is calling on Argyll folk to hold a coffee morning in March to raise funds for the charity.

The trust, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, hopes the annual event will add to the £1.2 million raised so far.

Samantha Porter, event organiser at the Meningitis Trust, said: 'Bake some goodies, invite some friends and get the kettle on.'

The Meningitis Trust helps more than 20,000 people every year as they face life after meningitis.

It raises awareness of the disease and funds research into its long-term impact.

**Red Cross appeal to aid Libyans**

PEOPLE in Argyll are being urged to help the British Red Cross deliver aid to thousands of Libyans fleeing violence.

The charity, which has been helping people on the ground since the beginning of the unrest, is appealing for donations and has released £150,000 from its disaster fund to help those affected.

Mike Goodhand, disaster response manager with British Red Cross, said the charity rapidly needs to increase the scale of its response.

He said: 'We are supporting people crossing over from Libya into Egypt and Tunisia.

'That exodus is growing by the hour, and support will have to expand to meet people's needs,' he said.

To make a donation visit www.redcross.org.uk/libyacrises or call 0845 454 7206

**OBITUARIES**

**Lifeboat supporter whose charitable work started early**

MISS Isobel J Black died peacefully at her home, Torwood, Oban, on Saturday, February 13, aged 90.

Isobel's family roots have been in Argyll since at least the 14th century. Her father, Donald Black, was a well respected judge of Highland cattle and he and his wife, Barbara MacIntyre, of Kerrera, were both descended from Lorn farming families.

At an early age, Isobel was collecting on Flag Days for the Red Cross, Cruelty to Children, the West Highland Hospital etc. This started her charitable work which was to last a lifetime.

Isobel had many fond memories of her time spent during school holidays at Gylen Park, on Kerrera, with her aunt and uncles - long hard days helping with haymaking and the salmon fishing, packing the fish in iris leaves to be posted down to London.

She volunteered as an ambulance driver in Oban in 1939 and was later called up in 1943 to become an Army staff driver.

During this time she witnessed the bombing of Southampton and Portsmouth by V1 and V2 bombs. After demob in mid-1946, she resurrected her passion for flowers and graduated from the Constance Spry



Isobel Black, who served as an Army staff driver during the war before forming the lifeboat guild in Oban.

Flower School in London.

In addition to floral work, Isobel was part time secretary to Lord Maclean of Duart, Sir Duncan MacCallum MP of Ardenaiseig and Professor Donald Hawker MacKinnon, of Aberdeen University.

She passed on her knowledge as Cub Mistress and Girl Guide Cap-

tain to Lord McLean who achieved his Wolfe Badge which enabled him to be honoured as Chief Scout.

Isobel was one of the first to join Oban Sailing Club when it was revived after the war and had many memories of sailing around the isles.

She formed her lifeboat fundraising guild in 1951 and, in the years until 1971, when Oban Lifeboat Station was established, she and her ladies raised many thousands of pounds.

The arrival of an inshore lifeboat followed by an all-weather lifeboat added a greater fervour to her fundraising skills.

Book sales were held over two or three days with everything labelled and displayed professionally. She had a keen eye for a bargain and was an expert in spotting a good piece of china, porcelain or a rare book. These would be sent to an expert for valuation and proceeds, of course, to the RNLI.

The arrival of Seville oranges in January saw the commencement of the marmalade making operation by the ladies.

Orders were taken and the sales tables at the various banks in Oban soon sold out. In recent years, and in failing health, Isobel would have

her stall on the Railway Pier selling bric-a-brac, books and tombola in all weathers.

Oban Lifeboat will miss a good and gracious friend and ardent supporter. Isobel was a dedicated fundraiser and the RNLI has lost one of its finest.

It is estimated that in the 60 years of her association with the institution almost £100,000 has been raised.

In addition, Isobel raised £500 for Dogs for the Blind. If she saw council workmen digging up the side of the road where daffodils grew, she would round up helpers and go back with sacks and spades to save the bulbs for her various charities.

She also spent time in the autumn collecting heather and, knowing where the white shoots appeared, would send mixed bunches to various St Andrew's Societies around the world. Seeds, pine cones decorated for Christmas stalls, knitted chickens and eggcups for Easter, fancy hat competitions, the list is endless.

So many friends have said she taught them so much.

We will all miss Isobel and treasure all our fond memories of her. Isobel is survived by her sisters, Curstan and Nancy, her elder sister, Catherine, having predeceased her.

SV

**Community mourns passing of a popular ex-postman**

THE COMMUNITY of Lochalsh was saddened on February 20 with the passing of James Foubister, Bramley Hedge, Auchtertyre, Balmacara, at Broadford Hospital after a short illness. He was 85 years old.

Jimmy, as he was known to everyone except his wife Margaret and sister Mary, who always called him James, was born in Inverness. His mother died when he was quite young so after staying with an aunt for some time he was fostered out to a family in Scotsburn, where he went to school.

Jimmy left school at the age of 12 and worked in a variety of jobs including in a smiddy as a blacksmith and in the forestry.

In 1944 at the age of 18 Jimmy joined the Royal Navy and saw service in France, Germany and in

the Far East, and was also involved in the operations for the D-day landings.

Among the medals he was awarded was the Burma Star, but he seldom wore them in public, being a quiet self-effacing man.

In 1950 Jimmy married Margaret in Tain and then worked as a guard on the railway.

During that time he was involved in a serious accident when he was crushed between two goods wagons. He was told he would never work again, but it was a mark of the man that he worked for the next 30 years.

In 1960 the family moved to Plocton where Jimmy was appointed stationmaster, proving to be very popular and keeping the station immaculate. He was made redundant but carried on

SHINTY ROUND-UP

# Champions signal intent with a crushing win at Inveraray

**CHAMPIONS NEWTON-MORE** started the defence of their Scottish Hydro Premier Division title strongly with a 6-2 away win over Inveraray on Saturday, and manager Norman MacArthur says he is looking for more of the same this weekend when they travel to take on Lovat.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Inveraray's a good place to go and get two points, and Lovat's not an easy place to go either. The team is playing very well at the moment and scoring lots of goals so we're confident.'

Danny MacRae scored twice in a minute to give Newtonmore an early advantage. Steven MacDonald added a third before Stuart Robertson pulled a goal back for the home side.

