

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8189

Thursday 6 March, 2014

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



HOMES & interiors

Improving your home couldn't be easier with our two page guide. Pages 16-17

PLUS
Grab yourself a bargain from our bumper classifieds section

ScotRail denies banning bin men from behind barrier

SCOTRAIL has denied there have been 'any issues' over collection of bins at Oban's Railway Pier, despite council staff saying they were 'accosted' by railway workers. Oban councillor Roddy McCuish has described the company as 'arrogant' after the latest incident, which this week saw Argyll and Bute Council's bin men told 'not to enter the station area again' after attempting to collect bins behind the controversial ScotRail car park barrier, erected last year. A ScotRail spokesman said: 'We understand that refuse bins are being collected using the access route via the pier - without any issues.' But Mr McCuish said: 'I cannot understand the petulance of a national, multi-million pound organisation. This must be stamped out immediately. I would urge anyone who has any influence over this company to address this at once.'

Police Scotland to scrap Oban chief inspector post

POLICE Scotland intends to scrap the chief inspector post at Oban Police Station, *The Oban Times* has learned. There are currently chief inspectors in three parts of Argyll: Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI); Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI); and Helensburgh, Cowal and Bute. The changes, proposed to take effect on April 1, would see one chief inspector - thought to be Lochgilphead-based Marlene Baillie - take over both OLI and MAKI. Following a consultation exercise on his 'management reorganisation', Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan has indicated he is to follow through on the proposals and is planning to meet with councillors and community councils to discuss the changes. Oban and Lochgilphead will retain their respective inspector posts, while Oban's Acting Chief Inspector Alastair Davidson is expected to return to a detective inspector role, based in Oban.



Oban's Robert MacIntyre, winner of the Adam Hunter Award, at his home course of Glencruitten. 16_11060601

Oban golfer's pride at winning mentor's award

AN OBAN golfer, who has been named as the country's most promising young player, has spoken of his pride at picking up an award given in memory of his mentor. Glencruitten Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre won the Adam Hunter Award, for the best Scottish junior, at the Scottish Golf Awards in the Hilton Glasgow on the weekend. But few people realised the importance of this particular award to the 17-year-old. Former European Tour player Adam, who died in 2011 of leukaemia, was a close family friend and mentor to the youngster, who refers to him as 'uncle Adam'. Robert lost out on the main prize on the

night, player of the year, to Solheim Cup heroine Catriona Matthews but insisted the Adam Hunter Award was the one he wanted. The Oban High School pupil told *The Oban Times*: 'Dougie Donnelly presented me with my award and was interviewing me on stage but he had to cut it short when he started asking about my relationship with Adam. I got quite emotional.' Mentor Adam, who coached Paul Lawrie to his Open win in 1999, latterly took young Robert under his wing and the teenager has dedicated his latest award to his mentor.

'I wouldn't be the player I am today without him,' said Robert, who won two national boys' tournaments in 2013. 'He always told me 'fail to prepare, prepare to fail' and I still remember that before every competition. He would even make sure I was keeping up with my schoolwork. 'It has been such a good year for me but this tops it off. This award means more than any of the others because it has Adam's name on it.' Robert travels to Italy on Scotland duty this Sunday for the under-18 quad championship to compete against Italy, France and Sweden.

Calls for public enquiry into Oban hospital care

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN

CALLS have been made for a public enquiry into the standard of care delivered to vulnerable patients at Oban's hospital after fresh complaints emerged this week. But NHS Highland says its own processes are adequate. Scott Clark McGregor contacted *The Oban Times* after he claimed his own father was left 'fighting for his life' in Ward I at the Lorn and Islands Hospital (see full story, page 3). He said he felt compelled to speak out after reading Mabel Braidwood's story in *The Oban Times*, who was ignored by nurses for days despite 'screaming in agony' because of the effects of pancreatic cancer. Another woman also wrote to the paper after she claimed nurses failed to act on warnings that her husband fell out of bed twice. On the third occasion, he was left with seven stitches over his eye. He died a week later. Mabel Braidwood's daughter, Dawn, has now called for a public enquiry to ensure patients are cared for properly at the hospital - a call backed by Argyll and Bute's MP, Alan Reid. Dawn

said: 'These things should not happen and I absolutely think there should be a public enquiry. I'm heartened that my mum's story has brought other people forward, but I'm disappointed that these other stories exist in the first place. It is important these complaints are dealt with and I think an enquiry would help.' Mr Macgregor said: 'Something has to be done. This cannot continue.' Justify Asked if he'd back a call for an enquiry, Alan Reid MP said: 'In general I do get very few complaints about health but three similar cases in a relatively short time period do justify an enquiry. Three related events is a concern and it is something I would want looked at further.' While aware of the concerns, Argyll and Bute's MSP, Michael Russell, stopped short of supporting calls for an enquiry.

He said: 'I am aware of this. I am aware of a number of concerns, some of which are quite worrying. I'm in touch with the health board to seek reassurances for the people of Oban and Lorn and more widely to ensure there's attention from the health board towards patient-focused activity. 'We do need to get to the bottom of this but in a way that helps all patients.' An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'NHS Highland takes very seriously any allegations related to poor standards of patient care, which would include any cases of physical or verbal abuse of patients in their care. 'When any such concerns are raised we have clear processes which we follow to immediately address any issues which are compromising safe and effective care of all patients. 'We work within the Adult Support and Protection legislation and guidance, making sure that all appropriate agencies, including both social work and police are informed of any concerns.'

Growing concern over threat to Tiree Highers

TIREE High School may stop offering Highers as soon as next term because of dwindling pupil numbers, *The Oban Times* has learned. A shrinking choice of subjects to study at Higher level has seen many parents send their children off the island to pursue their chosen careers, with the school currently only offering six subjects - English, maths,

computing, art, music and social studies - at Higher level. While Argyll and Bute Council has said there are 'no plans at this time' to restrict secondary education on the island to S1-S3, *The Oban Times* has learned the possibility is being discussed with a view to making a change in time for next term. That would coincide with the introduction of new National

qualifications to replace Standard Grades. The authority's spokeswoman said: 'New National qualifications replace Standard Grades from this year onwards. Pupils from Tiree in S4-S6 will sit the relevant National qualifications or Higher/Advanced Highers this year as normal, albeit there are currently very few pupils in those age

brackets at the school. There are no plans at present to change the school to support primary only - any such proposal would require a formal statutory consultation.' Kate MacCallum, who sits on Tiree High School's Parent Council, said such a move 'wouldn't be a surprise' to the islanders. 'We thought it'd come one day,' she said. 'The fact we've had a significant

fall in pupil numbers and the expansion of the hostel in Oban meant we were expecting it. 'There have been a lot of issues with the limited number of subjects and parents taking their children elsewhere to study. It's quite sad for the island as, if they do it, it will signal the death knell for staying on the island for a lot of people. If you're only going to get part of your secondary education on the island, why not do it all elsewhere?' Councillor Roddy McCuish added that he has had conversations with parents on the island and raised their concerns with the education department. He added he and the authority's lead councillor for children and families, Mary Jean Devon, were planning on meeting islanders next week for more talks.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

Follow us on **facebook**
www.facebook.com/obantimes

10
9 771461 487099

Hunter Joinery

07786 514 402
01631 358035

New Builds • Kitchens
Doors • Extensions
Windows • Flooring • Renovations
All types of joinery work undertaken
Distance no object
leehunter188@btinternet.com
www.leehunterjoinery.co.uk

Carers' centre delight at £85,000 grant

NORTH Argyll Carers' Centre in Oban has been given £85,165 from BBC Children in Need in its first round of grants for 2014. The money will be used to run three weekly, age-specific after-school clubs to help with the development of attendees, whilst improving their confidence levels and reducing the risk of isolation. The money will fund the Young Carers' Service for three years. Centre manager Morag MacLean said: 'This will allow us to continue to support young carers and develop the work we do to reach more young people who need our support.' Fraser Falconer, BBC Children in Need national head of Scotland, added: 'We are delighted to be awarding to projects like the North Argyll Carers' Centre which makes a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in the area.'

Couple lodge plans to build new luxury Kerrera marina complex

PLANS to build a 'luxury complex' that aims to make the marina on Kerrera a destination for west coast yachting have been lodged with Argyll and Bute Council. Peter and Catriona Weir of Oban Yachts and Marine Services Ltd intend to demolish the current outbuildings at the marina and remove the log cabin-style Waypoint Bar and Grill and replace them with a new restaurant, staff accommodation, shop, changing facility and function room. Should planning be granted by Argyll and Bute Council, the Weirs hope to begin building this October and re-open for the season in April 2015. Mr Weir said the proposed development was a response to the marina planned for Oban Bay, insisting this had always been his intention since he brought the marina out of administration in February 2012. He said: 'This is something we wanted to promote Oban and Kerrera as a destination. 'By our own admission the marina on Kerrera is looking sad and virtually all the buildings on the sea side of the marina would be demolished under our proposal and be replaced with a multi-purpose building. It would be a great asset to Oban. 'I want this to be a showcase development for Argyll. Hopefully people will see if we have the confidence to put our money into new development, then perhaps that will kickstart others to do the same.' Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish said the proposal would complement any other developments in the area. He added: 'I am delighted to see a new found confidence in Oban from developers. I realise this is just at the planning stage but it would be a major attraction for people coming to the area and I am confident it would fit in well with any CHORD developments.'

Really comfy carpets

Check out the range of really comfy carpets on display. We also have really comfy sofas if you prefer not to sit on the floor!

MATHESONS furnishings

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195

Beaver Timber Ltd

BEAVER TIMBER WILL DISMANTLE YOUR OLD SHED, DELIVER AND ERECT YOUR NEW SHED

BROCHURE & FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST*
*THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE INSURANCE QUOTATIONS

Barcaldine, by Oban.
Telephone: 01631 720 353 • Mobile: 07861 247 237
www.beavertimber.co.uk • email: info@beavertimber.co.uk

Summer houses • Sheds • Garages • Fencing • Stables • Dog kennels • Log stores • Boat houses • Chalets • Bespoke buildings • Home offices

Survey on Skye schools plan

HIGHLAND Council is holding a consultation to gauge opinion on a proposal to replace four north west Skye primaries with a single new school at Dunvegan.

The online survey, part of the council's sustainable school estate review, asks residents if they would prefer to see the plan implemented, or keep Dunvegan, Edinbane, Knockbreck and Struan primary schools open. Alternatives can also be suggested as part of the questionnaire.

The results will be combined with responses from meetings and workshops to identify a preferred option.

Councillor Alasdair Christie, chairman of the adult and children's services committee said: 'The Highland Council is committed to young people in the Highlands having educational opportunities of the highest standard now and for the future.'

'With that in mind we are reviewing our schools provision and are prepared to invest in changes if they will bring about educational benefits. I hope parents and interested individuals and groups engage in this survey to help shape future provision in northwest Skye.'

The survey can be accessed via the council website www.highland.gov.uk. Paper copies are available from any of the four schools.

Rare Bowmore whisky sold for £16,500 at auction

THREE bottles of Bowmore whisky, presented in one lot and estimated at £12,000-15,000, made £16,500 at Bonhams Whisky sale in Edinburgh last Wednesday.

The bottles were: Black Bowmore-42 year old-1964, number 557 out of an edition of 827 bottles; White Bowmore-43 year, number 183 of 732 and Gold Bowmore, number 83 from an edition of 701.

Bonhams whisky specialist, Martin Green, said: 'The Bowmores were a special and unusual combination of very desirable bottles so it is no surprise to see them doing well.'

Island body identified

POLICE have identified the body of a man found in Skye last September.

A fresh appeal was launched last month and following further enquiries and the creation of a facial image he was named as 48-year-old Alan Younger from Kirkcaldy, Fife.

Remains of the body were recovered from the shore at Kyleakin, near the Skye Bridge around 6.45am on September 9. Police reissued the appeal after ruling out 24 names given to them during the inquiry.

A spokesperson said: 'Police would like to thank members of the public who assisted with their enquiries and those within The University of Dundee, who assisted significantly by producing a facial image of Mr Younger. There are no suspicious circumstances in Mr Younger's death and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.'



An artist's impression of the man found dead at Kyleakin.



The Bunessan pupils want to restore their village's war memorial.

Mull pupils' pledge to restore war memorial

ANYONE who doubts whether the children of today care about the sacrifices made during WWI need only speak to a determined group of youngsters on Mull.

The primary five to seven class at Bunessan Primary School recently visited the village's war memorial, which stands next to the school, as part of a project commemorating the 100th anniversary of The Great War.

But they were so disappointed at the condition of the memorial that they decided to start a fundraising campaign to restore the structure.

A homework challenge for the pupils to

find out about their ancestors during war time also revealed five of the children are directly related to names on the memorial.

Teacher Lynda MacCallum said: 'When we were at the memorial we couldn't read a lot of the names and the children decided there and then that they wanted to do something about it. The Gaelic phrase on the memorial translated says 'these names will endure forever', but someone has to make sure they do. The children are going to leaflet everyone in the parish, asking for donations, and have lots of other fundraising events planned, including a disco. They are really enthused

by this topic and it has made parents talk to their parents about the war.'

Meanwhile, the class is trying to find out as much information as they can about each of the 48 names on the war memorial by going through census records and other documents.

There are plans to have a museum of war-time memorabilia within Bunessan Primary School and a collage of the memorial has been created in the P5-7 classroom.

Anyone who has information that could help the youngsters with their project can contact the school.

Highland Council to axe 23 service points

HIGHLAND Council looks set to axe 23 of its 35 customer service points by June 2015 after the finance, housing and resources committee agreed the controversial move.

At an often acrimonious debate last Wednesday, administration councillors argued the existing network was unsustainable as people switched from using the offices for transactions and advice in favour of the web and telephone.

Closing lesser-used service points would also save an estimated £160,000 as part of agreed budget savings.

But opposition members said the closures would hit elderly and vulnerable customers most in need of face-to-face advice and force many to make long journeys to speak to staff.

They also condemned the lack of consultation with communities and staff, who were only informed of the closure plan days before the meeting.

Matters became heated when Independent group leader Carolyn Wilson demanded a recess so members could discuss a flood of complaints from concerned communities - including a highly critical submission from

nine south Skye and Lochalsh community councils. She asked chairman George Fallows: 'Are you going to take time with your members to read these or are you going to deny them the opportunity of seeing them?'

Denying the request, Councillor Fallows said: 'You are getting hysterical.'

Committee vice-chair David Alston pointed to the rapid growth of online and telephone usage at the expense of face-to-face transactions at service points.

He said: 'Our customers are telling us very clearly the kind of service they want in future and we have to respond to that. It is a difficult decision but I hope we can approach this knowing it is the right decision.'

But Fort William and Ardnachan councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'There is a fundamental lack of understanding of the geographical complexities of many outlying parts of the west coast and they have simply been ignored in this review.'

'Rather than extending a helping hand we are taking it away and sticking two fingers up to the people of the Highlands.'

Council Leader Drew Hendry

pledged: 'Firstly, no member of staff will face compulsory redundancy as a result of this process.'

'Secondly all new contact facilities will be in place before any existing services are removed.'

'And, thirdly, anyone who either needs - or wants - a face to face contact within those communities, where a change is to be made, can make an appointment suitable to them.'

But Skye councillor John Gordon asked how dispatching staff to make house calls in remote areas could be cheaper than maintaining the existing network.

He said: 'If a service point advisor leaves Portree to go to Elgol and then Kilmaluig we are talking about a 200-mile trip - where is the saving in that?'

Councillor Baxter claimed Highlife Highland staff in Kinlochleven library, which houses the village service point, told him they would lose £2,000 in wages if the point closed.

Councillor Hendry said that was 'scaremongering' - but later apologised after it emerged some employees would indeed suffer a pay cut.

Give community landowner a voice on group

THE SCOTTISH Government has been urged to appoint a community landowner representative to fill a vacancy on the Crofting Commission.

Sandy Cross, an investment manager who owns a small crofting estate on Shetland, quit his post as commissioner in January because of work commitments.

Now calls have been made that the new landlords' representative should be someone from a community where people have

bought the land on which they live. Scottish Labour leader Johann Lamont has asked environment minister Paul Wheelhouse to give Community Land Scotland, the body representing community landowners, a voice on the organisation.

She said: 'It is important that the work of the commission fully and properly reflects new forms of land ownership in Scotland as a way of ensuring that we have proper and radical land reform

and that Scotland is properly and fairly owned.'

A government spokesperson said the process had to be fair and open to ensure the best person was appointed to the role.

Crofting Commission convener Susan Walker told *The Oban Times*: 'I would urge anyone interested to consider applying for the position. It is a Scottish government ministerial appointment and will be done as soon as is practicably possible.'

'No discussions' held on Argyll and Bute leaving council group

ARGYLL and Bute Council says it has had 'no discussions' on leaving a body representing Scotland's local authorities - despite six high-profile departures.

It emerged last week that Glasgow City Council, Scotland's largest local authority, was planning to leave the Convention of Scottish Local

Authorities (COSLA) in April next year.

Aberdeen, Dumfries and Galloway, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and South Lanarkshire councils have already confirmed they plan to leave; calling into question the future of COSLA.

But Argyll and Bute Council's

deputy leader, Ellen Morton, said they weren't for shifting. 'We are aware this is a moving situation so far as other councils are concerned,' she said. 'But as a council we have had no discussions about leaving COSLA. Therefore I won't speculate on any possible financial impact.

COSLA is a beneficial negotiating body between councils and the Scottish Government. I feel that councils are stronger together and what would be the alternative?'

'Thirty-two councils all negotiating separately with the government would be time consuming, clumsy and

expensive.' The authority had previously given notice it was to leave COSLA in 2003 after saying it had been 'severely let down' by COSLA's handling of the McCrone teachers' pay agreement.

However, it withdrew its notice in September of that year after the dispute was resolved.

There are people getting mortgages on the islands all the time and this doesn't seem right to me. It is something I will be looking into.'

The matter was raised by independent Highlands and Islands MSP Jean Urquhart, who said: 'The local Post Office plays an absolutely central role in many rural communities, including in the islands. I would hope that relationship could extend to all its services. There's no obvious justification for discriminating against the islands in this way. My hope is that this is an oversight by a distant official and that the Post Office will quickly agree to scrap its 'no island mortgages' rule.'

The policy came to light after a Shetland woman received a letter promoting Post Office

Post Office urged to reverse island mortgage rule

A POST Office policy that rejects mortgages for all properties on the Scottish islands except Skye has been branded 'unfair' by an Argyll councillor.

Islay-based Robin Currie, lead councillor for community and culture and strategic housing in the islands, has criticised the publicly-owned company for taking the stance - which it says is partly down to being unable to attain valuations for island properties.

However, the Post Office has failed to commit to reversing the controversial clause, only telling *The Oban Times* it will 'review' its stance. Councillor Currie said: 'The Post Office is there for everyone in the UK and it is unfair that some of their services are not being made available to people on the Scottish islands.'