Paul MacArthur netted just before the break, and MacRae completed his hat-trick on the hour. Inveraray's Neil Campbell made the score 5-2 five minutes later, but the away side ran out comfortable winners, with Glen MacKintosh adding the last goal just before the final whistle.

Norman said his team came through the match unscathed and he expects to have a full squad to pick this weekend.

**LOVAT** go into Saturday's home clash against Newtonmore with hopes high they will have a full squad at their disposal for the visit of the champions.

Wing back Drew Howie (pulled calf muscle) and half back Lorne MacKay (back injury) were in the wars in the 4-0 loss at Kingussie in the opening game of the season, but both have a chance of being declared fit after Monday night's training.

Co-manager John MacRitchie said Lovat had been handed a tough start with Kyles away and Fort William at home next up after the Newtonmore clash.

He said: 'We are a young side - our oldest guy is 30 and 14 of our 15-man squad is under 23. We were excellent in the first half against Kingussie - their keeper Andrew Borthwick was outstanding.'

'It's just match practice we need and hopefully now with one game under our belts we'll be tough to beat - although it's a difficult start to the season.'

'If we get a good performance on Saturday, that's all you can

ask for.'

**KINGUSSIE** made a solid start to the season with the 4-0 win against Lovat at The Dell.

Two goals shortly before half time from Fraser Munro and Thomas Borthwick seemed to take the wind out of the sails of the Lovat youngsters.

Ryan Borthwick scored a penalty eight minutes after the restart before Thomas Borthwick completed the scoring in the 63rd minute.

Manager Steven Borthwick said: 'I think our experienced players got us through, but as the game went on some of our younger boys started playing some great stuff.'

'We're lacking a bit of belief at the moment. I'm not sure why but a few more results like this and we'll be fine.'

Kingussie have another home game this Saturday, with newly-promoted Kilmallie the visitors.

Star player Ronald Ross won't be back for at least four weeks due to an ankle injury picked up in October against Ireland. Greg MacRae, who came off after 20 minutes against Lovat with a shoulder injury, is also a doubt.

Steven added: 'We're confident but are well aware of what Kilmallie can do.'

**KILMALLIE**, meanwhile, are desperate to bounce back from their disappointing opening day defeat at the hands of Oban Camanachd.

The Blues were given a sharp welcome to the Premier League when Oban's Daniel MacKinnon and Lewis Cameron cracked in two goals in the first three minutes at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie hit back through John Stewart, but Oban Camanachd settled the issue with a second half Andrew MacCuish strike.

Disappointed Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre knows the team can play much better - and will need to if they are to take anything away from The Dell.

'We are hoping the team gets out of the blocks quick,' Hugh said. 'We were two goals down after five minutes last weekend. Our top forwards never got going at all.'

Hugh added: 'We are hoping to have a full team.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** were admittedly wary of travelling to face a Kilmallie side that had scored goals for fun on their march to promotion from North Division One last season.

But the south team showed they are a stronger outfit than last season at Canal Park by beating their Lochaber rivals by three goals to one.

Teenager Lewis Cameron got himself on the score sheet with a strike into the top corner of the Kilmallie net and Daniel MacKinnon and a 40-yard strike from Andrew MacCuish ensured a good win.

Oban Camanachd goalkeeper Gavin Stobart contributed to the victory with a string of saves, including one from the penalty spot.

However, the Oban side did not come away unscathed. Lorne Dickie suffered an eye injury and Andrew Pearson needed attention for a cut to his head, sustained in an off-the-ball incident.

It is hoped the two casualties of last Saturday's game will be fit for the home clash with in-form Kyles Athletic.

With one of the smallest squads in the premier division **INVERARAY** are predicting a long, hard season ahead.

Having been overrun by cham-



Inveraray forward Euan McMurdo gets squeezed out by Newtonmore defender Norman Campbell and keeper Michael Ritchie.

Picture: John MacCavish

ions Newtonmore on Saturday, the men from the Royal Burgh are likely to be without the services of influential and versatile forward Euan McMurdo on Saturday at Drumadrochit.

First team player Chris Crawford, who is managing the second team while recovering from a shoulder injury, said: 'If we pick up many more injuries or suspensions we will be struggling and that's the way it will be this season.'

'It is hard to gauge a team after one game but we are expecting a tough game against Glenurquhart. It is a very open league this year and I think we'll see some surprising scorelines.'

**FORT WILLIAM** will travel to new Scottish Hydro premier league new boys Glenorchy on Saturday with the accent very much on youth.

Coach Peter MacIntyre has six first team regulars missing - two through work commitments, one is on holiday and three - John MacDonald, Adam Robertson and Liam MacIntyre - are still suspended.

Fort go into the game coming off a solid 3-0 win against Glenurquhart thanks to two goals from Gary Innes and a Bryan Simpson strike.

Glenorchy were mauled 8-0 at Kyles Athletic, but Fort will be taking nothing for granted even though several young fringe players are likely to figure in proceedings at some stage in the 90 minutes.

MacIntyre said: 'We did not play them last year, so they are something of an unknown quantity. With our squad being a bit thin on the ground we will have to play some of our youngsters - but I'm sure they won't let us down.'

**KYLES ATHLETIC** secretary James Perlich said it was time for the team to realise its potential as they made a perfect start to the season.

Dunkie Kerr netted a hat-trick as the team put eight past premier league newcomers Glenorchy and the Tighnabraich men are looking to continue this good form when they travel to Oban this weekend.

James said: 'We've got a young team but they have been together for three or four years now. For a few years we have been labelled a young team with great potential; it's time for this time to realise that potential and win something.'

In North Division 1, **KINLOCHSHIEL** got off to a flyer with a 3-1 win over Caberfeidh - now coach Johnston Gill is

asking for more of the same from his players in Saturday's clash against rivals Skye Camanachd.

Shiel's only injury doubt is Fraser MacVicar, who has a back injury, but otherwise Gill will have a squad of 14 or 15 at his disposal for the traditionally combative clash.

'It's a local derby so every player will have to be on his toes,' the coach said.

'It won't be an easy game, that's for sure, but our guys will be up for it.'

'Skye are blowing a bit hot and cold when they lost 2-0 last weekend to Strathglass it came as a bit of a shock to a lot of people in the game. But it is a local derby and I wouldn't like to forecast the result.'