There are people getting mortgages on the islands all the time and this doesn't seem right to me. It is something I will be looking into.'

The matter was raised by independent Highlands and Islands MSP Jean Urquhart, who said: 'The local Post Office plays an absolutely central role in many rural communities, including in the islands. I would hope that relationship could extend to all its services. There's no obvious justification for discriminating against the islands in this way. My hope is that this is an oversight by a distant official and that the Post Office will quickly agree to scrap its 'no island mortgages' rule.'

However, the Post Office has failed to commit to reversing the controversial clause, only telling *The Oban Times* it will 'review' its stance. Councillor Currie said: 'The Post Office is there for everyone in the UK and it is unfair that some of their services are not being made available to people on the Scottish islands.'

The policy came to light after a Shetland woman received a letter promoting Post Office

mortgages - but found she was unable to apply because she lived on an island.

Jean Urquhart has now written to Jenny Willott MP, the UK minister responsible for the Post Office, asking for an explanation.

Robert Bell, property manager at Dowle, Smith and Rutherford Solicitors and Estate Agents in Shetland, said: 'Big lenders like the Royal Bank of Scotland and TSB have branches up here and are willing to give mortgages to islanders. There is nothing to justify this.'

A spokesman for the taxpayer owned Post Office said changing the policy would be 'subject to resolving the wider issues we have encountered, particularly with regard to the supply of valuations'.



Outdoor instructors from Mull's Camas Outdoor Activity Centre, Fran Kelly, left, and Avril Leonard with some of the pupils at the careers fair. 16_110careers01

Tobermory school event helps pupils choose career path

AROUND 30 Argyll-based businesses and organisations set up stalls in Tobermory High School to help pupils choose their career paths.

The first Careers Fair held at the school for a number of years was backed by Opportunities For All and Skills Development Scotland and was attended by pupils from S3 - S6.

Deputy head teacher Janice Mitchell said: 'This day has been four months in the making but it is important to have it.'

'I am impressed with the number of people that contributed to the day and that has given our pupils a real opportunity to have a look at what is available locally, as well as ideas to what else is out there.'

Local businesses, including *The Oban Times*, were joined by representatives from the Armed Forces, NHS, Police Scotland, universities, the construction industry and social enterprises.



Tobermory High School prefects Sian Henderson, left, and Kristen Beere visit *The Oban Times*' stall. 16_110careers02

Work starts on first Harris distillery

WORK on the first whisky distillery to be built on the Isle of Harris is underway - with the promise of 20 local jobs once completed.

A new single malt, The Hearach - Gaelic for an inhabitant of the island, will be produced, matured and bottled at the distillery in Tarbert.

The plant is scheduled to open early in 2015 and will produce around 300,000 bottles of single malt whisky a year. It will also distil a Harris gin.

The distillery has won support from the Harris Tweed Authority, local politicians and people, as well as whisky enthusiasts and connoisseurs.

And as only the second whisky distillery in the Outer Hebrides, the venture will open up an entirely new whisky region for Scotland.

Isle of Harris Distillers raised £10 million for the project from public agencies and 17 private investors around the world.

Director Simon Erlanger said bringing 20 vital jobs to the island over time had to be a key aim from the start and would be 'a very important boost' to an economically fragile area.

He said: 'We are building the 'social distillery' for the island and people of Harris. The Hearach single malt will create sustainable employment and economic growth and optimism for the people of Harris - while the spirit of Harris itself will shape the unique character of this new whisky.'

Anderson Bakewell, company founder and chairman, said: 'What is particularly exciting, at a time when Scotch whisky is enjoying spectacular growth, is the prospect of bringing something of real value both to the industry and the islands.'

Public funders include Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise.

Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead said: 'Having visited Harris last year to announce a £1.9 million Scottish Government food processing grant for the venture, this latest development is indeed a significant milestone.'

RIGHT STUFF, RIGHT PRICE

100mm FOILBOARD 2400 x 1200mm **£34.74** INC. VAT

POLY BAG AGGREGATES (Building Sand, Sharp Sand, Ballast, Gravel) **£2.15** INC. VAT

SPAX WOODSCREWS FROM **£8.94** INC. VAT

THIN COAT ANGLE BEAD 2.4m **£1.14** INC. VAT

6" CEILING PENDANT **£1.51** INC. VAT

Get The Oban Times for only **40p!** Subscribe to our digital edition for one year and save **50%**

Delivered straight to your inbox

Subscribe today! Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

VISIT BUILDBASE.CO.UK TO FIND YOUR LOCAL BUILDBASE BRANCH

BUILDBASE

Man admits drugs charge

PLAIN-clothed police officers searched a man in Oban's Station Square after seeing what they thought was a drug deal taking place.

Elio Lopez, aged 53, of 14 Soroba Road, Oban, admitted at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to possessing cannabis resin on September 13 last year. 'The officers saw the accused with two other males and formed the impression this might have been a drugs transaction taking place,' said procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty. When searched by the officers cannabis resin weighing 2.9 grammes was found in Lopez's possession. He was fined £300 and warned by Sheriff Douglas Small: 'With your record any involvement with drugs is going to involve going to prison.'

Car damaged during fight

A 21-YEAR-OLD man must pay for the repairs to a car he damaged during a fight.

Jamie Macdonald, of 59 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg admitted damaging the car parked at MacCallum Court, Dunbeg, on September 9 last year.

Macdonald and a friend had been drinking and argued. During the fight which ensued someone was pushed against the car and the cost to repair the damage was £550.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined him £270, on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court, and ordered him to pay compensation for the full £550.



Gordon MacGillivray with his whisky from the First Minister in front of his new tartan-clad seafood bar. 16_t10macgillivray01

Seafood bar returns resplendent in tartan

AFTER coming through a 'hellish' winter when his seafood bar business almost went under, Gordon MacGillivray is back for the 2014 season with a brighter outlook - and a brighter logo.

Mr MacGillivray, the owner of MacGillivray Seafood, has given his Railway Pier seafood bar a tartan makeover, following a dispute with a rival business over its colour.

Last October the court of Session in Edinburgh ruled that Gordon MacGillivray had to

change the colour of his then green seafood bar on Oban's Railway Pier, as it caused confusion with a similar nearby premises, The Original Green Shack, owned by John Ogden and Marion Ritchie, who started the court action.

In response, the entrepreneur has covered his bar in a MacGillivray tartan vinyl wrap and officially launched the new look last Saturday.

Mr MacGillivray said: 'I had to come back strongly. There

was no point having just one colour; it had to be impressive - and something that wouldn't get me another court bill! 'The past few months have been hellish.

'For a small business like mine it was a really tough winter that was just about survival.

'Now I am looking forward to a busy season.'

Mr MacGillivray has added new dishes to his menu and has placed his new branding on every product.

He says early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. 'Everyone is enjoying the tartan and think it is a great attraction for Oban.'

First Minister Alex Salmond declined an invitation from Mr MacGillivray to open the new-look seafood bar, as he was unavailable, but promised to visit during the summer.

Through Oban councillor Louise Glen Lee, Mr Salmond gave Mr MacGillivray a signed bottle of whisky from the Scottish Parliament.

Newsdesks
01631 568000
01397 703003

Oban hospital patient left 'fighting for his life'

A MAN has claimed the care his 68-year-old father received at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital was so poor he was left 'fighting for his life'.

Sixty-eight year old Peter Clark was admitted to the hospital on December 3 last year after a mix-up with his medication for Parkinson's disease meant he needed closer monitoring.

But just weeks later, his son Scott Clark McGregor became concerned his dad was going to die as his health rapidly deteriorated and he was told by doctors he wouldn't be fit to return home.

He became frail, incontinent and increasingly withdrawn. Claiming he was being shouted by nurses, he told his son he wanted to commit suicide.

Scott put the stories down to early-stage dementia, but a care worker contacted him to say his father was being bullied - triggering a series of events that saw social workers demand he be moved from Ward I into Ward A.

After that, his father's health

improved dramatically and he was able to return home at the end of February, now requiring only minimal care from home helps.

Recalling his dad's stay, Scott, 41, of Livingston, said: 'I thought he was going to die. It's no exaggeration to say he was fighting for his life.'

'He went in on December 3 and he soon became very agitated. I just put it down to his health and because a doctor said he had early stage dementia - although there is doubt about that now.'

Other concerns included noticing medication was late over a mix up with keys and finding unexplained bruises on his dad. Soiled clothes were also left in a plastic bag on the floor.

Social Work insisted he move to Ward A after a complaint was made.

Scott said: 'Ward A was brilliant. I wish I had acted sooner and I feel if my dad had not been removed from Ward I he would have died.'

'This has caused considerable stress for me and my family and I have only just recovered from cancer. I cannot believe this would happen in an Oban hospital.'

NHS Highland said: 'NHS Highland is not in a position to make any direct comment related to specific patients and staff members.'

Community gets behind new Oban playpark appeal

'AN AMAZING response' from the community is helping boost plans to build a new playpark in Oban after the old facility at Atlantis Leisure was finally condemned.

Oban Community Playpark chairwoman Lyndsay Elliot has welcomed the support the charity has received since the aged equipment just off Dalriach Road was removed; with the core of the equipment proving just too old to repair.

She is now hoping a fresh wave of donations and support from national funding bodies can speed along plans to bring a new £400,000 all-abilities playpark to the town, which would be one of the few disabled friendly playparks in Scotland.

She said: 'There has been a huge response since the playpark closed. We sent letters to 385 local businesses and some

have started replying. I actually took my car in to get serviced at Roddy's Garage and Roddy wrote me a cheque for £100 right there.

'There has been an amazing response.'

Another Oban business to go out of its way to help the playpark is Craigard Decor, which is offering leftover pots of paint from its Craigard Road home in return for a donation to the playpark fund.

With £21,000 currently in the bank, every penny helps - although the playpark committee last week submitted applications for a total of £160,000 of funding which they hope to hear back from soon. Lyndsay added: 'We do have a massive target but we are applying for funds from as many people as possible.'

'The councillors have been really supportive too and there

will be a meeting on Friday to see what we can do.'

On the now closed playpark, she added: 'The park had just reached the end of its life. It was actually condemned three or four years earlier but it could be repaired then. It just became so old it couldn't be repaired anymore.'

In a bid to help their fundraising efforts, the committee's members are arranging to launch a new Just Giving page, which will allow donations to be supplemented with Gift Aid. This should be launched within a week, while those who wish to donate by mobile can text Oban14 followed by £2, £5 or £10 to 70070.

Anyone who would like to donate or arrange a fundraising event can contact Lyndsay on 07919 651 181 or email lyndsay.elliott@unk.com.



Hazel Evans, front row, third from left, is joined by Ward A colleagues at her retirement party. 16_t10hazel01

Nurse calls it a day after 44 years on town wards

FORMER colleagues have been full of praise for a nurse who is one of the town's longest-serving health professionals, having worked in Oban's hospitals for 44 years.

Hazel Evans retired last week as an enrolled nurse in Ward A at Lorn and Islands Hospital, bringing to an end a 46-year career with the NHS.

Hazel worked in Fort William's Belford Hospital for two years before moving to Oban, where she met her husband Nigel.

She has been in the town ever since and worked at the former West Highland Hospital, Dalintart Hospital and the County Hospital, before transferring to Lorn and Islands

Hospital, and is also a former accident and emergency nurse.

Former colleague Louise MacLeod, deputy charge nurse on Lorn and Islands Hospital's Ward A, said: 'They don't make nurses like Hazel anymore.'

'She was one of a kind. She was a great nurse who showed care and compassion and she will be missed by all of her colleagues.'

Her co-workers in Ward A hosted a retirement party at Glencruitten Golf Club last Friday and made a presentation, complete with a cake depicting a nurse's uniform.

Hazel, aged 62, said: 'I will miss the nursing side of the job and all of my colleagues.'

Break-in at George Street flat

A GROUP of youths has been reported after breaking into a flat on George Street in Oban.

The six juveniles have been reported to the Reporter in connection with the break-in last Wednesday, February 26 at 4.50pm.

Staff at the Yorkshire Building Society alerted the police after hearing a noise in the flat above them at 93 George Street.

Police are asking members of the public for help in relation to the crime and are appealing for witnesses.

Lorn Lines

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

THIS year's Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match will be held at Dunach Estate, Kilmore on March 22.

The annual fundraising whist drive for the event was held recently in Appin Village Hall. Allan MacKenzie took the role of card master and 11 tables turned out to support the cause.

The ladies section was won by Agnes Thomson, with Anna MacLean in second place. Consolation went to Doreen Evans and the travelling prize was won by Christine Pearson.

The gents competition was won by Christine Jackson, with Iain MacCormick runner up. Colin Malone took the consolation prize, while Janice Gunn was awarded the travelling prize.

Entries to this year's ploughing match should be made to Gregor MacCormick on 01631 730 265.



Oban's Air Cadets are finally able to lead parades after raising £800 for a new banner. Pictured with the new flag are, from left, Cadets Nicola Eddleston and Oran Hart, Sergeants Erin Cameron and Gareth Samson, and cadets Martin Henricksen, Duncan Turner and Chantelle Lopez. 16_t10cadets1

Organisers confident Mull Rally's 45th year is shaping up to be the best yet

IDEAS are being sought to make the 45th Mull Rally the event's best yet as organisers hope to attract a bumper field of entries.

Enquiries have come in from as far afield as Canada for the landmark anniversary of the event, which was the first rally in the UK to use public roads and one of only two in the country to still do so.

Now course clerk Iain Campbell is hoping this October's rally can be used as a vehicle to revive the event's fortunes, after a flagging entry field in recent years which has seen the number of competitors drop from

the full roster of 150 to a record low of 100 last year.

He said: 'I don't profess to having great ideas, but I am keen to hear what people would suggest. After last year's rally, we circulated a questionnaire to find out what people thought about the event to see why the entry was falling. Cost was an issue, in terms of travel, ferries and accommodation. It's something we're looking at.'

'But we're keen to make sure the rally improves in future. For example, would people prefer the event was held on one day rather than

staggered over three stages? We'd be keen to hear all opinions.'

Gearing up for this October's race, Iain said the excitement is already accelerating.

'There are a lot of people who were at the 30th or 40th anniversary who want to come along for this,' he said. 'We've also had enquiries from people down south, with one guy in Bournemouth among those to get in touch and one guy wants to get his car built and shipped across from Canada.'

'Entries don't open until August - but there is a lot of buzz.'

Pledge to fix Nant Drive street lights

RESIDENTS of Nant Drive, Oban, have been given an assurance by the local authority that they will not be kept in the dark for long, as work to repair street lights gets underway.

Last Thursday Argyll and Bute Council restored some of the street lighting, which has been out for more than a fortnight, but explained

further repairs would take more time.

A spokesman for the council said: 'There is a major underground fault at the upper side of Nant Drive in Oban. The problem stems from the original cabling being made up of a three-way joining system (sometimes called T-joints). This joining

system makes it impossible to carry out accurate electrical testing.'

'As power from the whole area comes from one distribution pillar, with the help of Scottish and Southern Energy, we are planning to install new supply points which will minimise the impact of any future outages.'

Man on serious assault charge

A 22-YEAR-OLD man appeared on petition before Sheriff Douglas Small at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, facing a charge of serious assault. The alleged incident happened in the town on March 2; no plea or declaration was given.

Witness appeal

AN ASSAULT on a 47-year-old woman took place in the Lorne Bar, Stevenson Street, Oban on Saturday, March 1 at 1.30am.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the alleged assault by a Polish speaking female who was removed from the premises.

High court appeal

A MAN convicted at Oban Sheriff Court of a 'thoroughly unpleasant and depraved indecent assault' on a young woman will have his appeal heard in April.

Timothy Robson, 50, who lived in Kilmore, was ordered to serve four years in prison in June 2012 after a jury unanimously found him guilty of plying a 25-year-old woman with drink and drugs and photographing himself sexually assaulting her.

Robson, who had given the girl so much valium and alcohol that she became

unconscious, denied the indecent assault charge. He claimed his victim had consented to the acts and even asked for pictures to be taken.

The incident was reported to police when Robson handed staff at Tesco the photographs to be put onto a CD.

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced him to four years in prison and three years on licence once released, but Robson later appealed both his conviction and his sentence. Edinburgh High Court will hear the appeal on April 17.

FLOORSHOP

Big SALE massive sale on all our flooring

FREE underlay with all orders this week only

Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

Argyll Voluntary Action

Volunteer of the Year 2014

The Age of Integration

Your chance to find out about Health, Social Care, Volunteering & Future Plans

Volunteer of the Year and Voluntary /Community Group Award

Young Volunteer, Social Enterprise Volunteer

Regional Timebank Heroes and Health Volunteer Categories too!

Nominations are now **OPEN** - an opportunity to put forward members of your community who should be recognized for all the voluntary work they do and the impact they have on our towns and villages.

Council Chambers Kilmory

Friday 13th June 2014

10.30am - 2.30pm

Tickets from Argyll Voluntary Action on **01631 564839** (kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk)

www.argyllcommunities.org argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Nomination forms now available in AVA offices or online!

Deadline: Friday 18th April 2014

Argyll Voluntary Action, 21 High Street Oban PA34 4BG
Charity No: SC029947 Company No: SC277345

Argyll Voluntary Action, The National Lottery, ROBERTSON youngstart NHS Highland

Blue light service chiefs open new joint station

FORT William's new police and ambulance station is fully operational after leaders of the blue light services officially opened the base last week.

The £4.3m premises at Blar Mhor on the outskirts of Fort William have replaced the now-defunct High Street police station and Inverloch ambulance station, both of which had been open since the 1970s.

The police station, two miles outside Fort William next to the A830 to Mallaig, houses a trunk roads patrol group - the first such specialist team to be based in Lochaber - charged with keeping people safe on main local routes.

Benefits for the ambulance

service include dedicated areas for vehicle and uniform cleaning and decontamination as well as improved access to trunk roads.

Previously, ambulances had to drive through residential streets and past a primary school to respond to calls.

Chief Constable Sir Stephen House said: 'This is the first of five facilities that Police Scotland will be opening in three months. That's in the north, not the whole country.'

'I believe that reflects our commitment to local policing. The investment is going into local facilities that local people want. That's what we're doing and that is what we will continue to do.'

David Garbutt, chairman of the Scottish Ambulance Service, said: 'We have worked closely with Police Scotland to create a purpose-built facility which meets the needs of the Scottish Ambulance Service, providing a modern, fit for purpose work environment for staff.'

Training resources on site mean student ambulance technicians in the north west no longer have to travel to Glasgow Caledonian University to complete paramedic training.

Allan Knox, ambulance area manager for Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh said: 'I'm absolutely delighted. This is a fantastic opportunity. Now we can get straight on to major trunk roads from the station in an emergency saving valuable time.'

'We also have access to conference and training rooms so students coming from the training academy can work with mentors before being placed on duty through the Highlands and Islands.'

The opening was also attended by Highland and Islands divisional commander chief superintendent Julian Innes, local area commander chief inspector Derek Paterson, chairman of the Scottish Police Authority Vic Emery and former convener of the Northern Joint Police Board, Norman Macleod.



Chief constable Sir Stephen House, left, and chairman of the Scottish Ambulance Service David Garbutt formally open the new joint premises. 20_110station01



Oban school marks Fairtrade Fortnight

It may look like Easter has come early for these pupils at Park Primary School, Oban, but all of these chocolate treats were in fact part of a tombola stall, as the school welcomed the start of Fairtrade Fortnight. The school had donations of chocolate and bananas from Tesco and Lidl, while the nursery children have been on a visit to the Co-op to see how many Fairtrade brands they could find. Today (Thursday) the school will produce a Fairtrade menu for pupils. 16_110park01



Fort William RC Primary School footballers and Fairtrade committee before a football game against Lochyside RC. 20_110fortschool01

Pupils play fair with footballs

FORT William RC Primary School footballers took on Lochyside RC Primary School, with Fairtrade balls and refreshments.

The Fort kids organised a tuck shop full of fairly sourced chocolate and home

baking to raise money for the footballs, making sure that the producers received a decent wage for stitching them.

This is part of both schools' Fairtrade fortnight and the children enjoyed Fairtrade orange juice after the game.

Expert delivers training on serious brain condition ME

LOCHABER health professionals are now better equipped to deal with patients suffering from a serious brain condition.

This is thanks to a visit from Dr Charles Shepherd, a GP and expert on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), a neurological illness causing exhaustion, flu-like symptoms and digestive problems. It is also known to affect the nerve and immune systems.

Dr Shepherd, who has ME himself, travelled from Gloucester to deliver training on the illness at Fort William Health Centre.

Health professionals currently receive little to no training on ME at medical school meaning GPs often have to self-teach when treating patients.

Meg Pollock, founder of Lochaber ME, hopes this will no longer be the case following the training from Dr Shepherd.

She said: 'The session was really well attended by a mix of GPs and other allied health professionals and I hope it

will help them to deal with patients in the future.'

'What I'm hoping now is that we can find a leader in Lochaber with a specialist interest in ME who GPs can seek advice from or in some cases refer patients to.'

Ms Pollock will meet with district managers at NHS Highland to discuss further developments and the potential funding of a dietitian, occupational therapist and community mental health officer to assist ME patients.

An evening question and answer session with Dr Shepherd at the Alexandra Hotel was well attended and those directly and indirectly affected by the condition left well informed about testing, vaccinations and managing ME in children.

Organisers would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the day, especially Dr Shepherd for travelling from Gloucestershire and Dr Jim Douglas of Tweeddale Medical Practice for requesting the training.

Morvern Lines

THE PSALMIST wrote, 'I to the hills will lift mine eyes from whence doth come mine aid'; the Scottish Government writes, 'get your hill in order or else' and if the former didn't have deer stalkers in mind, the latter certainly has.

In the past Scotland's deer were managed by estate owners and their stalkers. There were no deer management committees and if there were any meetings they usually took place in the deer larder or over a dram in a pub at the end of the season. Professional stalkers, hefted to the hill like their own hinds, knew instinctively if deer numbers were too high, or indeed too low, and adjusted their culls accordingly as their forefathers had done since Adam was a boy.

However, as is so often the case these days, nothing stays the same forever. The passing of the Wildlife & Natural Environment Scotland Act (WANE for short) in 2011 did away with the more homely approach and the civil servants and the conservationists set to.

Voluntary groups were given more power and the whole emphasis is now on collaboration and 'kiss and tell' management.

Conflict over numbers, grazing pressure and whether trees can be planted without fences, was inevitable.

Matters came to a head last year when the all powerful Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate & Environment Committee (RACCE) called in the Association of Deer Management Groups, representatives of major land users and government agencies to find out if the voluntary deer management groups were really strutting their stuff.

One group apparently wasn't. Unfortunately, this led to critics in the already nervous RACCE assuming that the whole shooting-match was in disarray.

A report, with recommendations, has gone to the Minister which, if ignored, could mean the government will set cull targets and order estates to meet them.

If they don't contractors may be sent in and charge for their services. If that happens, said one old Morvern stalker last week, 'that will be the end of deer stalking as we know it'.

The message is clear. The deer sector is under scrutiny at local level and stalkers and deer forest owners ignore it at their peril.



Deerstalkers have been warned to get their house in order.

THERE IS no finer sight in the world than watching two professional stalkers at work, moving slowly and silently across a hillside in unison, each understanding the reason for the others every move with the same precision as two scalpel-wielding surgeons hovering around a spinal cord. Quintessential ballet-dancers in tweeds.

The question is often asked, 'why do deer have to be shot and how do stalkers know how many to take?'

It depends on the amount of food and shelter that is available and if the deer are competing with other grazers. Culling is the removal of selected individuals from a herd for the benefit of the majority.

The object of the exercise is to finish up with a population within which the deer are healthy and thriving, where there is a proper balance of age and sex and whose demand for food will be in balance with what is available at certain times of the year.

Numbers are determined by counting whole areas and not individual estates in as short a time as possible to prevent double-counting as deer wander from place to place depending on the weather.

Counts used to be done by stalkers walking in line and communicating by radio. Nowadays far greater accuracy is obtained using helicopters.

STAYING with rural matters, I was interested to read in a recent report on government subsidy payments, that the firm of Ardnornish Farms appeared fifth in the Scottish Top 25 List pulling in £93,222.60 in the 2012 Less Favoured Area Scheme with Killundine Farm, receiving £425,145.74 through the Rural Development Programme, placing it fourteenth in the Top 25 List for 2013.

Under a European Court of Justice ruling only details of subsidies received by limited companies, business partnerships and charities can be published. Disappointingly, all subsidy data received by private individuals is exempt.

The ECJ ruling followed a celebrated case involving German farmers who claimed their human rights were being abused by having their subsidy receipts published. So much for open and transparent government even where large sums of public money are concerned!

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

Mild and wet February in Arisaig

IT WAS mild and wet in Arisaig during February, reports local amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyne.

Rainfall was an above average 153mm (six inches), taking the total for the year to 299mm (12 inches), also above average.

Minimum daily temperatures averaged an above normal 3.2°C, while maximum temperatures were an average 8.5°C.

The coldest night, at 0°C, and the mildest day, at 12°C, were both higher than normal.

Argyll taxi drivers welcome first fare hike in six years

TAXI drivers in Argyll have mainly welcomed a fare increase across the county - the first in six years - with one operator saying it has 'got to be done'.

Argyll and Bute Council rubber-stamped the price hike, which will see the maximum fare rise from £2.70 to £3.00 during the day and from £3.20 to £3.60 after 10pm.

Fares are set to increase by as much as 13 per cent after Argyll and Bute councillors on the licensing committee took heed of the demands from some taxi companies.

The increase was agreed following

concerns expressed by a number of taxi drivers over high fuel and insurance costs and increasing competition.

However, some drivers fears Argyll residents won't be able to afford it.

Companies will not be forced to set the maximum fare that will come into effect on June 6.

Agree

Murray Young, owner of Oban's longest-serving firm, Oban Taxis, is among those who agree with the increase.

He said: 'It has got to be done. We have refused to take it up for the last

six years but it is badly needed now because of the cost of fuel, insurance and tyres, which have doubled in price.'

'I pay £7,000 a year in insurance for six cars but fuel is killing things at the moment.'

The decision comes after a consultation was carried out by Argyll and Bute Council's taxi firms on whether there should be a fare increase. All agreed the increase was needed, but four Oban firms expressed fears the market could not handle it.

Speaking at a meeting of the licensing board Councillor Robin Currie, who asked for the fares to remain the same, said: 'If we set this as the maximum they [taxi firms] will set it as the maximum. If they did not charge so much more people would use the taxis.'

'A taxi journey could cost you £15 to £16 whereas a bus journey could only cost £2.'

He added: 'If we look at Argyll and Bute compared with Highland Council we are already expensive.'

But Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'Taxi firms do not have to set that. What we are saying here is this is the maximum increase.'

Public meeting on chalet park expansion plan

PLANS to expand Dalavich Chalet Park will be heard at a public hearing this month as residents voice their fears about the impact the project will have on the area.

The site's owner David Winter plans to relocate four of the existing chalets and add three new ones to the park, along with 14 parking spaces.

But, Argyll and Bute councillors were told at a recent planning meeting the application had received

19 letters of objection from residents. The addition of the three chalets to the site would mean the area had reached its capacity for development, with 28 already in place. The land is marked by the council for tourism and leisure opportunities. Concerns were raised about the visual impact of moving the chalets, how wildlife would be affected, road safety, the size of the chalets and that trees would be felled in the

process. Councillors agreed to hold a public hearing at the site to listen to the views of locals and allow Mr Winter to put forward his proposal.

Angus Gilmour, head of planning at the council, said: 'Taking into account the number of objections for the size of the community I was keen for this particular application to go to a public hearing. There are issues between the Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council and the developers over this final development. The community is scared that some of the green space is going to be developed.'

'This will be a chance for the developer to speak to the community to address concerns and to get the community to hopefully accept this final proposal.'

The Dalavich Chalet Park public hearing will be on Tuesday March 25 at Dalavich Community Centre.

Wedding Car Specialist

Carrs Loch Lomond specialise in wedding car hire and chauffeur car hire service based near Loch Lomond.

We cover a wide area throughout Scotland. We are now moving into Argyll.

2 Wedding Cars from £395

Wedding Dress Sale all £195

Wedding dress clearance sale

All new wedding dresses £195 (retail £800-£1250)

Also available, Bridesmaids, Mother of the bride and groom outfits. Wedding attire purchased from large bridal store liquidation

Call now 07980 691250

The company have a very impressive fleet of vehicles and are well known for providing a fantastic wedding car hire service.

We were crowned winner for transport at the 2012 VOWS Awards.

We are keen to welcome customers to try the airport transfer services, guest transfers, honeymoon transfers, tours of Scotland and chauffeur services also available to all customers.

Tel: 07884 458058 or 07787 206541

Email: info@carrslochlomond.co.uk www.carrslochlomond.co.uk

Free ferry ticket giveaway

THOUSANDS of free ferry tickets are being given away to encourage tourists to visit Scottish Isles. Trips to 12 west coast islands are up for grabs as part of 8,000 free tickets offered by VisitScotland, Caledonian MacBrayne and Serco NorthLink Ferries. Tickets to Skye, Raasay, the Small Isles, Lewis and Harris and North Uist can be won through an online ballot as well as trips from Oban to Mull, Lismore, Colonsay, Coll, Tiree, Barra and South Uist. The offer is in line with VisitScotland's Year of Homecoming and comes a week after Lewis and Harris and Mull were named in the top 10 islands in Europe in a travel site poll. To enter go to www.visitscotland.com/brilliantislands between March 1-26 and enter the island of your choice.

Telephone scam warning

POLICE are warning the Highlands and Islands public to beware of fraudsters contacting people by telephone, letter or e-mail to say they have won a substantial cash prize. Claimants are then requested to send an administration fee as the money is allegedly coming from abroad. Further requests can follow until often substantial amounts of cash can be handed over. A police spokesperson said: 'The organisers of these frauds can be very sophisticated and persuasive and it can seem quite genuine. Police are advising that if anyone believes they may be subject to such a scheme, they should not become involved, should not hand over any money and should inform their local police station or call Police Scotland on 101.'

Car park concern

A CRUMBLING car park in Benderloch will be the topic of conversation for Ardochattan Community Council this month, with its condition causing concern. Pot holes litter the area known as 'The Circle' in the village, from which residents can access the recycling facilities and visit a nearby café. The community council is due to meet on March 27.



Oban High School's Fairtrade baking teams show off their creations while judge, Alex Needham, top, gets ready to find his winners.

Fairtrade bake off a recipe for success

PUPILS and staff at Oban High School had a taste of success last week when they took part in their own version of the Great British Bake Off. Held as part of Fairtrade Fortnight, teams comprising a mix of pupils of all ages and teachers got together to make the tastiest Fairtrade cakes, although the £3 price limit wasn't quite stuck to by some of the teams after they 'forgot' the restriction. However, judge Alex Needham, of the Waterfront Restaurant, wasn't too troubled by that, with the exceptionally high quality of baking produced by the teams meaning picking a winner was a headache. Home economics head, Morag MacKinnon, said: 'Each team had three pupils and one teacher and they were told to bake something with Fairtrade bananas in it. Some did forget the price limit and used more exotic ingredients, such as passion fruit, but there was a one-hour-20-minute time limit, which is quite tight when you have to bake, cool and ice your cake. The standard is excellent.' The bake-off came after a host of Fairtrade events, including four Fairtrade assemblies and other competitions.

New manager tasked with finding more town cash

OBAN'S business co-operative says it will use a new appointment to broaden its ambitions and seek more funding to reinvestigate the town centre. BID4Oban's manager Nic Jones confirmed last week that former councillor Neil Mackay will replace outgoing events manager Mike Rowell next month, with the position's remit expanded slightly to include sourcing more cash. Mr Jones says the move is a natural progression for the Business Improvement District (BID) company and a further step towards meeting its aims. 'While we're very sad to see Mike go, we're all really grateful for what he's done,' he said. 'Neil is coming in and is doing so from a strong field. With Neil, his job will be events marketing and fundraising. We're looking at supporting and organising events, marketing the town and the BID itself. 'We are aware though that we need to look more at marketing and external funding.' Mr Rowell is leaving to return to full time employment at Ballet West, but the position he is vacating is seeing its hours increasing by half to 30 hours per week. Meanwhile, BID4Oban's 460 members have received their invitations to the company's annual general meeting at the Corran Halls on March 18. Split into two parts, the first 20 minutes of the evening is open to levy payers and will consider a resolution to expand the size of the board by six positions so there is less chance of the company not making a quorum during busy periods. A vote will also be held to formalise the appointments of directors, Graeme Bass and Sandy MacArthur, as well as two representatives of Argyll and Bute Council to the board, councillor Roddy McCuish and head of roads, Jim Smith. Part two will be a public presentation, open to levy payers, partners and invited guests. Nic said: 'This is a chance to ask questions and to hear about some of our future projects as well. There will be light refreshments afterwards too, which will provide a chance to network.' Anyone interested in attending the AGM should email shona@bid4oban.co.uk or phone 01631 569915.

TV spotlight a real gift for Oban

AN OBAN restaurateur said he had his 'busiest year ever' after a television programme focused on the area last year. Alan MacLeod the owner of Ee-uk on Oban's North Pier, said now was the opportunity for Oban to make more of its time in the spotlight and promote itself as Scotland's Seafood Capital. Nicholas Crane's Town programme opened its second series with a frank look at Oban, featuring a number of local businesses and organisations as it aimed to see what made the town tick. One of those to feature was Mr MacLeod, who extolled the virtues of the fresh seafood landed in the town. As a result, his restaurant and neighbouring restaurant Piazza, operated by son Callum, have been the busiest they've been since they opened in 2003. Alan said: 'Town was a great advert for us and for Oban and we had a record year last year. 'It wasn't just us, everyone I've spoken to said they were busier last year after the programme. There were so many people talking about it. 'People have come to Oban as a result of Town and that's been terrific.' Mr MacLeod thinks it is also time Oban made more of its brand as Scotland's Seafood Capital, a message Town helped to spread. 'We need a brand over the whole town describing it as Scotland's Seafood Capital. There must be 20 places in Oban you can eat seafood now and the brand is a great vehicle for promoting the area. 'It's a real gift for Oban. If you want people to seek the town out for themselves you have to use brands like that. 'We also have the Scottish Association for Marine Science here and so many other organisations related to the sea - it's a true marine environment. 'It's all very well being known as the Gateway to the Isles, but you want people to stay in Oban and we need to take advantage of things like this to do that.'

Councillors hit out at steep rise in Corran Ferry fares

COUNCILLORS have hit out at steep fare increases on the Corran Ferry across Loch Linnhe and criticised a study for failing to assess their impact on local communities. At Lochaber area committee last week, members expressed 'disappointment' that ticket prices on the Highland Council-run service would go up at a 23 per cent in this financial year. The committee was 'angered' that a socio-economic report by transport consultants AECOM had not been carried before the price hikes, and only examined how further fare rises of 10 and 25 per cent would affect businesses, local users and tourists. The submission to Highland Council's community services committee also demanded 'a long term strategy' for the crossing at the Corran Narrows south of Fort William - including whether building a bridge to connect the A82 with Ardgour was a better option. **Running costs** Councillors further asked for 'a micro-review' of the ferry's running costs and called on Highland Council leader Drew Hendry to arrange a meeting between transport minister Keith Brown, local councillors and community representatives 'to discuss the long term future of the ferry and possible alternatives'. Councillor Brian Murphy said further fare increases on the crossing could affect traffic volumes on the Lochaline-Fishnish and Kilchoan-Tobermory services - but warned discounting tickets too much could infringe competition rules. He said: 'Tourists like round trips. We need to be careful that we do not put up fares so high that it acts as a disincentive to people using the CalMac ferries. 'There are a number of people on the peninsula on fairly low incomes and we have to bear that in mind. 'But we should not be seen to be subsidising the ferry to any great deal because we may have to go out to tender and that could end very badly for the Corran Ferry. 'There is no guarantee the successful tenderer would apply any discounts.' Describing the study as 'a pointless exercise', Councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'People don't want a strategy for future fare increases - they want a strategy for the Corran Ferry across the Corran Narrows.' The community services committee will decide on a future fares regime for the ferry on May 15.

Riding group's delight at £5,000 boost



Red the horse checks out the Argyll RDA Driving Club's new horse box, bought after a £5,000 grant from the Heart of the Community Trust. Cameron Harris and Elaine Trigg are in the carriage behind.

ARGYLL'S only riding for the disabled carriage driving group has been handed a £5,000 boost by Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Trust. The RDA Driving Group, based near Benderloch, has bought a new two-horse trailer with the funds, and it will be used to give more disabled people the opportunity to try riding, carriage driving and vaulting. Jane Isaac, of the driving group, helps to look after the 15 disabled drivers currently being coached. She said: 'Our group is very active and keen that our drivers travel to any competitions that they are able to take part in. 'Our horse trailer was beginning to show its age, so this very generous donation was used to buy a new horse trailer.' She added: 'The sessions act as an informal support network for not only our drivers but also their carers and family members, together with our volunteers. 'We provide an opportunity for therapy, achievement and enjoyment, providing confidence, and benefiting mobility and co-ordination. Seeing the delight on our drivers' faces when they turn up to their session is fantastic in itself.' The Heart of the Community Trust supports projects and charities which will deliver lasting change to local communities and allow them to grow and develop. Awards are considered in the areas of health and health promotion, education and life-long learning, personal development and various community projects that bring benefit. Application forms for the Heart of the Community can be found on the Scottish Sea Farms website www.scottishseafarms.com, together with details of the criteria required.