**LOCHABER** will be looking to bounce back from last week's disappointing 2-1 loss to Beaulieu when they visit Caberfeidh on Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side lost the season opener through goals from Conor Ross and Jamie McLean. Shaun Nicolson pulled one back for the home team but it wasn't enough for them to get anything from the match.

Lochaber's Martin Johnston required stitches after receiving a head knock and is a now doubt for this weekend's game.

Caberfeidh also lost their opening game, going down 3-1 away to Kinlochshiel.

**SKYE CAMANACHD** go into the local derby clash with Kinlochshiel hoping to hold their own against their rivals with a squad short of experience and years.

Two players are aged just 16, three 18 and one 19 - so it will be a big ask for Nui MacDonald's men to put one over on high-flying Shiel.

Skye have lost six first team members through work and other commitments since last season - and last Saturday's opening 2-0 reverse at Strathglass took a further toll when Martin Bruce suffered a broken hand and A.B. Connor tore a muscle. Iain Murray is also unavailable as he is doing a post-graduate PE course this weekend.

Chairman Ross Cowie said: 'We have a very young team, while I would imagine Kinlochshiel and Lochaber are favourites for the league.'

'Some of our young players like Sean Hedley and Jordan Murchison are shaping up well and Saturday will be a tough

shift - but it will be good experience for them.'

A thrilling match between **TAYNUILT** and **BALLACHULISH** typified the competitive nature of South Division One this season.

The home team came back to level the tie at 2-2 after conceding two early goals, only to lose by the odd goal in seven.

Taynuilt centre Willie Gillies said his team started the game slowly but vowed that last week's lacklustre performance would not be repeated.

'For parts of the game we just didn't perform but in the end our fitness came through and if we'd had another 10 minutes we would have got something from the game. Hopefully, that's the wake-up call for the rest of the season,' he said.

Taynuilt have a tough trip to Glasgow this weekend but have a full squad to choose from.

The return of experienced half-forward Dougie Rankin from Skye has bolstered a young **BALLACHULISH** team who have the ability to win things this season, according to manager Willie Sutherland.

Past problems with player turnout were addressed at a pre-season meeting and Willie said his team are now 100 per cent behind the cause.

'We have a small squad but if this group of players turns out every week we could be challenging for the league. The players have the ability, it's whether they have the commitment and the belief.'

Willie said last week's 4-3 win at Taynuilt could have been more comfortable, but for a lack of composure in front of goal, and Willie is confident of another three points against division one new boys Aberdeen this Saturday at Jubilee Park.

**LOCHSIDE'S** thumping 5-1 win against Kilmory last Saturday was no surprise to co-manager David McInnes, who has described the latest batch of youngsters as the best he has seen.

David, a player with Lochside and Oban Camanachd for the past 16 years, said: 'We've got experience in the team with Brian MacCallum, Drew Walker, David Devine and Christopher Eccleston - last weekend's man of the match - but most of the lads are between 17 and 20.'

'They are probably the best pool of players I have seen com-

Results

- Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William 3, Glenurquhart 0; Inveraray 2, Newtonmore 6; Kilmallie 1, Oban Camanachd 3; Kingussie 4, Lovat 0. Kyles Athletic 8, Glenorchy 0.
- Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Inverness 1, Lochcarron 1; Kinlochshiel 3, Caberfeidh 1; Lochaber 1, Beaulieu 2; Strathglass 2, Skye 0.
- Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour 0, Bute 4; Lochside Rovers 5, Kilmory 1; Oban Celtic 1, Kyles Athletic 4; Taynuilt 3, Ballachulish 4.
- Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Glengarry 3, Kinlochshiel 1; Glenurquhart 4, Fort William 7; Lovat 2, Kingussie 5; Newtonmore 7, Lochaber 1; Skye 3, Kilmallie 1.
- Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Ballachulish 0, Strachur 5; Bute 1, Tayforth 1; Col Glen 4, Inveraray 1; Glasgow Mid Arg 11, Aberdeen 0.
- Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Beaulieu 5, Lewis 1; Boleskine 2, Inverness 0; Caberfeidh 0, Aberdeen University 3; Lochroom v Ardnarmurchan postponed. Points to Lochroom, Ardnarmurchan unable to field a team; Lochcarron 4, Strathglass 1.

Fixtures

- All throw ups 2.30 unless stated
- Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Glenorchy v Fort William (Ted MacDonald); Glenurquhart v Inveraray (Deek Cameron); Kingussie v Kilmallie (David Mitchell); Lovat v Newtonmore (Evan MacRae); Oban Camanachd v Kyles Athletic (Graham Cameron).
- Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Beaulieu v Inverness (Innes Wood); Caberfeidh v Lochaber (Donald MacRae); Skye v Kinlochshiel (Charles Young); Strathglass v Lochcarron (Daniel MacRae)
- Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Ballachulish v Aberdeen (Dunkie Kerr); Bute v Lochside Rovers (Robert Baxter); Glasgow Mid Arg v Taynuilt (Billy Waterspoon); Oban Celtic v Kilmory (Colin MacDonald).
- Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Fort William v Glengarry (Robert Morrison); Kilmallie v Kingussie (John Angus Gillies); Kinlochshiel v Skye (John Sloggie); Lochaber v Glenurquhart (Ronnie Campbell); Newtonmore v Lovat (Graeme MacMillan).
- Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour v Inveraray (Gus Campbell); Col Glen v Bute (Euan Pearson); Strachur v Glasgow Mid Arg (Douglas Ferguson); Tayforth v Ballachulish (George O'Rourke).
- Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Aberdeen University v Lochroom (Iain Kennedy); Ardnarmurchan v Beaulieu (Dougie Cameron); Boleskine v Strathglass (Joek Matheson); Inverness v Caberfeidh (Kevin Cheeseman); Lochcarron v Lewis (Willie MacRae - 1pm throw-up).

ing through and I wouldn't be surprised if guys like Peter Currie, Ally Gunn and Jamie Kerr are pushing for first team places by the end of the season.'

However, David is all too wary of the physical test his young guns face at Bute this Saturday.

'Bute are a big, physical team but our lads will need to learn to deal with that. This will probably be our toughest game this season.'

**OBAN CELTIC'S** first match of the new season against visiting Kyles was preceded by a minute's silence to mark the recent death of their chieftain, Alistair Campbell, a club stalwart and a much respected figure in the wider shinty world, who will be greatly missed.

The Oban side lost, a result that disappointed team manager Davy Hamilton.