Eddie Hunter. 20_f10eddie01

By-election date set

A BY-ELECTION to find a replacement for popular Caol and Mallaig councillor Eddie Hunter will be held on May 1. Candidates seeking election can nominate themselves via a form available from the Highland Council website or service points in Fort William and Mallaig before 4pm on Tuesday March 27. Mr Hunter has moved to Renfrew to be with his wife Henrietta, or Henri as she is affectionately known. The 62-year-old, a former head teacher of Banavie Primary School, was elected as an Independent councillor for the area in May 2007. During his seven years on Highland Council he was a member of the adult and children's services committee, audit and scrutiny committee and the Lochaber area committee. In the meantime, the ward will continue to be represented by councillors Bill Clark and Allan Henderson. The count will take place on May 2.



Providing a secure future for your child? We're on board. Lomond School

Boarding School Information Days
Caledonian Hotel, Oban, Fri 28th March, 12-7pm
Cairnbaan Hotel, Lochgilphead, Sat 29th March, 10-4pm

Boarding at Lomond School offers an academic education that will stretch and extend your child to their full potential with a strong extra curricular programme of sport, music, drama and outdoor activity.

Come along and meet the team to discuss your child's future.

T 01436 672 476 10 Stafford Street, Helensburgh
www.lomondschoool.com

Lomond School is a co-educational HMC Independent School.

LISMORE

MURRAY Willis, a talented young accordionist from Lismore, travelled with two friends to Erbil, a Kurdish town in the north of Iraq, to play at a Burns Night ceilidh organised by some of the major oil companies.

They raised around \$50,000 for a local orphanage. Murray is one of a band of young Liosach musicians who are making a name for themselves and who are always willing to help those less fortunate than themselves.

FRIDAY March 7 will see the grand re-opening of the hall after extensive insulation and draught-proofing of the windows, doors and roof, made possible with money from Climate Challenge Fund.

The events, which will take place in the afternoon and evening, will be a celebration of the island's work on the environment and energy saving and full details of the programme are available on www.isleoflismore.com.

KIKI MacColl at Liosbeag Café at the Heritage Centre served up a Valentine's dinner on February 14.

On March 8, from 4pm till late, she will host a party to celebrate 'Growing up on Lismore', when everyone is welcome to share a buffet, memories and photographs.

At the moment the café is open on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with some fish supper Fridays.

This is proving popular with locals and the day openings with visitors as the latter can enjoy a walk or a bike ride prior to their café lunch. Seven-day opening will resume at the end of March.

GLENGARRY

THE FIRST of four free weekly cookery workshops will be held in Glengarry Community Hall next Wednesday from 2pm-4pm.

To book a place on the Highland Council-funded course, contact Jessie Gourlay on 01397 874402.

ARISAIG

THE EXISTING Arisaig post office will close for good on Monday, March 24 at 1pm.

The new Post Office Local will open for business immediately in the Spar premises.

Arisaig Community Council plans to mark the closure of the old office on Sunday March 23 at a tea in the Astley Hall.



Biker Joe Barnes, centre, with Kinlochleven High School pupils Rebecca Small, Stephen and Alex Dent, Lauren Taylor and head teacher John McGilp.

School spotlight on mountain festival

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils enjoyed an afternoon of films and speakers in line with the Fort William Mountain Festival.

Children from associated primary schools joined the older students to celebrate the

KINLOCHLEVEN

launch of the festival's Scottish Youth Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture. Local mountain biker Joe Barnes

spoke to the pupils and showed a sneak preview of his short film.

Hill runner Charlie Ramsay then presented a slideshow about his 24-hour fell running challenge in Fort William, Ramsay's Round.



A Scottish wildcat. Photograph by Helen Haden.

Investigation reveals Ardnamurchan wildcat population among the purest in Scotland

ARDNAMURCHAN'S wildcat population is among the purest in Scotland, an investigation on the peninsula has revealed.

Vets have been searching the area on the hunt for Scottish wildcats, as well as visiting pet owners asking if their cats have been neutered.

Results show Ardnamurchan has very few domestic cats capable of breeding, meaning the wildcats are likely to be purebreds.

BREAKNISH

WORK to build a safe path for cyclists and pedestrians next to the busy A87 at Breaknish on Skye got underway this week.

Subject to terrain and land agreements, it is hoped that the surface can be extended to around 1.5 kilometres from the Red Skye Restaurant to the junction of the A851 to Sleat by April 2015.

Skye MSP Dave Thompson, who has been campaigning for the improvement, said: 'It is a great credit to the community that their efforts to improve safety on the A87 are now bearing fruit. I have been staying as close as I can to the issue and urging Transport Scotland to recognise the genuine concerns of these good local folk, and I thank them that in these straitened times they have found funds to allow this work to progress.'

Activated signing and lining works are also scheduled to start in late April and May to help reduce traffic speeds at Breaknish.

KILLIN

KILLIN Community Council looks set to reform after a fresh appeal for nominations found a quorum.

Ten people have put themselves forward for positions in the new community council, which will meet for the first time on March 11 to nominate office bearers.

Chairwoman of the previous community council, Fiona Kennedy, said she was pleased the community council had reformed after the first proposed election in November only saw five people put their names forward.

She said: 'It was a shame we didn't have a community council over the winter. I think we were one short of what we needed. We don't know who will be chair or take the other positions yet, but we'll find that out after the inauguration.'



Portree cross country winners and runners up. Back from left: Charlotte Gordon, Archie MacDonald, Holly Maclean and Joe Jones. Front from left: Gillesbeug MacVicar, Skye Jordon, Leon Miles Shinnie and Iona MacAskill.

Portree pupils compete in cross country

PORTREE Primary School held a cross country championship with more than 100 children taking part.

This year's winners were Leon Miles Shinnie and Skye Jordon. The school's inter-house competition was won by pupils of the Kiltarlaglen house.

TAYNUILT

TAYNUILT SWRI'S latest whist drive raised £130 for the club, when five tables played at Taynuilt Village Hall.

The results were: Gents: 1 Jim Groat, Connel; 2 John Ross, Taynuilt; 3 Rebecca McPhee, Oban; 4 Brenda MacLean, Taynuilt; 5 David Watson, Dalavich. Consolation: Alice Campbell. Travelling Prize: Florence Anderson.

Ladies: 1 Stella Huntingford, Taynuilt; 2 Cecilia Keenan, Taynuilt; 3 Christine Allen, Taynuilt; 4 Margaret Forbes, Connel; 5 Christine Pearson, Oban. Consolation Prize: Peggy

MacIntyre. Travelling Prize, Stella Huntingford.

Card master was Leslie Servant. The next Whist Drive will be for Oban Hospice and will be held on March 21 at Taynuilt Village Hall.

FORT AUGUSTUS

THE FIFTH of six free weekly classes in digital photography will be held in Kilchuiemen Academy in Fort Augustus tonight (Thursday) from 7pm-9pm.

Highland Council is funding the sessions.

STRATHFILLAN

STRATHFILLAN Community Council says it is becoming 'increasingly frustrated' with the condition of the area's trunk roads, despite previous assurances from operator BEAR Scotland.

Several potholes have been opening up across the area, with Tyndrum in particular proving problematic because of broken drains and crumbling surfaces.

Chairman John Riley said: 'We had a previously tolerable relationship with Transerv, which had a local office and an interest in keeping us informed and happy.'

'Despite assurances from BEAR at the Breadalbane

Community Council Forum meeting in September, there is increasing frustration with the service and insensitivity to the needs of tourism businesses.'

The roads will be discussed at Strathfillan Community Council's next meeting, on Monday, March 10 from 7.30pm at Crianlarich Village Hall.

LOCHAWA

FORMER Glenorchy minister, Rev Liz Gibson, was guest speaker at the February meeting of Lochawe SWRI, held in the village hall.

Rev Gibson gave a very interesting talk on a Fairtrade visit to Peru and displayed a fine array of crafts from the country. The slides and video clips had members enthralled and Pat McLeod gave the vote of thanks.

Photography: Flowers, judged by Rev Gibson - P McLeod, Red; J Wylie - Gold; M MacKenzie - Blue; C Milne - Silver; V Williams - Blue. Hostesses for the evening were J Buchanan and P McLeod.

Newsdesks
01631 568000
01397 703003

FLOODING COULD AFFECT YOU.

GET ADVANCE WARNINGS DIRECT TO YOUR PHONE.



SIGN UP NOW FOR FREE ADVANCE FLOOD WARNINGS DIRECT TO YOUR PHONE.

floodlinescotland.org.uk

YOU CAN ALSO CALL 0345 988 1188 WHICH MAY BE CHEAPER. CHECK COSTS WITH YOUR SERVICE PROVIDER.

Floodline
0845 988 1188

GLENDALE

GLENDALE Village Hall is slowly getting back to normal after it flooded during heavy rain.

Water filled the car park and seeped into the building, which is used for various meetings and events in the north west Skye community.

The aftermath is not as bad as expected, according to Glendale Hall Committee member Janice Perry, but the main hall's wooden floor may need to be replaced.

She said: 'All of the water subsided quite quickly. We've had dehumidifiers in for a few days and that's made a big difference to the carpets so we're just waiting to hear whether or not the wooden floor needs to be replaced.'

'It's a shame that it happened and it's a bit of a nuisance but it's not the disaster people have been making it out to be.'

The hall is insured against flooding through Highland Council and it is hoped a drainage system will soon be fitted in the car park to prevent another flood.

ARDFERN

PETER Pan and Captain Hook helped to raise more than £1,000 for charity when they appeared at Craignish Village Hall last week.

The money has been donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital, paying respects to the wishes of Peter Pan author JM Barrie who granted the rights of the play to the hospital.



Easdale British Legion book sale raises £442

The Royal British Legion Scotland's Easdale Branch held a book sale last Saturday in Seil Island Hall. The group raised £442 for charities that support the Armed Forces and thanked everyone who contributed to the event.

THE SLATE Islands Heritage Museum at Ellenbeich on Seil had a friendly gathering of the volunteers on February 26, prior to the start of the forthcoming season.

They were joined by Jean Adams MBE, Bert Baker and Petre and Mary Withall, who along with the Hon. Mike Shaw were responsible for creating the museum in 1999. They were full of praise for the continued success of the Heritage Museum.

The little Heritage Museum, a Scottish Registered Charity, is

EASDALE

situated in the picturesque village of Ellenbeich on the Isle of Seil and it is run totally by the volunteers who endeavour to answer the many questions from visitors.

In 2013, more than 12,000 visitors passed through the door indicating that it is a well worth visit and a successful tourist attraction for the area. Entry is free but donations are welcome to support the running costs.

A MEETING to discuss giving Easdale's slate quarries protected status as a monument will be held on the island this month.

Historic Scotland is proposing to schedule the monument known as Easdale Slate Quarries, meaning the site would have legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Eilean Eisdal is hosting the public meeting in Easdale Island Community Hall on Saturday March 15 from 10am.

Iona painting expected to fetch up to £60,000 at auction

A SPARKLING view of Iona with the Island of Lunga in the background by the Scottish colourist painter, Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell, is expected to fetch up to £60,000 at auction next month.

The picture is among lots to be offered at Bonhams' Scottish Sale in Edinburgh on April 15 and 16.

Cadell painted Iona - the Island of Lunga on one of the many trips he made to the island. He visited the island every year from 1912, painting it in all weathers and moods. In this work the foreground is

dominated by an expanse of shimmering white sand with Lunga - one of the Slate Islands - in the far distance. The work is estimated at £40,000-60,000.

The Scottish Sale, which is now in its 15th year, has traditionally been held in the autumn but has now moved to its permanent new date of late spring.

All the major names in Scottish art are featured in the sale which also includes a huge range of objects related to Scotland from Highland dress, to silver and glass; from books and furniture to whisky and ceramics.

MORAR

MORAR'S Scottish Rural Women's Institute members learned about spinning and weaving from an expert on the craft.

The group met at Lady Lovat Primary School and were given an informative talk by Deirdre Roberts about the textile craft art.

Eileen MacPhie won the raffle and tea was served by the ladies. The next meeting will take place at Superbowl in the Nevis Centre tonight (Thursday) at 8pm.

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Drink drive student banned from roads

A WEST Highland College student has been banned from driving for a year after he was behind the wheel whilst almost double the legal drink drive limit.

Brian Curren of The Chalet, East Glenhorm, Fort William, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell told the court the 31-year-old, originally from Utah in America, didn't realise how much he had to drink while watching his friend play music in a local bar before he was caught driving at Middle Street car park, Fort William on November 23 last year.

Sheriff Richard Davidson fined Curren £500 and issued a 12 month driving ban.

Threats land pub-goer in court

A FORT William man admitted threatening two pub employees and holding a lit cigarette to one of their faces.

William Wallace of 39 Kennedy Road told staff of The Crofter that he was 'going to batter them' and threatened to stub the cigarette out in one's eye, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

The 27-year-old was asked to leave the pub on the night of 29 December last year and stood at the door smoking when he was approached by the staff for a second time, said procurator fiscal Alison Wylie.

Sheriff Richard Davidson called for a social work report on Wallace and said: 'Thrusting cigarettes towards faces and threatening to stub them out on faces is never going to be acceptable behaviour.'

Sentencing is set for April 1.

New hospital options outlined

THE NHS Highland board agreed to examine options for building a new hospital at either Broadford or Portree at a special meeting on Tuesday.

The new community resource centre and hospital would replace the existing Portree Hospital and the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford and would bring all medical services under one roof. Input from both communities would be 'crucial' during the consultation, NHS Highland's Maimie Thompson said.



Sportsman's dinner pitches £6,000 into Fort FC funds

Fort William FC raised more than £6,000 for club funds at a successful Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday night. Former Old Firm Scotland stars Andy Goram and Murdo MacLeod were guest speakers as over 100 people turned out for the fundraiser in the Moorings Hotel. Club stalwart Colin Neilson, 84, and wife Grace, 80, joined the footballing legends at the top table. Mr Neilson was thanked for all his hard work ever since the club was formed in 1972. Above, Fort William FC players line up for The Oban Times before the speeches. 20. 110/foot001. See page 15.

Skye community hub project's £1m boost

AN AMBITIOUS project to build a community hub in south Skye has taken a huge step forward after receiving £1 million towards its cash target.

The BIG Lottery Fund award to Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) is the biggest it can make to any group.

The go-ahead community company applied for the maximum grant last year and had been nervously awaiting a decision ever since.

Had the bid been rejected, plans for the £1.8m development on Camuscross common grazings

comprising a gathering place, hall, shop and café would have collapsed.

But now CDI can pursue other funders for the remaining money armed with the £1 million package.

The Lottery has also offered almost £200,000 extra to help the hub become a self-sustaining social enterprise within five years.

The development, earmarked for a stunning site overlooking the Sound of Seat from the main A851, will provide up to seven full-time equivalent jobs.

CDI chair Mark Wringe said: 'This is fantastic news, we're all air bhioran [really excited] that the hub is now within touching distance. Getting this far is down to the hard work and dedication of a number of individuals within the community, great advice from outside it, and an early announcement of support from Highland Council - plus architects who have been outstanding in working with the community.'

He added: 'There is still a very significant amount of match-funding to be achieved from

Sheriff jails man for 15 months on drugs charge

A FORT William man has been jailed for 15 months for possessing drugs worth £1,200.

Mark MacDonald was found with six bars of cannabis resin after police raided his home at 10 Connochie Road during a search on April 11 last year.

The 47-year-old was appearing

for sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court after previously admitting the charge.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said MacDonald bought the drugs with friends to share among themselves.

He said: 'He is insistent there was never an intention to make financial benefit.' But Sheriff Richard Davidson rejected that, saying: 'He did make a gain by dealing in the way he dealt. As with most things you save money if you buy in bulk.'

Bulk MacDonald, Sheriff Davidson told him: 'By

Spean Bridge mourns darts star Bryan

THE GRIEVING fiancée of a top darts player who died in a horrific road accident near Fort William on Friday afternoon has led tributes to the man she loved.

Dawn Gordon was in Inverness with friends for a hen weekend when she heard her husband -to-be Bryan Whyte had been killed.

The Spean Bridge couple had been due to marry on April 12 after a nine-year engagement.

Mr Whyte died when his car collided with a Ford Transit near the entrance to Inverloch Castle Hotel around 2.40pm.

The 34-year-old, a mechanic with local firm Boyd Brothers, had just been picked to represent Scotland at a darts international in Halifax on April 5-6. The couple have four children, two of whom will have their birthdays in a few days' time - Cameron,

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

who will be 12 on March 22, nine-year-old Tyler, Innes, who turns eight on March 15, and three-year-old Katlyn. The couple had been together for 13 years and got engaged when Tyler was born.

Dawn, 31, told The Oban Times: 'I heard there had been an accident on the road and we all got on our phones but Bryan did not answer.'

'He was meant to be picking up Innes from school and when other members of his family could not get a hold of him that's when we knew.'

'Bryan was so full of fun and just enjoyed life to the full. We were all very proud of his darts but he was a family man first and foremost. Every year we would go on holiday with the kids.

That's what he worked so hard for - to provide for his family.'

Ms Gordon said the support from local people had been 'incredible' and could not get over how good the community had been.

She added: 'All the kids attend Spean Bridge Primary School and every parent, even the ones I don't know, have been offering help.'

'We did live here for 13 years but we have had so many messages of support from all over Lochaber and beyond. Bryan played darts all over Europe.'

Bryan's younger brother James, 31, a welder with Rio Tinto Alcan in Fort William, told The Oban Times: 'Bryan lived life to the absolute full. He was the oldest and was a fantastic big brother.'

'Myself and Bryan went all over the place playing darts and he was on the verge of the big time. When he got the call up to play for Scotland he was absolutely delighted. Representing your country - it doesn't get any bigger than that. Things for the family will never be the same again.'

The accident closed the A82 for seven hours. Four people have died on the A82 between Spean Bridge and Fort William since October.

second team as well. He played for Invergarry and Kilmallie before coming to us.

'He was a good family man. There is a tremendous sense of loss and everybody is thinking about his partner Dawn and the children. There's a terrible sadness about the place and folk just can't get over it.'

Mr Whyte was a member of the under-17 Kilmallie team which won the MacTavish Juvenile Cup in the early 1990s.

A regular in Corpach pub

BRYAN Whyte may have been heading for international darts stardom, but he was still a regular at the Trade Winds pub in Corpach.

Owner Duncan Carmichael told The Oban Times: 'Myself, Linda and staff and all our customers are devastated at the passing of Bryan.'

'He was a fantastic person and friend, he got on with everyone and always made you laugh.

He was a passionate sportsman and an outstanding darts player, he had the ability and the determination to go to the very top.