'In this league you have to pick up points in your home games and that's what we'll be looking to do on Saturday,' he said.

'Although it was a disappointing result, Kyles are a big physical team and the other teams in the league should take note. I think they will shake up a few teams this season.'

'South Division One is a harder league this season with Bute and Glasgow Mid Argyll coming down from the premier league but that's what the south needs. There has been too much of a gap between the premier and South Division One in recent years.'

Celtic will be missing influential midfielders Lee Askev and Neil Carmichael through injury when they host Kilmory at Ganavan on Saturday.



Oban Andrew Pearson catches a sore one from Kilmallie's Michael Rodgers: the pair had a running battle all day 10.16010101

Tobermory and Islay golf club results

- March Medal (Gents)**  
THERE was keen competition for the last place in next week's Tobermory winter final, with 16 players turning out on a chilly day. John Wilshire scored a commendable net 29, which only just pipped Ian McNaughton on countback. Ewan MacCrone's 31 was good only for third, and a further five players who played to within a shot of handicap must have been surprised to find themselves 'also-rans' on the day.
- Result: 1 J Wilshire 40-11=29; 2 I MacNaughton 38-9=29; 3 E MacCrone 36-5=31.
- Results from March Nine Hole Mens Medal: 1 John Wilshire 40-11-29; 2 Ian MacNaughton 38-09-29; 3 Ewan MacCrone 36-05-31.
- CONGRATULATIONS to Graeme Hamilton and Ruairaidh MacIntyre, joint winners of Islay's singles stableford winter league with a total of 218pts each, with Donald Logan third, with 215pts.
- Result of the March Medal: 1 Iain MacCuaig 73-7 net 66; 2 Neil Johnston 78-11 net 67; 3 David Johnston 80-13 net 67.

Lifetime commitment award for Julia

JULIA Heap, secretary of West Highland Yachting Week, recently received her RYA Community Award for Lifetime Commitment.

A bronze medal, the award is in recognition of her outstanding commitment and service to organizing and promoting West Highland Yachting Week more than 30 years.

Irene Murray, commodore of Royal Highland Yacht Club, who nominated Julia, said: 'Julia has worked tirelessly for West Highland Yachting Week for most, if not all of that time. Julia typifies a very small number of dedicated people in the sailing world without whom regattas such as WHYW simply would not be possible. I cannot think of anyone who deserves it more.'

Julia said: 'I am most flattered at being nominated for this award, and appreciate the honour. However, I would wish to stress that this is a team effort, and I couldn't manage the task without the support of an enthusiastic chairman and committee.'

# Saints U9s are champions again

THE Oban Express Primary Football League continued on Sunday at the Community Pitch with the meeting of Galaxy and Pumas, two teams which continue to improve.

It was Pumas who took the lead with a goal attributed to Connor Moore as it whizzed through the Galaxy defence and bounced off an unfortunate leg and into the goal.

James Beaton made sure of the points with a goal in the second.

The Oban Saints U9s got their day underway with game against the Saints U8s who have an outstanding keeper in Innes Horne.

Horne made save after save to deny the U9s until Lennon Campbell came on up front and with his first touch rifled the ball high into the net to open the scoring before doubling his and the team's tally early in the second half.

The U9s then played a strong Lochgilphead side where a win would all but ensure the U9s the title again.

With all players in the same age bracket, this was another cracking game between these two teams and it raced from end to end with

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

both defences being instrumental in keeping the game 0-0.

The Saints goalie Jamie Turner continued his great form with two cracking saves from Lochgilphead's Rhys Casci to keep his team mates in the game until about two minutes from time when the U9s Jude Bain got himself forward and latched on to a loose ball to score the what would be the winning goal.

The Saints U9s then stayed on to play a Galaxy side who were in shock as almost from the centre kick the ball broke forward and Jude Bain made no mistake from the left hand side to open up an early lead.

Lewis Campbell quickly added a second with a good shot after being laid on by Aiden MacPhee. Another two goals from the U9s captain Lewis Campbell gave him a well deserved hat-trick and sealed the title of champions for the Saints U9s.

Lochgilphead kept up the chase for runners-up spot and, through Rhys Casci, took an early lead in their match with Benderloch. It

looked like the flood gates might open but Tom Howe and his defence kept Lochgilphead at bay for long spells. Some hard work from Ryan Henriksen almost brought reward but it wasn't to be and Lochgilphead took the points.

On pitch 2, the rivalry between Pumas and Saints under 8's continued. Connor Moore popped up yet again to win the match for Pumas who are in a very healthy position in the table.

Once again Lennan Mackechie and Murray MacKay played a blinder in defence for the Pumas as attacks from Saints were thwarted time after time.

Next up for Pumas were the Benderloch Boys who were in no mood for losing. Ryan Henriksen put Benderloch in front followed by a superb goal taken on the half volley from John Macleod. The margin would have been wider had it not been for the marvels produced by Kyle MacDougall in the Pumas' goal.

In other matches played on the day Galaxy's Daniel Baird converted a penalty but it wasn't enough to avoid a two one defeat

at Lochgilphead. The yellow and blacks also suffered a defeat at the hands of Benderloch, Daniel Sloss netting a hat-trick.

A determined Lochgilphead side recorded a win over the Under 8's with goals from Craig Millar and Tyler Robertson.

Once more the youngest teams of the primary football league continued the fun fours programme with Swifts Aran MacIntyre and Louie MacCann showing real progress. Under the watchful eye of Argyll and Bute football development officer Martin Rae, Micheal MacArthur and Andrew Barclay shone for Spartak and Sam Rowley scored on his debut for Ben Lora, who also had Gregor MacDonald in fine form.

Over in the senior league the day started with a cracking match between Oban Saints and Lochnell. Hector MacDonald opened the scoring for the Saints but they were pegged back when Patrick MacIntyre equalised then scored again to give Lochnell the lead.

The Saints battled on and found an equaliser of their own when Duncan MacDougall rifled into

the net from close range but that was to be the end of the scoring despite chances at either end.

Warriors went on a goal spree on the day and found the net an astonishing 22 times without reply in their matches against Thistle, Tralee and Lochnell with Craig Young, Cammy Simpson and Cammy MacCallum amongst their many scorers. The Warriors also had Keeran Moore in fine form and it is clear to see why he is attracting interest from Glasgow Rangers.