'There was no one prouder than Linda and I when he got his Scotland call up. Darts in Lochaber will never see anyone with the talent as good as Bryan again. He will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with Dawn and all his family.'



Darts star: Bryan Whyte.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Councillor to stand down in corroboration law protest

AN OBAN councillor elected as a member of the SNP has announced his decision to stand down after saying he can no longer support the principals of the party.

Fred Hall believes that the SNP's decision last week to vote for the removal of the legal requirement for corroboration in criminal complaints was a blow for justice and would make corruption and malicious complaints easier to prosecute.

He further believes the move - which requires to pass through two further

legislative stages, including Holyrood's Justice Committee - could lead to a cut in police numbers, as only one officer would be required on patrol instead of two.

Chief inspector

Oban's former police chief inspector will however stand for re-election when his seat is contested in May, saying that he wants to be selected on his own merit rather than that of the party he resigned from in May 2013 in protest at planned cuts against Atlantis Leisure.

In a letter to The Oban

Times, he said: 'On justice issues the division between my views and the SNP's are not compatible so I cannot in all honesty rejoin the party and therefore am of a view that I should stand down and fight a by-election as an independent candidate standing on my record to date.'

He added that the SNP government's decision on corroboration, which every SNP MSP voted for, could 'arguably lead to convictions for offences from breach of the peace through to serious



Fred Hall

offences based on nothing more than the word of one

person against another'.

He said he has timed his decision to coincide with the date of the May European elections, making a by-election 'cost neutral' to the council.

Responding to Mr Hall's comments, Argyll and Bute SNP branch convener Bob Allan said: 'He's not a member of the SNP so whatever he does is up to him.'

'It will be interesting to see who puts themselves forward.'

'I imagine we will have a

Technology helping high-flying scientists in Oban

AIR TRAFFIC control was on hand to teach the next generation of pilots for unique helicopters last week - in Oban's Corran Halls.

The pilots, however,

weren't getting ready to pin their wings on, but were preparing for cutting-edge scientific research by learning how to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) carrying a range of bespoke

surveying equipment.

Led by Dr Phil Anderson, scientists from across the UK and Europe gathered in the Corran Halls for a day of training, which saw teams learning first of all

how to fly the hovering survey vehicles, then how to use the instrumentation on board to gather data about the environment. That meant navigating a course simulating different

scenarios to learn how to use the bespoke sensors on board, learning how to decipher readings for volcanoes, health of plant-life, oil spills and even identifying and photographing wildlife on hard to reach places.

Dr Anderson said: 'This is for students who will be doing environmental research in their career.'

'Part of what we're doing is learning how to use the instrumentation, but it's also about learning the rules of flying the aircraft.'

Among the appliances for the aircraft is measuring weather patterns by measuring the reflection co-efficient, or albedo, of surfaces - which is particularly useful for monitoring fluctuations in the ice-caps - or even identifying sick plants within a forest or amongst thick vegetation by measuring subtle colour changes.

Several missions have already been flown in the north Lorn area, with Oban Airport being 'extremely helpful' in aiding progress, added Dr Anderson.

He said: 'We're producing and publishing papers already. It's science getting done and science we couldn't do in any other way and that's very pleasing.'



Among those learning to fly the remote-control aircraft last Wednesday are, from left, Elias Berra from Newcastle University, Richard Boothroyd of Durham University, Douglas Finch of Edinburgh University, George Graham from Plymouth University and Caroline Griffin of Stirling University. 16. 110sam1

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Business Opportunity

An opportunity is available for a person/company to run the woodland weddings at Caig Waterfalls, Loch Arkaig.

Previous experience of running this type of outdoor wedding is mandatory. Expressions of interest to be received by **20th March 2014**.

For more information please contact Kirsty Mann at Lochaber Forest District on 01397 702184 or email kirsty.mann@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

WATER

Problems our speciality!

Springs; Boreholes; Stream Collection; Roof Water

Get your own!

THE WATERMAN

SEWAGE

Does your system work?

Percolation Tests

Layouts for new builds

All systems serviced

We have 40 years experience

CALL THE WATERMAN

01360 860575
07787 548339
07787 548340

Normanmcknight-MCK@hotmail.co.uk

ALL SCOTLAND COVERED

Based in Stirlingshire

2014 Calendars

Save 50% when you subscribe to The Oban Times digital edition!

details at www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

Scottish Field Miniature

£7.50

Scottish Field

Last few remaining get your 2014 calendar while stocks last

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call 01371 851868

Target your customers

HALF PRICE

Promotional material design & distribution in your local paper

Only available at Krisp Print

Use promotional code CAKP1013

Advertise in one publication or a combination

Call today for your free quote

01586 554975

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown

email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

Terms and conditions apply. Offer only applies to full price leaflet print orders. Cannot be used in conjunction with another offer.



MAN & VAN AVAILABLE
 Call george 07766 171 426
 or 01631 567202

George does small uplifts of furniture, special deliveries for businesses and will also travel outside the Oban area if required to do so. If it fits in a transit van and he can move it then he will!

MAN & VAN AVAILABLE
 for uplifts & deliveries in and around Oban area
 Call George: 07766 171 426 or 01631 567202

D&A MUNN LTD.
 JOINERS & FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST.1880
 Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ

Windows & Doors, Kitchens, Maintenance & Repair,
 Insurance Work, Tiling etc.
 Telephone 01631 562562 Mobile: 07778373759
 Email: info@munns-oban.co.uk
 www.munnjoinersoban.co.uk

Ceol an Aire Ceilidh Band

Tel: 07729 474717 www.ceolanaire.com
 Available for weddings, parties,
 bar entertainment and any other excuse

Thistle Road Stone Ltd
 Road Surfacing Specialists

Recycled asphalt and tarmacadam
30% discount with no VAT
 Suitable for farm roads, driveways and garages and all patching work.
 All work fully guaranteed.

For further information and free estimates contact
 Head Office 01506 637552 or mobile 07876261385
 (Tony) or go to www.thistleroadstone.co.uk

H.C.MUNTON
 Painting Contractors

Cherry Picker
 and
 Handy Man
 available
 for hire

The Old Inn
 Easdale, Argyll
 PA34 4RF

Tel: 01852 300177 Fax: 01852 300088
 E-mail : hcmunton@yahoo.co.uk

LQRI
LORN & OBAN
 REUSE INITIATIVE
 GRAB TRUST
 GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE

Delivery Collection days Tuesday and Thursday
 Telephone 01631 569819

NEW LOOK POWER WASH
ROUGHCAST STONE CLEANING SPECIALIST

Roughcast cleaning is a process carried out using our own NLP cleaning solution which is not acid based and won't cause any damage. This is lightly sprayed over the roughcast and rinsed off. No water pressure at all involved. This means no stones or shells removed. We can also seal the cleaned area with NLP water barrier clear treatment to protect the roughcast at a low price.
 Free Quote and Free demo.
 Nothing to lose

SPECIAL OFFER UNTIL THE END OF MONTH
Roughcast Cleaning HALF Price
 Average Mid-Terrace House - Roughcast Cleaned From £300 - End Terrace £450, Detached £600 - All eilts, gutters, facias and windows included
CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
 Tel: 07596 859092
 01631-358027
 info@newlookpowerwash.co.uk
 www.newlookpowerwash.co.uk

ALL TYPES OF STOVES
 HETAS TRAINED INSTALLERS
 HETAS INDEPENDENT STOVE FITTER
FM
 PROPERTY CARE

INGLENOOKS SURROUNDS
 SUPPLIED & FITTED OR FITTING ONLY
 ADVANCED CITY & GUILDS

Tel. 01631 710851 Mob. 07730 654693
 Mob. 07830 522427 fmpropertycare@gmail.com

WANTED

All types of light commercial vans, pickups, etc..
 We also buy rough or high mileage, non-runners considered. Also all types of 4x4 vehicles, land rover, Toyota, etc...

Telephone 01250 884306
 or mobile 07885 203020

Iain Files Painter & Decorator

07768963768

- New Builds
- Interior + Exterior
- Ames taping and coving
- Wallpaper hanging

A High Standard of Workmanship at affordable prices

Tel: 07768963768

D&G FLOORING

OBAN
 Tel: 07525 782492

Qualified Floor Layers
 Specialising in all wood floors
 Carpet, Vinyl, Luxury Vinyl Tiles
 Distance no object

Tel: Donald 07545095663 or Garry 07525 782492
 dandg.flooring@aol.co.uk

ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES
 07834 640989

- OPEN FIRES - WOOD BURNING STOVES
- OIL & GAS FLUES - AGA & RAYBURN
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?
FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

Paicr buyout vote under way

AN ISLE of Lewis community will find out next week if they have become the new owners of the land on which they live.

Residents on Paicr Estate in South Lochs have already begun voting by postal ballot on a proposal that the Paicr Trust takes over the estate from present owner Barry Lomas.

Ballot papers must be returned by 4pm next Thursday ahead of a count run by the comhairle at a public meeting in Paicr School, Gravir at 7.30pm.

A 'yes' vote would see the trust become the new community landowners of the 26,775-acre estate under a £500,000 deal agreed amicably with Mr Lomas. The trust made a formal offer to the landlord after residents overwhelmingly backed the move at a public meeting in November. Funding is already in place to cover the purchase price, legal costs, two full-time posts and associated costs for the first two years following purchase.

Man ordered to pay girlfriend compensation

A FORT William man must pay his girlfriend compensation after a Boxing Day struggle resulted in her falling down stairs.

Stuart Young of Khan Yunis, Lundavra Road, repeatedly shouted at his girlfriend in her home, pulled bed covers from her and struggled with her in the early hours of December 26 last year. Young admitted the charge at Fort William Sheriff Court last month and Sheriff Richard Davidson deferred sentencing until Tuesday for a social work report. The woman fell down the stairs as she tried to get away from the 30-year-old and suffered a knee fracture, procurator fiscal Laura Ryan told the court. Sheriff Davidson ordered Young to pay his girlfriend £250 in compensation and carry out 75 hours of unpaid work in the community.



Disneyland bound: Lochaber High School Pipe Band with instructor Carolyn McKee, third right, prepare to play at St Andrew's Church Hall. 20_110band01

Disneyland date for Lochaber Schools Pipe Band

DISNEYLAND Paris is holding a Scottish theme day on July 5 - and Lochaber Schools Pipe Band will be there.

The theme park is holding a Scottish day on July 5 and invited the band to play at the event after hearing their audition on DVD.

The Lochaber pipers and drummers will

take part in a parade and play on stage with other pipe bands. But getting over to France will be expensive and to help fund the band struck up a fine tune at St Andrew's Church Hall in Fort William on Saturday.

Inside the hall, a coffee morning helped boost the total while band members collected

donations from shoppers on High Street in between sets. The money raised will also help pay for equipment.

Piping instructor Margaret MacMaster told The Oban Times: 'It is the first trip we have had for a long time so we are looking forward to it.'

Councillor hits out over Kinlochleven High School sports pitch lockout

BARRING children from a school pitch in south Lochaber was described as 'a scandal' at a meeting in Fort William last week.

Lochaber area committee heard the all-weather playing field Kinlochleven High School was locked to the local community during holidays and evenings under a contract between Highland Council and the school's owners, Alpha Schools Highland Ltd.

The new Kinlochleven High was completed in 2008 under the controversial public private partnership, which provided state-of-the-art facilities but limited community use to working hours. Now moves are underway to open up the pitch to the public after local councillor Andrew Baxter condemned the lockout. He said: 'It is an absolute scandal because of the PPP contract that community groups and children from the village are

effectively barred from the pitch outside school opening hours. It is ridiculous that throughout the summer holiday last year not a single game was played on that pitch because that gate was locked.

'We have the perfect opportunity for children in south Lochaber to use that shinty pitch and they simply can't. The council really needs to be getting to grips with the current PPP contracts that we have to see if

there is any way of varying their conditions.' Education, culture and sport learning and leisure client manager John MacDonald vowed to tackle the issue. He said: 'It does seem ridiculous that the playing field at Kinlochleven is sitting locked up during the summer.'

'We will try and find some way within the contract to look at the allocation of hours so that at least it can be used over the summer months.'

Dramatic rise in credit union membership

LOCHABER Credit Union has seen a dramatic rise in membership as local people choose a safe and affordable way to borrow and save.

The union, based at Claggan in Fort William, has welcomed 50 new members since October, compared to 12 in the same period last year, bringing the total number of members to 570.

Staff believe increased awareness of the benefits of joining a not for profit co-operative, rather than using 'payday' loan companies charging up to 6,000 per cent interest, was partly behind the trend. Lochaber Credit Union charges 26.8 per cent on loans under £2,000.

Office manager Cheryl MacFarlane said: 'Because it's a not for profit organisation, members aren't trying to make any money from your loan so they'll never try to force you to borrow more than you can afford to pay back.'

'Any profits made from interest rates go straight back into the credit union and used to improve our services.'

'We want to encourage all kinds of people to save and borrow with us. We want to

By EMMA CRICHTON crichton@obantimes.co.uk



Lochaber Credit Union manager Cheryl MacFarlane wants to encourage people of all ages and incomes to start saving. 20_110union01

to use payday loan companies and finding themselves in a lot of debt.

She added: 'We also want people to understand the importance of saving.'

'When you have been a member with us for three months you can borrow up to triple what you've saved so the more you save, the more you can borrow if something goes wrong with a car or your house.'

Ms MacFarlane has been visiting local schools to encourage children to start saving from a young age. Since visiting Caol Primary earlier this month 28 children have opened junior savings accounts.

She said: 'It's about explaining to children the value of money and the value of saving. It's not just for people who are struggling it can be used by anyone, including those who want to protect long term savings. 'We hope that this will encourage children to become financially responsible adults and that parents will pick up on this message from the kids.'

To set up a credit union account or for more information call 01397 700746 or go to www.lochabercrreditunion.org.uk.



Fergie's Folk with Fergie MacDonald

M15 - KGB - Mull Highland Games

During the fifties and sixties piping competitions at the Mull Highland Games attracted the world's top pipers.

Two of these were Pipe Major Donald MacLean and Pipe Major John Burgess. Even Bobby MacLeod composed a tune call John D Burgess in honour of this great piper. Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban is another favourite tune.

During the Cold War the Soviet Union and America were about to blow us all off the face of the earth in a nuclear holocaust.

There was a spy ring operating in Great Britain passing top secret coded messages to the KGB. Two Cambridge University graduates wormed their way into top posts in our secret services like M15.

Two of the most infamous characters involved in this act of treachery were called Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess. When their disloyalty was discovered by fellow M15 officers in the world of espionage a move was made to arrest them. They got wind of this and made their escape to Russia, warmly welcomed by the KGB.

Meantime while this great escape was headline news, our very own Donald MacLean and John Burgess were performing at the Mull Highland Games, having won between them all the piping events, piobaireachd, jigs, reels and marches, it called for celebration.

So intense was the celebration in the Mishnish that the King George sailed off to Oban without them. Eventually they got a lift up to Craignure hoping to get and alternate boat to Oban.

As they nipped into the Craignure Inn for a dram, the locals immediately recognised them and the inevitable ceilidh got into full swing.

One can almost picture the scene. Gaelic songs, bagpipes, accordions, fiddles and strip the willows. Couple this with everybody back slapping and shaking hands with these two piping celebrities celebrating their triumphant win at the games.

Now, the new barman from Buessan in Mull had just started in the bar the previous day, he had never witnessed anything like this in his life.

Who are these two guys creating all the fuss he asked a local? He was told that Donald MacLean and John Burgess were very famous personalities.

Amid the hilarity there was a BBC news flash alerting the British public that two British spies were on the loose and probably hiding in some remote part of the British Isles waiting to be picked up by the KGB agents.

Catch them before they defect to Russia was the message. Their names are MacLean and Burgess. Would you believe it? The barman nipped out to the public phone box and informed the local policeman of the terrible situation.

'MacLean and Burgess are in my bar' he said. The local policeman figured out that this was too hot a case for him to handle and called for reinforcements.

It would seem that the Oban Criminal Investigation Department and marksmen were mustered and dispatched by speedboat in haste. Destination - Craignure.

You couldn't make this up, but the fact is that it's true. Some story.



Fun for all at Banavie school car boot sale

Kilmallie Playgroup was among the stallholders at Banavie Primary School's car boot sale on Saturday morning. Above, trustee Elaine Dennison gets a helping hand from Banavie P6 pupils Molly Henderson, left and Josie Rigby. 20_110banavie01

Council accused of wasting public money by not maintaining grounds

HIGHLAND Council has been accused of wasting public money by failing to properly maintain grass sports fields in Lochaber.

And recent costly upgrades of pitches including An Aird and Jubilee Park in Ballachulish could prove worthless unless regular maintenance works were carried out. Lochaber area committee heard last week.

The warning came during a debate on a Highland Council report stating that pitches were 'in good condition for this time of year' and maintenance had 'improved'.

But furious councillors said those conclusions were not borne out by the reality clubs were facing on the ground. 'Blasting the report as 'Alice in Wonderland', Andrew Baxter

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

future maintenance programme in place. It is a waste of money.'

Brian Murphy pointed to 'a considerable mismatch' between the report and clubs telling him that essential maintenance was 'not happening'.

He said: 'We have a real difficulty here. We have worked for a number of years to get these pitches brought up to a reasonable standard but we are at the point where it will almost be seen as a waste of money.'

He added: 'All that money that has gone in is in the balance.'

Bill Clark demanded any savings from building the new Caol school campus should go towards pitch maintenance and repair.

He said: 'Bluntly, the report is so far out. Lochaber has more

rainfall than any other Highland area.

'This must be taken into account if our sports clubs are to be given the opportunity of playing on pitches which match the standard in other areas.'

'We keep saying we want young people to lead a healthy life and take up sports - well we have got to play our part.'

Committee leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'I have had more phone calls about pitches than I have ever had before. The strongest possible message has to come out from this committee today.'

The committee agreed to request an urgent meeting with top officials and clubs to discuss an action plan for proper investment and maintenance.

Lochaber groups combine to form revamped Chamber of Commerce

A NEW organisation was launched this week to champion Lochaber businesses and promote the area to visitors.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, created through a merger of The Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK) and the chamber itself, will now lead the drive to grow local companies and sell Lochaber as a premier destination for outdoor activities.

Negotiations on the move started last year, with regular meetings between the office bearers of both organisations, members and potential funders.

Chamber chairman Don Hind said on Monday: 'I am delighted to have been involved in the creation of this new entity which is an innovative, positive way forward for Lochaber.'

'Lochaber's economy is not only being driven by commercial industries but also by our substantial tourism attractions.'

He added: 'I believe that consolidating the Chamber and OCUK effort will allow us to work together to combine our efforts - attracting visitors and companies to Lochaber and creating new jobs for our area.'

Vice chair Marian Austin said a newly formed subsidiary company, Lochaber Chamber Enterprise Ltd, would develop internet services already in use by members, clients and visitors for marketing and information.

And chief executive officer Lesley Benfield was 'confident' the consolidation would target resources better



Chairman Don Hind and vice chairwoman Marian Austin launch the revamped Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. 20_110chamber01

and cut administration costs. She said: 'We are looking forward to developing a number of initiatives over the coming year, all of which will benefit businesses throughout Lochaber.'

Alison Gainsford of Highlands and Islands Enterprise looked forward to working with the new organisation. She added: 'To have a single voice for business will help to grow Lochaber's economy.'

Shops face fines over illegal workers

FOUR Fort William High Street businesses face stiff fines after eight immigration offenders were found working in the premises.

Seven men were arrested and face deportation following an intelligence-led operation by Police Scotland and Home Office immigration enforcement officers.

Four Bangladeshis aged 23, 25, 28 and 31 at Spice Tandoori were found to be in the UK illegally during the 5pm swoop last Thursday. At Nickel 'n' Dime, a 22-year-old man from Pakistan was detained for overstaying his visa, while a second Pakistani, aged 32, was arrested at his home on Friday after checks revealed him to have no right to be in the UK. At Indian Garden, a 54-year-old man from Bangladesh was also arrested for being in the UK illegally.

Meanwhile, officers escorted a 50-year-old Chinese man from Highland Star after

checks revealed he had no work permit. He will have to report regularly to the Home Office and if his outstanding application is refused he also faces removal from the UK.

All four businesses have been served with a civil penalty notice for breaching immigration rules.

The employers will be fined up to £10,000 per illegal worker unless they can prove the correct right to work checks were carried out - potentially costing Spice Tandoori £40,000, Nickel 'n' Dime £20,000, Indian Garden £10,000 and Highland Star £10,000.

Iain Stewart, from the Scotland Home Office immigration enforcement team, said: 'Businesses in Scotland which follow the rules have nothing to fear, but those who either deliberately employ people with no right to work or fail to carry out the legally required checks on their staff should expect to face heavy financial penalties.'

Advertisement for 'Book your advertising now for Holiday West Highland'. It features a collage of holiday brochures and text: 'Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to reach your full visitor potential for the 2014 season, call our sales team now on 01631 568000 or 01586 554646'.

Advertisement for 'FIBRE BROADBAND. BT INFINITY FOR BUSINESS FROM £30 A MONTH'. It lists benefits: 'SUPERFAST SPEEDS EVEN AT THE BUSIEST TIMES', 'FREE UNLIMITED WI-FI FROM OVER 5 MILLION HOTSPOTS', '99.99% RELIABILITY', and '24/7 DEDICATED BUSINESS HELPDESK'. It includes the phone number 0800 345 7963 and the website bt.com/businessinfinity.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be an example to young ambassadors

WE ALL need inspirational figures in order to achieve great things and Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre is no exception.

The Oban High School pupil was awarded the Adam Hunter Award, an accolade given to the country's most promising young player, at the annual Scottish Golf Union prizegiving last week.

But it wasn't until the youngster received his award that those in attendance realised his link to this particular trophy.

The late Adam Hunter, a close family friend who Robert once referred to as 'uncle', was his mentor throughout a fledgling career and his words of advice still ring in Robert's ears when he approaches each competition.

There is no doubt that with a little luck Robert can go on to have a successful career as a professional golfer and this will be due to the dedication he and his parents have consistently shown.

We, as a community, should celebrate those that make us proud to live in this part of the world and Robert is a fine example.

But we should all be aware of the example we set to others who have the potential to be equally great ambassadors.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs

IN KEEPING with the modern trend to acknowledge all anniversaries which end in zero, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs celebrated their 70th birthday with a concert in Milngavie Town Hall.

Special guest for the occasion was the Rhyader and District Male Voice Choir from Wales.

As is customary, both the senior and junior choirs, conducted by Kirsteen Grant and John Joe MacNeil respectively, sang with further solo contributions from Janet Campbell and Rena Gertz from the seniors and Rhianna Boyle, Rebekah Boyle and Christina Gorman from the juniors. The men from Wales, conducted by musical director David Hatton and accompanied by Bethan Rees, did not disappoint as they sang their way through their numbers as only the Welsh seem able to do.

With choir member Meg Buchanan providing piping selections and the Right Honourable Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, ensuring proceedings were relaxed and smooth-running, this was a most enjoyable concert with great variety throughout the programme.

It was a pleasure to see such a large attendance, with many of them taking the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality provided by choir members at the end of the concert.

Govan and the Gaels

ON SATURDAY this week, Friends of Govan Old Church will be looking at the role of Gaelic speaking migrants in the community of Govan over the years.

The day will start with the annual service at 12.30pm. This will be followed by tea and refreshments prior to the annual general meeting of Friends of Govan at 1.30pm. At 2pm, Professor Donald Meek will deliver a lecture 'Govan and the Gaels: Gaelic perspectives on life and work in an industrial community'. Admission is free at the church which is beside the Pearce Institute, 866 Govan Road, G51 3UU.

Gaels le Cheile

IN ASSOCIATION with the Glasgow St Patrick's Festival, Gaels le Cheile has organised a night of Celtic music. This will be held on Wednesday March 12 in the Glad Cafe, 1006a, Pollokshaws Road, G41 2HG at 7.30pm.

The frontline singers will be Geoidin Breathnach, Donegal, one of Ireland's best traditional singers and our own 2013 Mod Gold Medallist Robert Robertson.

For tickets, cost £7, telephone 0141 433 9495 or email cnag_glaschu@hotmail.com.

Reminders

THE ANNUAL Gathering Concert of the Glasgow Islay Association will take place in Glasgow University Union tomorrow evening (Friday) at 7.30pm.

The artistes will be Ainslie Hamill, Robert Robertson, Mairi MacGillivray, Alasdair Currie, the Ella Edgar Dancers and Martin Skene. John MacLellan, manager of Kilchoman Distillery, will be in the chair.

Please note that contrary to what was intimated in last week's Letter, there will not be a dance after the concert.

Saturday this week, from 9am, should be the venue for all piping enthusiasts to enjoy the Annual Professional Piping Competition organised by the Glasgow Uist and Barra Association.

Diary dates

Friday March 7: Glasgow Islay Gathering, Glasgow University Union - see above.

Saturday March 8: Glasgow Uist and Barra Professional Piping Competition, College of Piping - see above. Oban High School Former Pupils' Association Dinner Dance, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7.30pm. Govan and the Gaels - see above.

Sunday March 9: Scottish School's Pipe Band Championships, Broughton High School, Edinburgh.

Tuesday March 11: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm - Alan Reid and Rob Van Sante.

Wednesday March 12: Gaels le Cheile - see above.

Friday March 14: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Communn An Taobh-an-Iar Buffet Dance, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm. Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Annual Concert Glasgow University Chapel, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

ON FRIDAY the music in the Islay Inn will be played by Penny Dogs while it will be Ragaels there on Saturday. In the Park Bar it will be Nicky McMichan on Friday, Torridon on Saturday with Sunday still to be arranged. **Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 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

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Apology

IN LAST week's *Oban Times*, in the story titled 'Inconsiderate motorists using Oban hospital car park as a free, long stay solution, Oban Community Council chairwoman Marri Malloy was quoted as saying 'I have seen teachers doing it because there's not enough parking at the schools.'

This was an error. Marri actually said: 'I bet it's school teachers, because there's not enough parking at the schools.' Apologies for the error.



Benderloch Drama Club panto - 1960

Ishbel Banks of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which features the cast of Benderloch Drama Club's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, in 1960. Back row, left to right: Kate MacArthur; Andrew McIntyre; Alistair McGregor; Donald Campbell; Isobel Povey; Ada MacKenzie; Mary Mckerchar; Donald J Campbell; Leslie Kill and Roddy Murray. Front, left to right: Clive Proctor; June Whyte; Billy Broadfoot; Sheila Morrison; Nessie Morrison; Sheila Kidd; Donald Morrison; Mary McCol; Margaret Black and Mary Morrison. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Kilbowie House - a missed opportunity

Sir,

What a pity that the proposed redevelopment of Kilbowie House by Bombadil Publishing has been initially rejected.

Here was an imaginative plan backed by Scottish Enterprise to bring much needed jobs to Oban and with the support of Historic Scotland to turn a deteriorating building and grounds into a community asset.

What makes the pity even worse is that elsewhere on your pages it was reported that the council is to spend £90m attracting business and families to the area - what happened to joined up government? - and that *The Oban Times* itself in a freedom of information request established that the council is already sitting on £8m worth of vacant property.

The 12 permanent jobs offered by Bombadil in the first instance would be a real boost to the local economy and a diversification from traditional industry - consider that Oban Distillery produces a world class product with fewer staff than this.

It is to be hoped that the one far sighted councillor who supported Bombadil's proposals will in future be joined by his or her colleagues if this bid is reconsidered before Oban loses it to another town.

Name and address supplied.

Right to refuse derisory offer

Sir,

We read with interest your article about the abortive sale of Kilbowie House, with the derisory offer of £2,080 from Bombadil Publishing.

Bombadil is clearly hoping to profiteer from this at the taxpayer's expense, both in buying Kilbowie at a knock-down price and by taking the grant of £100,000 from Scottish Enterprise.

We have recently restored a Grade B listed building and have a clear picture of the costs involved. We know it can be a difficult and expensive process to restore such a building.

The valuation of £450,000 for Kilbowie may be somewhat too high, given its condition, but that does not make the building worthless. Kilbowie should be remarketed at a more

realistic price. We understand the pressure Argyll and Bute Council is under, not wanting to spend money on maintaining a building they no longer use. We also understand the economic imperative to create sustainable jobs in this area.

But we would urge the council not to be bullied into giving away a fine building on a prime site in Oban.

Mark and Suzanne McPhillips, Greystones, Dalriach Road, Oban.

Support our young athletes

Sir,

Congratulations to our young athletes, Ben Coates and Archie Spencer, on their success at the National Age Group Championships held recently in Glasgow.

Ben's progress in recent years has been impressive and all the more remarkable considering he does not have access locally to training facilities enjoyed by athletes in the central belt and most larger towns in Scotland.

For young people in Argyll to excel in sport at national level requires exceptional support from their family and Ben's parents have gone to great lengths and expense to ensure Ben is able to compete at the highest level, including the cost of weekly trips to Fife for training.

I read with interest in last week's *Oban Times* Councillor Roddy McCuish's comments on Argyll and Bute Council supporting Ben in the future.

Can I suggest this is the ideal time for Councillor McCuish and his fellow councillors, and council officials, to address the fact there are no all-weather outdoor facilities for athletics anywhere in Argyll.

With the building of new high schools in Oban and Campbelltown in the next few years, surely an area for jumps alongside a short 4/5 lane sprint strait is a possibility? A remote high school at Ullapool has a 60 metre sprint strait adjacent to a long jump pit and run-up and the Western Isles has had outdoor facilities for several years.

Our club in Lochgilphead presently caters for more than 100 young people at our indoor training sessions but we desperately need suitable outdoor facilities. We are hopeful we may get an all-weather facility for jumps at the Joint Campus which both our club and two schools

could benefit from. There is no guarantee this will ever happen though as we need to raise a considerable sum of money and require the support of both SportScotland and Argyll and Bute Council. In a year when the Commonwealth Games comes to Scotland, with athletics the centrepiece sport at Hampden Park, I challenge Argyll and Bute Council to finally do something to support our young athletes.

Bill MacCallum, Secretary and coach, Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

Fort William independence debate

Sir,

I would like to comment on some of the points made by Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp.

It may well be true that bailing out of banks is not enshrined in law but the UK Government introduced The Financial Services Compensation Scheme to ensure the general public's savings were covered should the banks need bailing out. The comments by the 'yes' campaign seem to suggest no such scheme would exist in an independent Scotland.

On the discussions regarding the DVLA and Inland Revenue centres at East Kilbride, has the 'yes' campaign tried to establish if these will exist in an independent Scotland? I suspect that all such 'shared' facilities will actually cease to exist if the vote is 'yes' and that Scotland would have to fund the set-up of its own infrastructures should it choose to be independent.

Voters really need to be asking themselves how much is independence going to cost me and what 'benefits' am I going to lose through independence. **Name and address withheld.**

Serious question

Sir,

An interesting letter from councillor James Robb of the SNP tells us the disgraceful vote taken by the Conservative and Unionist administration in Argyll and Bute has abandoned vulnerable people and families across Argyll to the obscene consequences of the bedroom tax.

Obviously he is correct to highlight this but when you look at the list of councillors who are part of the administration and who voted to abandon the most vulnerable of our people and

their families to this obscene tax we come across my friend councillor Roddy McCuish, ex SNP leader of the council like James Robb, and Mary Jean Devon, ex SNP councillor, so the make up of this group is not as straightforward as we are led to believe by councillor Robb.

As Roddy took his place on the platform alongside Michael Russell at the recent independence debate for the Yes camp it does leave a serious question to ask. Can you follow Tory ideology and condemn families to an obscene tax one day and speak on the virtues of the 'yes' side the next. Sadly I think not.

Neil MacIntyre.

Way ahead for Mull

Sir,

Mull is an outstanding place to visit and I have totally fallen for the island in terms of its culture, scenery, wildlife and people. However, when it comes to facilities for the visitor it leaves much room for improvement.

What has happened to the proposed small parking areas and interpretation project I heard about on my last visits? Toilets in some areas are virtually non-existent.

I also recall talk of possible National Park status. The Scottish campaign for National Parks refer to the 'islands' but little seems to progress. The Lomond and Trossachs National Park is a great example. Many jobs have been created including apprenticeships for young people. Their rangers do sterling work for the area and visiting public.

If Mull was to be given national park status it would create substantial local economic opportunities and social benefit to the community by increasing tourism which, in turn, generates income locally. There would also be more employment for local people and apprenticeship opportunities for the younger people of Mull with the national park authority.

Natural park rangers would be employed which amongst many things would bring benefit to the wildlife, in particular otters and eagles' nesting sites that are disturbed regularly by some - not all - photographers who at the present are rarely challenged for their poor ethics related to these species habitats.

Facilities that would be created would require servicing and maintaining, again creating job opportunities. **Martin McDerby, Southport.**

ISLAY LETTER

Islay gathering

MEMBERS of the Glasgow Islay Association will greet old friends and welcome new faces when they hold their 152nd annual gathering tomorrow evening, Friday, 7th March, in the Glasgow University Students' Union in University Avenue.

New president Janette MacArthur will be the welcoming hostess and among those in attendance will be grass root Ilich, representatives from kindred associations and Gaels who enjoy a lively Highland concert.

Making their gathering debuts are local singers Mairi MacGillivray and Alasdair Currie, two youthful multi-talented performers who have both featured highly on local and national Mod prize lists in recent years.

There will also be a rousing reception for the Ella Edgar Dancers whose terpsichorean skills never fail to delight and whose contribution to Islay's social scene is immeasurable.

Also appearing on the city stage will be Ainsley Hamill and Robert Robertson who also covered themselves in glory at the Royal National Mod in Paisley in October of last year. Ainsley secured for herself the silver pendant, Robert won the men's gold medal, and both have gone on to be much in demand following their Paisley successes.

Raising the tempo will be Lochaber

accordianist Màrtainn Skene and the official piper will be Pipe Major Andrew McCowan Junior.

Piano backing for the vocalists will be the responsibility of Kirsteen Grant who is also a Mod gold medallist and the current conductor of the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir.

Concert tickets cost £10 each and can be purchased at the venue prior to the concert start at 7.30pm.

Royal connections

KIERA MacAllister, a pupil at Port Charlotte primary school, chose the history and every day life of our Royal Family as the subject of her Endeavour Project.

She contacted various Royal press offices seeking assistance in her research and was overwhelmed by the encouraging responses she received from both Buckingham Palace and Sandringham House. Among the most pleasing of the responses was a reply from Sandringham written by the Hon Lady Mary Morrison, one of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting.

Lady Mary, a frequent visitor to Islay, told Kiera that her Majesty was very interested in the project and wished her well in her endeavours.

Lady Mary is the only daughter of the late John Granville Morrison, a Tory grandee, who became the 1st Baron Margdale. Her nephew Alastair Morrison is the current Lord Margdale and is the

island's principal landowner.

The Endeavour Projects are widely used in primary schools in Islay and Jura and are used to develop children's independence and making learning tasks particularly relevant to their own needs.

Fèis Òigridh

THIS year's Fèis Òigridh has been the best supported to date with close on 90 children enjoying three days of music workshops in the local high school during the February half term holiday.

Visiting and local tutors shared their musical skills on fiddle, clarsach, whistle, chanter, bodhran, guitar, keyboard and singing, and among those passing on their musical knowledge were members of the award winning Scottish band Mànran.

This year's festival also saw drama and dance incorporated into the group work sessions and an 'end of fèis' ceilidh showcased the results of the children's participation and enthusiasm.

While the main festival is geared for eight-to-18-year-olds a Fèis Beag has been introduced and caters for children up to eight years. This was a sure fire winner with 20 children taking part.

It was a busy time for the children and their tutors and especially so for the Mànran members who ended their island visit with a packed out gig in Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall.

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

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

'S TRIC A BHIOS FAIREACHADH déjà-vu gam bhualadh co-cheangailte ri cùisean leasachaidh na Gàidhlig! Tha mi a lán chreidsinn nach eil mi nam anor an sin oir tha iomairtean leasachaidh dhan chànan air a bhith a' dol fad iomadach bliadhna a-nise agus tha mi cinnteach gum faodar a ràdh gum bheil spionnadh bho leudachadh taic ionmhais air a bhith an cois na h-obrach airson corr air deich bliadhna fichead. Chan eil e na iongnadh mar sin ged a bhiodh luchd-leasachaidh agus luchd-naidheachd an sàs an-diugh aig nach eil cùis eòlais air na bha a' tachairt fad bhliadhnaichean air ais. As aonais oideachaidh sònraichte chan urrainn dhaibh tuigsinn mar a bha ire a' chànan agus ire misneachd na coimhearsnachd. Tha suidheachaidhean mar sin fìor ge b' e de an cuspair air an smaointich duine!

A' fàs suas san Eilean Sgitheanach dh'fhàs mise mothachail air a' bhuaidh a bh' aig turasachd air dualchas is cultar na coimhearsnachd agus an ire chun an robh crìonadh a' nochdadh ann an cuid a sgrìean gu h-àraid. Dh'fheumaiste a radh nach b' e coire an luchd-turais a bha sin neo fìu 's coire muinntir an àite a bharrachd, 's e bha seo ach riochd àird de ghniomhachas eadar-nàiseanta a' sguabhadh thairis air coimhearsnachd nach robh an gnìomhachas aig aithneachadh neo a' tuigsinn. Bha agus gu ire mhòr tha fhathast na daoine a tha a' stiùireadh gnìomhachas turasachd ann an Alba a' cuimseachadh air na h-aon iodhalan a th' air a bhith aca bho chionna fhada. Dùn Eideann agus an Fhèis, caistealan agus àraich eachdraidheil; golf; agus seallaidhean eireachdail.