Stoddarts needed points to keep up their challenge and went about their business with a double from Lomond MacPherson ensuring the points against Wolves.

The same score line was recorded against Stoddy Boys with Evan MacLellan and Jack Strachan finding the net but a stuffy goalless draw with Oban saints dented their title ambitions.

Thistle opened their match against Stoddy Boys well and nearly found the net with a fierce shot from distance by Cameron Hill looking net bound until a fine save from the keeper. Stoddy Boys rallied however and opened

the scoring through Keegan McPhie. Thistle kept going and pushed forward for the equaliser but were caught on the counter with a goal from Jack Forgievie in a match they will feel unlikely to have lost.

A goal in each half from Craig McMillan and Danny MacCuish won the match for Saints Boys against Stoddy Boys and in their next match the Saints Boys took the lead against the older Oban Saints through a stunning drive from Lewis Buchanan from the right. Both teams pushed hard for the all important second goal but stunning saves from both goal keepers Innes Dairon and Cameron MacMillan kept the forwards at bay.

The Wolves put Tralee to the sword with Kian Francis, Liam Cameron and Brodie Kalchi scoring without reply.

Their next match was against Saints Boys and despite both sides having chances it ended goalless with the Lochgilphead lads Wolves and Warriors celebrating what could be an important two points dropped by the Saints Boys at the top of the league.

## Home record goes with narrow loss at hands of Moray

**Lochaber 10, Moray 16.**  
 LOCHABER'S 100 per cent home record ended on Saturday with a narrow defeat in their final game at Banavie this season.  
 After a positive start, Lochaber missed an early penalty and paid the price for the miss when Moray's kicker was on target at the other end a few minutes later.  
 Lochaber's Tom Baxter had to go off to get stitches ten minutes into the game, and after the initial exchanges the match settled down with neither side in the ascendancy. Lochaber were particularly effective when they played a rucking game with the forwards picking and going and catching Moray off-guard. The visitors were at their most dangerous with ball in hand and looking for gaps out wide.  
 Moray increased their lead when some sloppy tackling allowed them to get behind Lochaber's defence and a simple overlap resulted in a try in the corner for their winger.  
 The visitors scored another penalty before Lochaber got on the score-sheet with a fine try for winger Liam Allan. The forwards drove forward from a line-out, and the backs swung the ball quickly right to left, with Allan receiving the ball at pace. He

was able to go round the outside of his opposite man and to fend off two more defenders to score in the corner. Kenny Turnbull kicked the conversion.  
 The second half started with the home side trailing 11-7, but a Turnbull penalty shortly after the re-start reduced the deficit to one point.  
 The match remained closely poised and for most of the second half was played out between the twenty-tuos.  
 Late in the game Moray scored following a good spell of Lochaber possession. A try for the home side in the final minutes was ruled out for a forward pass, much to the indignation of the crowd on the hill.  
 Lochaber's final fixture against RAF Kinloss is in doubt due to their opponent's ongoing involvement with the Bowl. Lochaber look likely to finish the league in fifth place with an almost even points difference, a big improvement on recent seasons.  
 Lochaber squad: W Stewart, R Mackay, N Craik, B Thomas, C Simpson, P Fronczek, S Whitaker, C MacPherson, T Baxter, K Turnbull, L Allan, D Harvey, S Traill, J McCook, R Wallace, I Ireland, D Maclean, P Smith, A Revitt, M Harper, K Garrick.



Hard to stop: it takes three Lochaber tacklers to bring down giant Moray lock Stewart Harrington.

## Gold rush for ski ace Lachlan

**SKIING**  
 LOCHABER junior ski ace Lachlan Veitch has struck double gold for Scotland at the English Alpine Championships at Bormio, Italy.  
 Torlundy flier Lachlan, who turned 13 on February 19, took both the giant slalom (GS) and super giant slalom races at the event, which hosts the elite of the British Alpine ski scene in all age categories.  
 Scotland took all top four slalom places in the Children 1st year category, with Lachlan finishing in 4th.  
 But slalom is probably Lachlan's least favourite discipline, so he had high hopes for the following GS and SuperG events.  
 So it proved last Wednesday when he weaved down the course to finish first in the GS, then posted another outstanding performance in Friday's SuperG to take top spot.  
 Lachlan's dad John said: 'He is certainly proving hard to beat in these speed disciplines which is great news ahead of the British Championships in Meribel in three weeks time.'  
 'From a Scottish perspective all podium positions in slalom, GS and SuperG were taken by young Scots racers, which is great news for the coaches and clubs involved.'

**SKIING**  
 HOUCHES/CHAMONIX on March 14-15th before returning home on March 16th.  
 Weather permitting he'll then race in the Scottish Children Championships at Caringorms on March 19th-20th before heading back out to France for the British Championships in Meribel at the end of March.  
 John said: 'Hopefully all the training can deliver further podium positions at this season's final major event.'



Lachlan Veitch tops the podium at Bormio



Dubh Irbhinn, Danny Federici and David Todd celebrate the arrival of South Lochaber Bowmen and Danny's winning performance at Sunday's Scottish indoor championships. Photo: Iain Hibbert

## Archer shoots his way to fourth place

**ARCHERY**  
 SOUTH Lochaber Bowmen celebrated their first year in existence with a fourth place in the Scottish Indoor Championships at Linlithgow Academy on Sunday.  
 Head coach at the Kinlochleven-based field archery club, David Todd, entered the championships only to find out how the bigger competitions were run.  
 But to the club's delight, he came fourth in his category to put the Lochaber bowmen on target for more national success in future.  
 Club president Dubh Irbhinn told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a great boost for our club and South Lochaber considering that both were up against the best

in the country with World and European champions.'  
 Danny Federici of the Argyll Club won his category to become new indoor Scottish champion and welcomed the arrival of South Lochaber Bowmen on the national stage during the event.  
 South Lochaber Bowmen run classes in the Leven Centre for cubs aged 8-12 on Mondays at 6.30pm and for adults on Tuesdays at 7pm.  
 The club also has a new outdoor range, which is available to members who are accompanied by a club coach on Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm and on Saturdays from noon to 4pm.

## Fort rely on youth against high-flying Deveronvale

**FOOTBALL**  
 FORT WILLIAM go into Saturday's game away to high-flying Deveronvale with a weakened squad as they look to overhaul Strathspey Thistle and Rothes in the league.  
 Keeper John Campbell and Michael Gillespie will be missing through work commitments, while Sean Ellis turned his ankle in last weekend 2-2 draw against Wick and will be out for three to four weeks with ligament damage.  
 Robert Lowandowski is likely to take Campbell's place between the sticks, while youth will again feature strongly in the Fort lineup.  
 Fort chairman John Wattman told *The Oban Times* points

scored two penalties in the last two games when he got fouled twice, got up and scored twice - you can't ask for more than that. He is a cracking player with great commitment and he has made a big difference.'  
 Fort snaffled their second point in two games last Saturday against Wick - and looked to be heading for all three when Grant slammed home a 50th-minute penalty to make it 2-0 after Logan Barker had put Fort ahead in the 15th minute.  
 Wick roared back with goals from Weir and MacKay to level, but John Campbell stood firm in the Fort goal to ensure Calum MacLean's men made their point.  
 'We are homing in on the teams above us slowly but surely,' he added.  
 'Also, Sean Grant from Oban has been a great find. He has

would be tough to come by - but singled out Oban ace Sean Grant as a real find.  
 He said: 'We have always found it difficult going to Deveronvale, it's a hard place to take anything away from.  
 'We will stick by the young boys and one thing is in our favour - at least we are scoring goals again.'  
 'The Saturday/Wednesday fixtures definitely seem to be suiting the boys in terms of fitness and team spirit.'



2-0 to the Fort: Wick keeper James More dives in vain as Sean Grant's penalty rockets past him.

## Athletes hunt PBs with hint of spring in the air

**ATHLETICS**  
 WITH a hint of spring in the air, Lochaber AC's annual Winter League Glen 10K attracted 63 runners, many competing in their first 10K race.  
 Tom Smith took the honours in a time of 35 mins 38 secs with John Binnie only one second behind but clocking a personal best. Tim Brand followed in third in 36 mins 16 secs with Oli Blomfield in fourth in 36 mins 25 (also a personal best).  
**Personal best**  
 In the ladies race Lucy Prins was first in 43 mins followed by Laura Barbour who also secured a personal best in a time of 44 mins 17 secs.  
 Third lady and also second Female vet 40 was Aileen Duncan, also in a personal best time of 46 mins 27 secs.  
 It was good to see so many Jogscotland runners competing and all of them running excellent times.

Lochaber AC would like to thank Northern Constabulary for seeing the runners safely across the main road into the Glen and all the marshals for their help.  
 Next Race is the Larig Mhor on March 12.  
 Top 20 results, LAC unless otherwise stated:  
 1, Tom Smith 35.38; 2 John Binnie 35.39; 3 Tim Brand 36.16; 4 Oli Blomfield 36.25; 5 Paul MacLean 36.46; 6 Ryan Stewart 37.12; 7 Tark Gunn 39.14; 8 Alan Smith (Dee) 39.15; 9 Owen Bass (Dee) 40.02; 10 Andrew Ferguson (u/a) 40.51; 11 Ronnie Turner 40.59; 12 Bruce Davie 41.22; 13 Ben Dodman 41.41; 14 Bert Bindels 42.18; 15 Lucy Prins 43.00; 16 Ritchie Collins 43.53; 17 Laura Barbour 44.17; 18 Scott Langan 44.28; 19 Andrew Cameron 44.39; 20 Jim Treasurer 44.52.

## Ben takes the honours in Wheelers league

**CYCLING**  
 TEENAGER Ben Miller has won the latest round of the West Highland Wheelers Winter League.  
 Gavin Maclean had an early lead in dry conditions at Invergarry, but a puncture put paid to his chances. Ben Thompson stopped to assist with Ben Miller showing the right spirit in holding back to not gain advantage.  
 A close tussle over Invergarry's famed moor crossing and rooys singletrack then saw 15-year-old Ben Miller power up the last climb to gain another victory. Andrew Foggo did well to come home third with Fiona Thompson taking the ladies race. Mairi Meldrum found the only drawing pin in the forest embedded in her tyre, leading to another puncture.  
 The penultimate round of the league will be held at Balmacara next Sunday.

## There's just no stopping Livercaol

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**  
 LIVERCAOL have increased their grip at the top of the All Young indoor winter league with a 4-1 win against nearest rivals Lochaber Leisure at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night, and now have a five-point lead.  
 Goon Squad missed the chance to move into second place, losing 3-0 to Achintore FC, who moved back into fifth. Funky Five's narrow 3-2 victory over All Trades keeps them in fourth spot.  
 Caley Jags made it five wins on the bounce, beating Caol 3-1, and Ballachulish followed up last week's 7-2 victory with a comfortable 3-0 win against bottom side Crazy Crofter. HW Energy made four points clear of the bottom with a 3-0 defeat of NGTW.

## It's best foot forward for games

HIGHLANDERS young and old are being encouraged to wear trainers next Monday to support the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.  
 Provost of Inverness Jimmy Gray and athlete Kathryn Evans launched the national 'Sport Your Trainers' day last week and are encouraging everyone from business leaders, schoolchildren and doctors to politicians, office workers and housewives to ditch their normal footwear and wear their trainers on Monday in support of the games.

## Winter league comes to a close

**ATHLETICS**  
 LOCHABER Athletic Club's Winter League comes to a close this weekend with the final hill race at Lairimor, near Kinlochleven.  
 The 14-mile race starts at 11am on Sunday morning, with the league prize giving being held after the race.  
 Oliver Blomfield is currently on top of the league, with Donald Paterson in second and Ben Dodman in third.

# Spot the

# SHINTY BALL

## Competition

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.  
 If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.  
 The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.  
 If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.  
 You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
 The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.  
 In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.  
 The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.  
 Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.  
 How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

**WIN £750**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
**J Holmes, Woodhall Court, Calverley and C Peterson, Ardforn, Lochgilphead**

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## Delight as Donna gets Scotland call

### Local star in running for New Zealand World Cup squad

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

RUGBY player Donna Smith sat watching the Scottish women's rugby team play Ireland in the Six Nations, unaware she would be training alongside them a week later.

Now Oban Lorne's star turn has set her sights on a Scotland cap this year, in a national team that will be competing for the world cup in New Zealand.

Donna had finished a successful trial match for the West of Scotland regional squad before watching the Scotland versus Ireland match on Saturday, February 26, at Lasswade, Edinburgh.