Ach a dh'aindeoin gach adhartas a rinneadh le cor na Gàidhlig, chan eil ach ainmeachas ge b' eadach gu thoirt dhan chànan na dhan chultar mar phàirt luachmhor, thairneach agus tharraingeach dha luchd-turais.

Chuala mi aithrisean bho cho-labhairt ann an Èirinn a Tuath mu thurasachd cultarach an co-cheangal ri Gàidhlig is Gaeilge, agus gach soirbheachadh leis an iomairt. Ach carson déjà-vu?

Tha air sgàth 's gum tug mi fhìn is co-obrachach eile aig CNAG, le taic Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd, grunn bhliadhnaichean a' feuchainn ri turasachd cultarach den t-seòrsa seo a bhrosnachadh bho chionn mu fhichead bliadhna. Bha na Cumrigh agus na h-Èireannaich an sàs cuide rinn, ach cha robh rùn aig a' ghniomhachas a bh' ann atharrachadh is cha dh'gheimich turasachd cultarach.

Saoidh mi gum feum an suidheachadh sin atharrachadh ma tha dòchas gu bhith aig barrachd Ghàidheil air cosnadh às ùr a thoirt às an cànan is an dualchas!

LINGUISTIC cultural-tourism may not be the most alluring holiday marketing term, but I have long believed that the Gaelic language and culture is a unique selling point which has been virtually unexploited for Scottish tourism.

Gaelic is an undeniable visual and audible part of Scotland's living tradition. It has the potential to add extraordinary value and lasting impact to visitor experience if artfully combined with the country's world-renowned food, drink, and vistas.

Can Scottish tourism afford to overlook such a resource? **Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.**

Le taic bho

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

SCOTS
Heritage Magazine

SPONSORS

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9		10			
11	12		13		
			14		
15		16		17	18
			19		
20				21	22
23				24	

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 7 Lively (6) | 1 It may get into a jamb (4) |
| 8 Flat (6) | 2 Light coloured edible root (6) |
| 9 Press (4) | 3 Worshipping (7) |
| 10 Quiet (8) | 4 Ill will (5) |
| 11 Carangid fish (7) | 5 South American cowboy (6) |
| 13 Automaton (5) | 6 Outer protector... (8) |
| 15 Restrictions (5) | 12 ...or maybe this is outside it (8) |
| 17 Shuddering movement (7) | 14 Delivery address in America (3,4) |
| 20 Earth's orbital plane (8) | 16 Share (6) |
| 21 Actual (4) | 18 Bring back (6) |
| 23 Type of artist (6) | 19 Character (5) |
| 24 Unclothe (6) | 22 Flower out of bed (4) |

LAST week's SOLUTION

SPRING EDITION OUT NOW

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

Good report for Invernevis

AN NHS Highland-run care home in Fort William has passed an inspection of its residential and day care services with flying colours. Invernevis House was rated 'good' for its care and support, environment, staffing and management and leadership in the Care Inspectorate review.

Previous inspections at the home had left room for improvement but new manager Kit Cameron won praise for progress made under her leadership.

Joanna Hynd, NHS Highland district manager for Lochaber, said: 'Kit and her team have done an amazing job, particularly given the extra complications and challenges.'

Elsewhere, Tigh na Drochaid Resource Centre in Portree was rated 'very good' in three categories.

NHS Highland took on responsibility for adult social care in the Highlands in 2012 under a ground-breaking integration of services with Highland Council.

Bowman Court joy as council reconsiders

THERE was joy on Mull last week after a community campaign to ensure Bowman Court was run as a care home forced a council u-turn.

At a meeting on the island last week, Argyll and Bute Council agreed to run the facility as a care home in all but name, with five of the flats within the building plus one respite flat to be allocated to high dependency care when they each become vacant.

The other six flats will, when they become available, be allocated to medium dependency, with the expectation that the occupant may later require high dependency care.

Mull Community Council chairman, Mike Shilson, said: 'I am delighted with the overall result. It is a credit to all those over the years, who had the vision for what would be best for Mull and Iona, and who have worked so hard to achieve it.'



Making the most of the spectacular Northern Lights

lain Rennie of Balvicar braved the cold last week to take these stunning photographs of the aurora borealis over the Isle of Seil. Photographers were out in force when the phenomenon lit up the north of Scotland last Thursday evening.

Island pupils play the part of evacuees for wartime project

PRIMARY pupils at Tírce High School played the part of World War Two evacuees last week to help them understand the historical theme they are studying.

The children took on costumes imitating the clothes worn by children between 1939 and 1945, and carried the small cardboard boxes which would have held gas masks in war time.

They played the part of evacuees who were sent to live away from home to save them from the bombing

raids near industry targets, such as the shipbuilders on the Clyde.

Secondary pupils were encouraged to dress up as adults in working garb along with staff who came as Land Girls and factory workers.

Elegant Special mention goes to Mrs MacIntosh, who wore an elegant 1940s-style dress with her seamed stockings.

At lunchtime the canteen ladies put on a 'rationed feast' to give the pupils a taste of the resourceful and

unusual food people grew and ate on the Home Front in wartime.

The children were reminded that rationing was the opposite of our luxurious diet nowadays, with no sweets and very little sugar, less meat and more vegetables.

The school would like to thank all those who participated in the WW2 event, especially Mrs Malcolm who, with the canteen team and her cooking, made 1939 to 1945 come alive for the pupils.

Kilchrenan shed theft is third within a week

A THEFT from a home in Kilchrenan, between February 18 - 26, resulted in property worth £1,500 being taken. Two bikes worth £700 each and a trailer were

stolen from a 70-year-old householder's shed. The occupier returned to his property after a week on holiday, during which time Avich and Kilchrenan Community

Council informed him of recent thefts, to find the shed had been broken into. This is the third property in the area to be targeted over the same period of time.

North Argyll school to be mothballed

ARDCHATTAN Primary School in Bonawe is set to be mothballed in the summer, when three of the four pupils move up to Oban High School.

A meeting will be held at the school later this month to ensure that the building itself can be retained for community use though, with the building the only facility in the village suitable for public meetings and community gatherings.

The move comes just three years after the school was threatened with closure. One of those involved in the fight to keep it open is Susan Bland, now chairwoman of the parent council, whose son is one of those leaving the school this summer.

'It is disappointing but there are no kids here who can go into it,' she said.

'Nobody is going to blame any parent for not wanting their child to be the only pupil in a school so the community is really supportive of the decision.'

'No final decision has been taken, but we understand.'

A public meeting, at the school on March 20, will discuss how the building can be kept within community use.

Susan said: 'It's the only community venue for meetings so it is really important for Bonawe, for the community.'

Margaret Adams, chairwoman of Ardchattan Community Council, which

regularly meets at the school, added: 'We want the school formally mothballed rather than closed.'

'Without that building for meetings and community events, they don't have anything.'

She said she hoped the school would reopen in future.

'There are two houses being built by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) which are quite small, but they did come to a community council meeting and ask what kind of family we'd like to see there. We're obviously looking for young families, so hopefully they'll be able to find something as it'd be great to get some young families here again.'



From left, Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church session clerk Mabel Wallace, interim moderator and locum the Rev Adrian Varwell and ordained local minister Rev Morag Muirhead look on as the Very Reverend John Christie cuts the ribbon to open the new hall. 20_1104hall01

Church hall opening

DUNCANSBURGH MacIntosh Parish Church officially opened its new hall on Saturday.

A weekend of events marked the occasion including a service of dedication from very reverend John Christie, former moderator of the general assembly of the Church of Scotland. After the service the congregation celebrated with a meal and ceilidh followed by a service of thanksgiving and baptism on Sunday.

Mabel Wallace, session clerk for Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, said: 'It was a fabulous weekend, it was really nice that there was such a variety of things happening.'

'The church has been here since 1881 so hopefully the new hall will be used in future centuries.'

Inspiring Change
FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Saturday 8th March 2014

We may all be familiar with celebrating Mother's Day, but did you know that a growing number of countries mark International Women's Day? On Saturday, March 8, women across the world will be advocating for greater gender equality. In some countries, International Women's Day is an official holiday. Some countries, such as China give women the day off work. In countries where the day is a public holiday, workers get the day off to celebrate their identity. Armenia, Burkina Faso, Mongolia and Kazakhstan are a few of the countries that are taking the day off. Many countries use flowers as a symbol of International Women's Day. Russians give a variety of flowers, including red roses. In Vietnam it's not just boyfriends and husbands giving flowers to the women in their lives, but also bosses and colleagues. Schoolchildren often bring gifts for their teachers, too. In Italy to celebrate the day, men give yellow mimosas to women.

But while women have made great strides in advancing their cause since the first International Womens Day in 1911, there is still much to be done to ensure that women are recognised, valued and respected for their contribution to social, political, economic and everyday life. While much has been achieved there is still much work to be done, especially when it comes to gender based violence and abuse and this is why Lochaber Women's Aid are proud to support and celebrate International Women's Day. As the only service providing specialist support to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse, we are only too aware of the issues faced by many women in their struggle for gender equality. Over the past 12 months, more than 70 Lochaber residents came to us for support and advice to help them address the effects of domestic abuse. The services that we can provide in support of women include safety planning for a woman and her children; accompanying women to the police or

housing departments; registering with a GP; enrolling children and young people at a new school; supporting women through legal action and the court system. We can provide information to women on housing options; benefit entitlement; and help women to access legal advice locally. Through our Children and Young People's Service we provide information sessions in school to raise awareness of domestic abuse; raise awareness of dating abuse - encourage children and young people to be aware of the warning signs for potentially abusive relationships; promote healthy and respectful relationships and internet safety. So we urge Lochaber residents to join with us and other countries such as China, Russia and Italy and celebrate women on March 8. For specialised, confidential support contact Lochaber Women's Aid on 01397 705734. More information and advice about dealing with domestic abuse can be found at www.lochaberwomensaid.org

Lochaber Women's Aid

If you or someone you know is being abused, don't be scared tell someone

provide confidential, sensitive support and advice during and after crisis to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

We have specialist workers who will understand your concerns and help you.

Proudly Celebrating International Women's Day

Contact us on: 01397 705734
 3 Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 6BT
 E-mail: lwa@lochaberwomensaid.org
www.lochaberwomensaid.org

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in Scotland No: SC330605 Scottish Charity Number SC034484

Rape and Sexual Abuse Support
 Tel. 01631 567190

ARGYLL & BUTE RAPE CRISIS Offers free confidential support to Women, Men and Young People (13+) who have been raped, sexually assaulted and/or sexually abused at any time in their lives.

Female Helpline: 08001 214685
Male Helpline: 08000 320399
support@ab-rc.org.uk info@abrc.org.uk
www.ab-rc.org.uk

The only specialist service of its kind in Argyll providing emotional and practical support to survivors of sexual violence and their family/friends. Support can be accessed face to face, telephone or email. We provide advocacy for survivors through medical and Police/ Court procedures. We will support a survivor whether they report to Police or not. Our TESSA Youth Project delivers interactive, age-appropriate prevention workshops to give young people a safe place to discuss boundaries, grooming (online/relationship) and to challenge sexualised behaviour. We operate male and female Helplines, provide training/awareness raising to other frontline agencies and facilitate Group Peer Support sessions.



International Women's Day

INSPIRING CHANGE
ABOUT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2014

When: 8 March
Where: Everywhere

What: Women's equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action.

IT'S A family BUSINESS





Stewart McNEE
(Dunoon) Ltd
BUILDING CONTRACTORS

ALL TRADES BUILDING CONTRACTORS

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • MAINTENANCE & REPAIR
• EXTENSIONS • PROPERTY ALTERATIONS • NEW BUILD HOMES
• JOINERY • ELECTRICAL • PLUMBING • HEATING • ROOFING
• GROUNDWORKS • DESIGN AND ESTIMATING

Working throughout Argyll and Bute

The Company was created in 1973. Ian McNee, current Managing Director, purchased the business in 1991. Ian is a time-served joiner with a keen eye for a quality product.

Stewart McNee Ltd is an integral part of the local economy and now has over 65 employees covering all trades, many of whom have been with the business since apprenticeship.

We believe:

- In honesty, respect and trust
- A lasting commitment to the Community we work in
- The sustained development of our Company and our Employees
- Planned and profitable growth with our Partners and Clients

TEL: 01369 702578 FAX: 01369 706315
enquiries@stewartmcnee.co.uk





DAVID PETRO
FORESTRY SERVICES

- ▲ Tree surgery
- ▲ Site clearance
- ▲ Stump Grinding
- ▲ Dangerous tree removal
- ▲ Tree Surveys and Consultancy
- ▲ Forest Establishment work
- ▲ Chipper/Stump grinder hire
- ▲ Fully NPTC Certificated
- ▲ Fully Insured
- ▲ 24 Hr Emergency Call-out
- ▲ Insurance approved
- ▲ Treatment of Japanese Knot weed



Office: 01369705564 Mobile: 07884434257 Email: petro.glen@btinternet.com Web: www.dpforestry.co.uk

The George Hotel

Enjoy the ambiance, local cuisine and sample our real ales or choose from over 100 malt whiskies

For more information contact
The George Hotel Tel: 01499 302111 or
email info@thegeorgehotel.co.uk
www.thegeorgehotel.co.uk

The Clark family have presided over The George hotel since 1860. It has the distinction of being the longest continuously run hotel in Scotland. The family influence is evident when you enter the premises. Hiding behind the black and white Georgian facade is a well maintained interior influenced by exposed walls, flagstone floors, antique furniture and four open fires on the ground floor. The Cocktail bar is a stunning design mixing Olde World with the modern demands of customers.

The George is a lively haunt for both local characters and visitors alike with a wide choice of real ales, 100 malt whiskies and an extensive cocktail and wine list. It deserves its place in the Good Pub Guide and the Good Beer Guide. We also feature live music every Friday and Saturday.

The kitchen is headed up by two classically trained French chefs who marry their knowledge with the demands of the Scottish palate. The emphasis on the menu is using the very best of local quality, well hung West Highland beef and lamb. Seafood and fish bought from the local fishing port of Tarbert and the famous Loch Fyne salmon. These ingredients are used imaginatively and simply to produce well cooked meals at a fair and reasonable price.

The George Hotel and First House have 24 bedrooms, each with its own individual features and style. All have been sensitively and carefully restored in keeping with the building, its history and its architecture, making each one individually different. Features include whirlpool baths, fireplaces and four poster beds.

Various awards over the years include Silver award 2008 and 2009 for Best Gastropub in Scotland, The Best Pub in Scotland 2011 from the Good Soup guide The Dram Award 2013 for Best Family Run Pub in Scotland.

With the hard work and dedication that the team at The George commits to, we try and ensure that the customer has a good quality product and service at a fair price.

RWHB LTD.

01290 700073

Agricultural & Industrial Buildings

Based in Ayrshire, Supplying Scotland
www.rwhb.co.uk enquiries@rwhb.co.uk

RWHB Ltd. are a long established company with a proven track record in the design, fabrication, supply and erection of Agricultural and Industrial steel frame buildings. We are able to assist with Planning and Building Warrant Applications and can provide SER Certificates when required.

Call us to discuss you're project and we will provide you with the most efficient design and estimate of costs.

01290 700073
enquiries@rwhb.co.uk

D. McNAIR & SON LTD

Fuel Oil Specialists

Established and Trading within Argyll since 1903 – 110 years serving the community

FOCUSED on Service, Quality Fuels,
Reliability, Fairness, Price and
FOCUSED on YOU

No sales gimmicks
or promotions
just fair pricing
every week
year in year out

Competitively Priced Fuel throughout Argyll, serving YOU, when you need us

Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6EG Tel: (01586) 552020 (24hrs) Email: sales@dmcnairshipping.com



DAWSONS

Alliance House, 1 George Street
Oban, PA34 5RX, Tel: 01631 563901
www.alexanderdawson.co.uk

Mandy Carmichael joined the team at Dawsons in 2007 and bought the business from its founder, Sandy Dawson, in 2009. Mandy, who comes from an entrepreneurial family background, had always wanted to run her own business and saw this as the ideal opportunity to fulfil this ambition by taking on a well established and highly respected estate agency. This year Dawsons Estate Agents is proud to celebrate its 40th anniversary with the launch of a new website, including a mobile site and Facebook business page and will always continue to maintain its ethos of providing exceptional customer care and superior service backed by experienced and professional estate agents.



Mull Slaughterhouse Ltd



Keeping it local

Know exactly where you meat has come from, support local producers

SLAUGHTER DATES FOR MARCH & APRIL 2014

TUES / WED 18TH & 19TH MARCH TUE / WED 1ST & 2ND APRIL

DATES ARE BOOKING UP QUICKLY, PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

HAVE 100% FAITH IN YOUR FOOD - REARED LOCALLY · KILLED LOCALLY · BUY LOCALLY · EAT LOCALLY

01680 300318 enquiries@mullslaughterhouse.co.uk



D&A Munn Ltd, Funeral Directors, based in Oban, Argyll, are a family-run company providing a complete package, tailored to meet the needs of each individual client. D&A Munn is owned and run by Ian MacInnes and Son, who have over 75 years experience between them. Established in 1880, we have over 130 years experience of providing a professional and bespoke service, offering advice and assistance with all aspects of the funeral arrangements. As an independent family owned business we are able to offer personal and sympathetic guidance through all the formalities of arranging the funeral for a loved one, either at our offices, or in the comfort of the family home.

We also offer Pre Paid funeral plans from Golden Charter where you can make your own funeral arrangements in advance. This can be paid for in full or in monthly installments, whichever best suits your requirements. Please call in or telephone for further information regarding this.



D&A MUNN LTD.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est 1880
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes & Son

BREADALBANE STREET • OBAN • PA34 5NZ TEL: 01631 562562 • FAX: 01631 562203 EMAIL: info@munn-oban.co.uk www.munn-oban.co.uk

Historian casts doubt over correct meaning of Inveraray

COULD the meaning of Inveraray's name be wrong? One Glasgow-based historian certainly thinks so.

Adam Ardrey, whose books *Finding Merlin* and *Finding Arthur* suggest that King Arthur's real-world homeland might have been Mid Argyll, has been delving into the history of the Royal Burgh after becoming convinced its modern name is the result of a mis-spelling.

Author convinced modern name is result of mis-spelling

Currently, Inveraray's Gaelic translation is written as Inbhir Aora, which he says roughly translates to 'Inlet of the Rough Waters'.

Mr Ardrey suggests the correct spelling is Inbhir Airigh, or 'Inlet of the Lords' - reflecting the presence of the Duke of Argyll and previously, possibly, King Arthur.

Local historian and Gaelic speaker Neil-Iain MacLeod says he doubts it, but admits there could be mileage in the story.