But just two days later the 24-year-old received a phone call from the Scotland coach Karen Findlay to invite her to the national team's training the following Saturday.

'I was shocked to get the call,'

### WOMEN'S RUGBY

said Donna, who has only been playing rugby for four years. 'Apparently the coach had been watching me at the regional trials and said she was impressed with my play.'

Despite suffering from a cold and a hand injury, Donna travelled down for the seven-hour training session with the national team and is now waiting to hear back from the coaching staff.

'I wasn't nervous until I got to the training ground but the session went really well and I played as well as I could,' she said. 'Julie Campbell, who has just started playing with Oban Lorne, was training nearby with the Under-21s, so it was good to see a familiar face.'

'I wasn't feeling great and I lost my voice during training. I had also injured my hand at Oban Lorne training on the Wednesday before, so by the end of it I was

shattered!' She added: 'I would love to just get on the pitch once in a Scotland jersey; that would be fantastic. It's world cup year so it would be my ambition to go to New Zealand with the squad.'

Oban Lorne play in National Division Two, the women's game's second tier of competition and Donna is the team's top points scorer, averaging three to four tries a match. Donna praised her Oban Lorne coach, Andy MacDougall, saying his training methods were similar to those at the national team session.

Oban Lorne RFC president Dee Bradbury said: 'Not only does Donna score the majority of the tries, she kicks the conversions too. She is an exceptional player with a lot of potential. She inspires all of us to work harder and is a key member of the women's team.'

Donna's Oban Lorne team-mate Jen MacLennan was also selected to represent West of Scotland.



Oban Lorne's Donna Smith was invited to train with the national rugby team. 15\_110donna01

## Magnus and Angus turn out for Glasgow Warriors

ARGYLL Under-16s won 27-17 against Strathaven in Oban on Sunday.

Argyll players Magnus Bradbury and Angus MacCallum (both Oban Lorne) played the full 80 minutes for Glasgow Warriors Under-17s in their defeat against the Borders last Wednesday, with centre Angus scoring a try.

### RUGBY ROUND-UP

Both boys were in the starting line-up for the match against Edinburgh yesterday (Wednesday).

Meanwhile, St/52 players from Oban, Tobermory and Lochgilphead high schools

took part in a talent identification match in Oban, in order to choose players to enter the Pathway Development Programme.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Billy Thomson said he was delighted with the standard of play on show and will enter two teams from this age group into a tournament in Glasgow on March 27.

## Honours even as late rally earns Oban Lorne a draw

Scottish Hydro Electric  
 West Division One  
 Uddingston 31  
 Oban Lorne 31

TWO late tries from Oban Lorne's Cameron Smith rescued a draw in a thrilling comeback at Uddingston on Saturday.

The men in green, still suffering from the last-minute defeat to Lenzie the previous weekend, welcomed back Allan Wight on the wing and David Madden, who made his first appearance at full back replacing Bert Wright.

Oban made an awful start to the game and struggled to get the long journey out of their system. The home side turned some early pressure into points, aided by some poor Oban defending to lead 14-0 with two tries from winger Tom Hughes.

This was a wake-up call for Oban and they stormed back to score three tries in a 15-minute period to take the lead.

Calum MacLauchlan first dived over after a break by Struan Smith, followed by a good try for Angus MacCallum who broke through the

### RUGBY

home side's defence in the 22 to score Oban's second of the afternoon. Player/coach Corrie Louw scored from close range to put Oban 17-14 ahead.

Uddingston hit back a minute before halftime, making the most of a good counter attack for Chris King to score in the corner and put his side 24-17 ahead at the break.

Both teams played out a scrappy first five minutes of the second half before the home side extended their lead with an excellent team try to increase the score to 31-17.

Oban were the better of the two teams for the rest of the second half and had plenty of replacements to call upon to make an impact on the game. Del Robertson, Lorne MacLauchlan, Angus Munro and Colin Chadwick were all drafted in during the last 30 minutes.

With only five minutes remaining Cameron Smith scored a breakaway try to give Oban a chance. The

green machine was now high on confidence and piling pressure on the Uddingston line. With just two minutes on the clock remaining Cameron scored again to level the scores at 31-31.

Oban almost stole the win at the death with Angus MacCallum going close with a penalty but the match ended level, both sides receiving three points for their efforts in an entertaining game.

The result means Oban Lorne regain second place in the league and welcome fourth-placed Strathaven to Glencruitten this Saturday, kick-off 3pm.

Oban Lorne RFC's annual club dinner will be held that evening.

Oban Lorne:  
 M. Downie, R. MacQueen, K. Kennedy, J. MacMillan, C. Nicholson, S. Smith ©, A. MacDougall, C. Louw, F. Matheson, A. MacCallum, A. Wright, C. Smith, C. MacDonald, C. MacLauchlan, D. Madden.  
 D. Williams, D. Robertson, A. Park, J. Sayer, C. Ferris, L. MacLauchlan, A. Munro, C. Chadwick.

## Hard-fought win continues Saints' good run

Scottish Amateur Football  
 League Premier Division  
 St Joseph's FP 1,  
 Oban Saints 3.

SAINTS travelled to Duntocher on Saturday to play a St Joseph's team much improved from the 8-1 thrashing Saints inflicted on them earlier in the season.

Saints started well and some good passing and movement between the midfield and the forwards in the sixth minute allowed Dene Cassells to break.

Just as he was about to strike for goal, he was bundled over and a penalty awarded. For some reason the usual Saints penalty taker, Donald Campbell, allowed Asen to take the penalty and he calmly stroked the ball home to

### FOOTBALL

give Saints an early lead.

Both teams tried to get the ball down and play on the deck and the game developed into a very good contest.

Both defences coped really well with what was being thrown at them, although in the 25th minute, a great strike from a St Joseph's midfielder took a bit of a deflection and Saints keeper Graham Douglas could only look on as the ball sailed over his head - but fortunately, it hit the crossbar and was cleared.

After 35 minutes, the hosts were awarded a penalty when the referee Jim Pearson decided that Jamie Graham had pushed over a forward inside the box.

However, Douglas pulled off a great save down to his right, ensuring his side went into the interval with a 1-0 lead.

The second half started very much like the first with both teams working hard to create some chances against two well drilled defences.

St Joseph's levelled in the 53rd minute, when Tom Dailly, who worked very hard for them all day, found himself in space inside the box and although the cross took a deflection it landed at his feet and he hit a great strike into the corner of the net.

Saints were back in front in the 68th minute when Asen got in between two defenders and on the end of a cross from Ross Maitland. His looping header

evaded the outstretched hands of the despairing keeper and nestled in the corner of the net.

Saints then began to dominate the game but the result was not settled until the 83rd minute when Marc MacCallum rose on the edge of the six yard box and headed powerfully home a perfectly flighted free kick from Ross Maitland.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the work rate, effort and quality of play from his team over the 90 minutes, and will be demanding more of the same in the remaining matches in order to make sure that Saints are challenging for the title at the end of the season.

Saints have no game this weekend.

## Saints youth results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: League Cup quarter final - Under 13s 1, Westerton 6; Under 14s 7, Clydebank 2; Under 15s 0, Strathleven 1. Under 16s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v FC Thistle; Under 14s v Blair Thistle; Westerton United v Under 15s; Largs v Under 16s.

## SFA Level 2 course to be held in April

### COACHING COURSE

A SCOTTISH Football Association Level 2 (Coaching Youth Footballers Certificate) course will be held in Oban on Sunday 10 and Sunday 24 April from 10 am till 4pm.

This is the next step on the coaching ladder following the Level 1 course held at the recent Argyll and Bute Coaching Weekend in February.

Only coaches who have achieved the Level 1 standard are eligible to attend.

Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae wants as many coaches as possible in Argyll and Bute to achieve the Level 2 standard so he can organise a Level 3 (Coaching in the Game Certificate) course during the summer.

For further details on the Level 2 course contact Martin on 07767 391843.

## Want to be a referee?

### REFEREES

DUE to a shortage of qualified referees in Argyll and Bute, the Scottish Football Association would like to run a refereeing course in Lochgilphead within the next few months.

For further details contact Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae on 07767 391843.

## Trialists continue to lead the way

### FOOTBALL

Over-35s League		
	P	Pts
Trialists	7	21
Taynuilt	7	19
Hydro	7	15
Teachers	8	13
Spartak	8	12
WCM	8	10
Emergency	8	10
Seil	8	9
Clan Trees	8	3
Owen Sails	7	0

Results: Owen Sails 2, Taynuilt 10; Hydro 4 Trialists 7; Spartak 2, Teachers 4.

## Sign up for the ultimate test of stamina

ENTRIES are now being taken for the Kintyre Way Relay which takes place on Saturday, May 7, along the Kintyre Way from Tarbert to Campbeltown.

The relay is really two events in one - the ultra-marathon race along the full 66 miles of paths and forestry tracks and the relay race where teams of up to six runners share out the same overall distance.

The relay record, at 8 hours 38 minutes, was set by a team from Dumfries Running Club in 2010, but there are high hopes that this year will see the record broken by a team from Campbeltown Run-

### TRAIL RUNNING

ning Club on their home ground.

The individual record for the 66 miles was set by Lucy Colquhoun, from Edinburgh, in 2008 (11 hours 1 minute) with the male record (11 hours 53 minutes) set by John Kennedy the same year.

An innovation this year will be a 'Mix and Match' get-together on the Friday evening in Tarbert.

In the past, some people who were keen to take part in the relay event found it difficult to persuade five other runners to make up a team, so this year entrants can sign up individually

for a chosen distance (for example 15 miles), and then come along to the pre-race social evening on Friday, May 6, and form on-the-spot relay teams with other unattached entrants.

The relay event is also a great opportunity for people who fancy trying their hand at going beyond the standard marathon distance without being committed to the 40-plus miles of most ultra runs, because a relay team of two can split the 66 miles into 31 and 35, with a handover at Tayinloan.

Alternatively, athletes who simply want a taste of trail-running could enter a team of three doing

an average of 22 miles each.

Race organiser Rob Reid said: 'It's amazing how trail-running has really taken off in the last few years.'

'In the '90s, you either did half-marathons or hill races, and that was that. But runners who came for the Kintyre Way Relay last year obviously saw it as much more than just a running event, with many staying for the weekend and commenting on the stunning scenery and the friendly welcome both from local people and fellow-runners.'

Full details are available online [www.kintyrewayrelay.co.uk](http://www.kintyrewayrelay.co.uk).

**Is your sport here?**  
 Contact Euan Paterson on 01631 568026 or email [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)

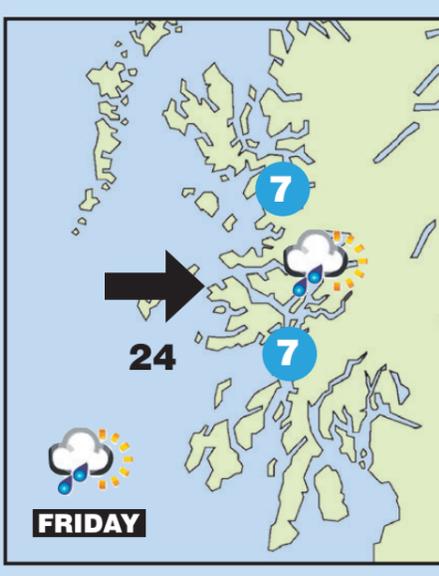
**Weather**  
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**Thursday**  
 Light rain.  
 Winds strong, westerly.  
 Temperatures 3°C to 7°C

**Friday**  
 Light rain.  
 Winds moderate, westerly.  
 Temperatures 1°C to 6°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
 Drizzle.  
 Winds moderate, northerly.  
 Temperatures 0°C to 4°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
 Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - Moderate  
 Kennacraig to Islay - Moderate



**Tides**  
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 Telephone: 01631 562550

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, March 10, 2011 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 02.19	1.4 08.23 3.5	14.45 1.4 20.30 3.5
Fri 02.44	1.5 08.53 3.3	15.22 1.6 21.05 3.3
Sat 03.20	1.7 09.33 3.1	16.16 1.8 21.50 3.1
Sun 04.20	1.9 10.36 2.8	17.37 1.9 23.01 2.9
Mon 06.27	2.0 13.59 2.7	19.01 1.8 *** **
Tues 01.46	2.9 08.17 1.8	15.07 3.0 20.17 1.5
Wed 03.06	3.2 09.34 1.4	15.53 3.3 21.21 1.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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