Explaining his research, Mr Ardrey said: 'Inbhir means Inlet, everyone agrees about this. What does 'aray' mean? That is the question.'

'The name Inveraray has had innumerable spellings over the centuries, including: Inreyra; Innowreyra; Inveraray; Invedraray; Inaoraora; and Inveraíreay.'

Which one holds the key to the original meaning?

'The answer is Inbhir Airigh, Inlet of the Lord or Lords.'

To back up his case, he cites John O'Brien's *Focalóir Gaoidhíle-Sax-Bhéarla: An Irish-English Dictionary* (1768), a dictionary compiled with reference to first millennium texts. It says Airigh means: 'Certain, particular, especial [sic] and, in a separate entry, 'A Prince, a nobleman'.

He adds: 'Airigh, according to O'Brien, does not mean a summer pasture or shieling which is what many modern Gaelic speakers will tell you it means. According to O'Brien, in the first millennium, summer pasture or shieling was Airghe.'

History further corroborates his story, he said.

'Dunardry or Dun Ard Airigh - Hillfort of the High Pasture? Why would the main hillfort in Argyll, the hillfort that dominated the most important land route in Argyll (it was a land route before the canal was built) be named the hillfort of the high pasture?'

'Is it not more likely that such a fort would be named the Hillfort of the High Lord/Lords? Of course it is.'

Glen Airigh should also be translated as Glen of the Lord or Lords, rather than Glen of the Pasture, and Lecknary between there and Kilmichael Glassary is a corruption of the Gaelic name, meaning not Flag Stone of the Serpent, but Flag Stone of the Lord or Lords.

Further backing up his case, Mr Ardrey adds: 'The river Add runs through Glen Airigh, past the 482 metres of the hill Airigh Ard, which, according to the conventional wisdom, means hill of the high pasture,

although, again, for no obvious geographical reason. By my account, it is the hill of the high lord or lords.'

'North of Airigh Ard south of Ben Dearg is the source of the River Add. Beyond Ben Dearg the hills slope away, down to the town of Inveraray, the ancient seat of the Dukes of Argyll. This brings us back to Inveraray.'

'These are but a few of many more examples of Ard and Airigh place names in Argyll, all of which make sense if the ending 'aray' was originally Airigh - and if Airigh means Lord or Lords.'

Accurate

'If I am right then the Inveraray signs should be changed. Played right, everyone wins. We get an accurate sign - we get publicity - we get tourists - and the Duke of Argyll ends up living in a town called the Inlet of the Lord.'

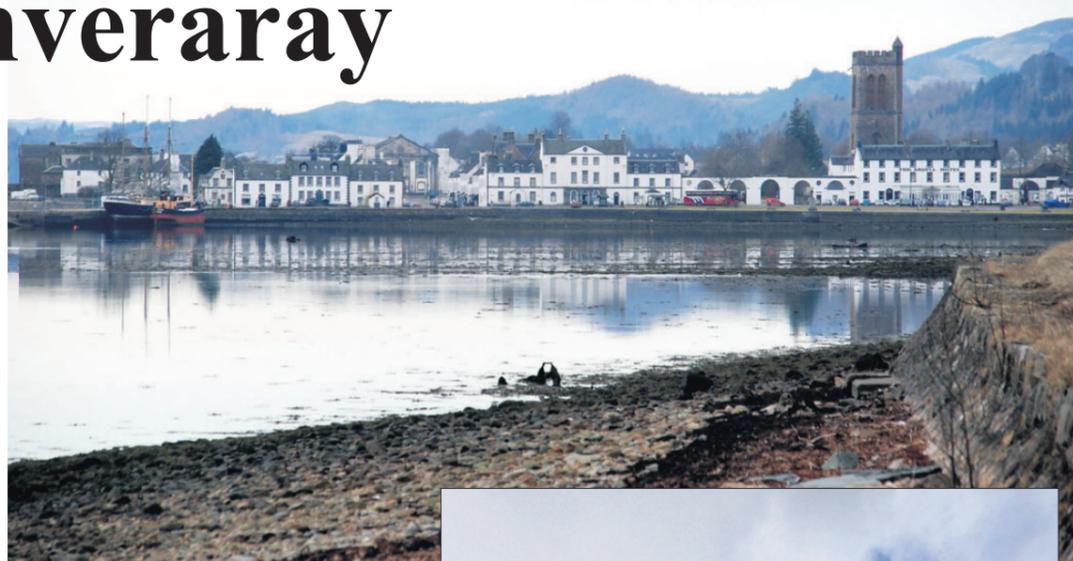
Asked about the theory, Neil-Iain MacLeod said: 'I doubt it, but the true meaning could have been lost in time.'

'Inver means inlet, everyone knows that. The name really comes from the River Aray, which runs around the back of Inveraray Castle and out at the traffic lights [into Loch Fyne].'

'The name does come from a place where landowners used

to put their livestock for the summer, but I do suppose that could be wrong.'

As for the Lords in question, they are looking at the research with interest, but the Duchess of Argyll admitted 'to have to start re-branding the castle would be a shame' but added: 'From what I gather, the pronunciation of the town should be Inver 'aira' and not Inver 'airee', which explains why the Gaelic spelling now is why it is - but I am no expert.'



Right: Could Inveraray really mean Inlet of the Lords, instead of Inlet of Rough Water? The River Aray runs around the grounds of Inveraray Castle, home of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll.



Could Inveraray's Gaelic translation be incorrect? Historian Adam Ardrey certainly seems to think so.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

20 YEARS AGO



MARCH 3 1994



Connel Village Hall's £2,000 TSB boost

Funds are still pouring in for Connel's new village hall which is well under construction. Village hall committee chairman Harry Powell and hall treasurer Mairi Dunnings were delighted to receive a £2,000 TSB Foundation grant from TSB Customer Services manager Martin Harvey, left, and Oban TSB branch manager Brian McGee. 110twenty04



John Angus Henderson, coxswain of the Tobermory Lifeboat. 110twenty06

Council to fund opening reception for new lifeboat station

Argyll and Bute District Council has agreed to fund a civic reception for 300 people to mark the opening of the new lifeboat station at Tobermory later this month.



Volunteers gain advocacy certificates

The Highlands' first advocacy service was launched last Thursday. A packed audience listened to guest speakers talk about the need for such a facility in the district. Councillor Olwyn MacDonald presented the volunteer advocates with their certificates at the start of Lochaber Advocacy Service held in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William. 110twenty05



Islay plant to create 35 jobs

A £1.2m project to build a shellfish processing plant will provide about 35 new jobs for the island of Islay. Standing on the site of the new factory, David McIntyre, Islay-born chief executive of Argyll and the Isles Enterprise, second left, and Archie MacFarlane, director of Islay Shellfish and Game Ltd, extreme right, discuss the plans with Freddie Bell, local business counsellor, George Graham, AIE board member and Graham MacLean, development officer for Islay, Jura and Kintyre. 110twenty02



Helping to save children's lives

Youngsters at Glencruitten Hostel have raised more than £1,200 to help save children's lives. Generously backed by staff, families and friends, 56 pupils at the Oban hostel have raised the money for the Scottish Children's Hospice Appeal as a result of a campaign begun last November. 110twenty03



Oban Pipe Band makes the grade

Oban Pipe Band, last year's Grade 3 British Champions, were guests at a district council reception held in their honour in the town's Regent Hotel. Beating the drum for Oban Pipe Band are councillors Ian Smyth and Robin Banks. Along with pipe major Ian Hurst and president Joey Simpson they got together at a council reception to honour the Oban band. 110twenty01

What's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - March 6

7.00pm, Public talk on the Corryvreckan Ocean Explorer Centre, Oban
7.30pm, Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.

FRIDAY - March 7

Indian Night, Taynuilt Hotel, Taynuilt

SATURDAY - March 8

12 noon - 2.00pm, Soup Lunch, Oban Pipe Band Hall, Shore Street

TUESDAY - March 11

7.30pm, Glencruitten Golf Club, Whist Drive

WEDNESDAY - March 12

8.00pm, Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray

THURSDAY - March 13

7.30pm, Oban High School Pipe Band & Friends in Concert, Corran Halls, Oban

FRIDAY - March 14

Viewing (5.00pm) Auction (6.00pm), Charity bric-a-brac Auction, Crianlarich Village Hall

THURSDAY March 20

7.30pm, 60TH North Lorn drama festival, Appin Village Hall

Advertising here is FREE

Simply email details of your event to
whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

Taynuilt Hotel

Indian Night

Friday 7th March from 6pm - 9pm

We shall be hosting one of our themed food evenings with the focus on the wonderful cuisine of India. With scrumptious starters and delicious curries at all levels of spiciness, why not book a table and enjoy an evening of exotic dining.



T: 01866822437 E: taynuilt@taylorhotel.com
www.taynuilt.com

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Fort William Thu 27 Feb - Sat 1 March
Strontian Mon 3 March
Lochaline Tue 4 March
Craignure Wed 5 March
Tobermory Thu 6 - Sat 8 March



Lego (U) 100 mins "An uproariously funny family adventure." The Telegraph 28/02 at 5.30pm, 01/03 at 2pm, 03/03 at 5.30pm, 04/03 at 5.30pm, 05/03 at 5.30pm, 06/03 at 5.30pm, 08/03 at 2pm

Frozen (PG) 108 mins Disney's latest animated delight. "Sweet story and strong characters." Scotsman 27/02 at 5.30pm

American Hustle (15) 138 mins Caper movie which oozes pizzazz. "... Irresistibly watchable black comedy..." The Guardian 28/02 at 8.30pm, 03/03 at 8.30pm, 05/03 at 8.30pm, 08/03 at 8.30pm

The Railway Man (15) 116 mins Powerful story of a POW's ordeal working on the Burma railway. "Scrupulously tasteful film." The Scotsman 27/02 at 8.30pm, 01/03 at 8.30pm, 04/03 at 8.30pm, 06/03 at 8.30pm

Philomena (12A) 98 mins True story of an Irish woman's search for her son. "... a crowd-pleaser and drama of real intelligence..." The Telegraph 01/03 at 5.30pm, 07/03 at 5.30pm

Book in advance at: www.screenmachine.co.uk or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50



Spirits high at Fort William



Club stalwart Colin Neilson and wife Grace were guests of honour at the dinner.



Top table guests and players at the Sportsman's Dinner with guest speakers Andy Goram, sixth from left standing, and Murdo MacLeod, fourth from right standing.

New 'Castles and Clans' tours to showcase the best of the west



The Majestic Line's Glen Tarsan, which operates out of Oban.

A TEN day tour of Argyll and the Hebrides 'Castles and Clans' is set to bring new life to an Oban-based cruising company. The Majestic Line has already built a name as one of Scotland's most successful small-ship cruise operators, but they hope their tie-up with Argyll company Best Scottish Tours will provide 'the ultimate experience on land and sea for visitors to Scotland'. Both 10 and six day cruise schedules are being launched this year, with the company promising an 'unforgettable experience'. The Castles and Clans tour launching from Oban is a 10 day tour giving a 'unique glimpse of Scottish clan history', while the Castles and Clans of Mull and Glencoe tour lasts six days, cruising up the Sound of Mull with stops at Castle Duart, and Tobermory. A spokeswoman added: 'Food and drink is an important aspect of the onboard experience, with meals based on the wonderful produce available from hill, glen and sea, including a celebration of the 'Chief-tain o' the Pudding Race', the Haggis.'

Appin café expands into wildlife hub



Nicola Meekin, left, and Alana McRae of The View and Co. will be celebrating 10 years of the business this week.

AN APPIN entrepreneur, who is celebrating 10 years in business this week, says the village has an untapped potential to become a tourism hotspot. Nicola Meekin, who runs The View and Co., formerly Castle Stalker Cafe, has revealed plans to expand her business to exploit the abundance of nature on her doorstep. Her cafe and gift shop overlooks a picture-postcard view of Castle Stalker and Loch Laich and Nicola is keen to provide more for visitors with the forthcoming launch of the Wildlife Hub. The new venture, which Nicola will operate alongside wildlife photographer Philip Price, will provide a state-of-the-art cinema in which to view wildlife films, a viewing platform and a bee hive. Nicola, who worked with the tourist board before going into business with her sister, Laura Carmichael, told *The Oban Times*: 'Having this view has really opened my eyes to what the area has to offer and the Wildlife Hub will help that. The area has a lot of potential, because of a surge in wildlife tourism. I want to see people spend a day in Appin instead of passing through. That is the challenge for businesses here.'



Mary Ann Kennedy leads Ceol nan Coisir.

Choristers meet for workshop on Mull

ALMOST 80 choristers from five west Highland Gaelic choirs recently attended a choir workshop at Isle Of Mull Hotel, Craignure, on Mull. The annual Ceol nan Coisir, organised by Mull Gaelic Choir and conducted by Mary Ann Kennedy, concentrated on this year's Royal National Mod set pieces for rural choirs. Those taking part included choristers from Mull, Tarbert, Taynuilt, Oban and Lochaline. In the evening, the choristers enjoyed a very enjoyable ceilidh and well-earned dram or two.

Full house for Ian Muir Trio



The Ian Muir Trio entertained a delighted audience in the Argyll Hotel.

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club welcomed another full house at its February club night in the Argyll Hotel. Much anticipated club members, The Ian Muir Trio, were well received by the Inveraray audience. The trio, with Ian on accordion, Marie Fielding on fiddle and Neil MacMillan on keyboard, gave excellent performances throughout the night and entertained their audience in-between performances. Other local players on the night included, Fyne Folk, with Sally Hall and Jake MacKay on fiddle and Agnes Liddell on keyboard.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
Sunday Lunch
12.30pm - 3pm
Treat your Mother to our succulent Sunday lunch menu with all the traditional favourites
£9.95 2 course ~ £11.95 3 course
With a gift Mum will cherish!
Book NOW to avoid disappointment
COLUMBA HOTEL - OBAN
Corran Esplanade, North Pier
01631 562 183

Target your customers
Call today for your free quote
01586 554975
Main Street Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk
HALF PRICE
Promotional material design & distribution in your local paper
Advertise in one publication or a combination
Only available at Krisp Print
Use promotional code CAKP1013
Terms and conditions apply. Offer only applies to full price leaflet print orders. Cannot be used in conjunction with another offer.

Sportsman's Dinner



Fort William manager Danny Conlon and committee member David MacDonald enjoyed their night. **20.110600e02**

THEY MAY be bottom of the Highland League, but support for Fort William FC appears to be going from strength to strength after a highly successful Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday night.

Over 100 people turned out for the fundraiser in the Moorings Hotel to hear guest speakers, former Old Firm Scotland stars Andy Goram and Murdo MacLeod, entertain their audience with hilarious tales from their footballing days.

The evening began on a sombre note, when club finance director Stewart MacLean asked for a short silence to remember Spean Bridge man Bryan Whyte, who tragically died in a car accident the day before.

Mr MacLean gave an upbeat summary of how the club had transformed its fortunes off the pitch through a pro-active campaign to pull in sponsorship from local businesses and individuals, whom he thanked for their ongoing support.

He also paid tribute to Colin Neilson, who had done so much for the club ever since it was formed in 1972.

And Mr MacLean praised manager Danny Conlon and his assistants for their ongoing efforts to get things right on the park. He said: 'They are fighting to get us off bottom spot in the Highland League and boys, I have every confidence that you will do it this season.'

Oban Phoenix Cinema	The Lego Movie	Thurs 6th	18.30 3D		
	Dallas Buyers Club	Thurs 6th	21.00		
	The Monuments Men	Fri 7th	21.00	Sat 8th	21.00
		Sun 9th	16.00	Mon 10th	16.00
		Tues 11th	21.00	Wed 12th	18.00
		Thurs 13th	21.00		
	Dalai Lama Awakening	Mon 10th	19.00		
	The Book Thief	Fri 7th	18.00	Sat 8th	18.00
		Sun 9th	19.00	Mon 10th	21.30
		Tues 11th	18.00	Wed 12th	21.00
		Thurs 13th	18.00		
	Tinker Bell and The Pirate Fairy	Fri 7th	16.00 3D	Sat 8th	13.00 3D, 15.30 2D
		Sun 9th	13.30 3D	Mon 10th	18.30 (screen 2)
		Tues 11th	18.30 2D (screen 2)	Wed 12th	18.30 2D (screen 2)
		Thurs 13th	18.30 2D (screen 2)		

Tel: 01631 562905 - Box Office: 08719 025752

The Lego Movie (U)
The original 3D computer animated story follows Emmet, an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average LEGO minifigure, who is mistakenly identified as the MasterBuilder and the key to saving the world. He is drafted into a fellowship of strangers on an epic quest to stop an evil LEGO tyrant from gluing the universe together, a journey for which Emmet is hopelessly and hilariously underprepared.

Dallas Buyers Club (15)
Dallas 1985. Electrician and sometimes rodeo bull rider Ron Woodroof lives hard, which includes heavy smoking, drinking and drug use. While in the hospital on a work related injury, the doctors discover that he is HIV+, and that he will most-likely die within thirty days. Ron begins to research the disease, which seems to be most effectively treated by the drug AZT. AZT, however, is only in the clinical trials stage within the US. Incredulous that he, as a dying man, cannot pay for any drug which may save or at least prolong his life, he goes searching for it by whatever means possible.

The Monuments Men (12A)
An unlikely WWII platoon are tasked to rescue art masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their owners. The film focuses on an Allied platoon made up of seven museum directors, curators, and art historians. They are tasked with going into Nazi Germany in the closing stages of World War II to rescue artworks requisitioned by the Nazi returning them to their rightful owners after the mass looting.

Dalai Lama Awakening (PG)
At the cusp of the new Millennium, forty visionaries and innovative thinkers left the United States with high expectations of changing the world. They set off for India to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at his residence at the mystical foothills of the Himalayas.

The Book Thief (12A)
Based on the beloved international bestselling book, The Book Thief tells the story of an extraordinary, spirited young girl sent to live with a foster family in WWII Germany. Intrigued by the only book she brought with her, she begins collecting books as she finds them. With the help of her new parents and a secret guest under the stairs, she learns to read and creates a magical world that inspires them all. Starring Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson this film is a heart wrenching story of survival in the darkest of situations, and that you can always find a better world in the pages of a book.

Tinker Bell and The Pirate Fairy (U)
When a misunderstood dust-keeper fairy named Zarina steals Pixie Hollow's all-important Blue Pixie Dust and flies away to join forces with the pirates of Skull Rock, Tinker Bell and her fairy friends must embark on the adventure of a lifetime to return it to its rightful place. However, in the midst of their pursuit of Zarina, Tink's world is turned upside down. She and her friends find that their respective talents have been switched and they have to race against time to retrieve the Blue Pixie Dust and return home to save Pixie Hollow.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Stalls for sale at Rockfield PTA Daffodil Tea Rockfield Primary School, Sat 29th March 10am-12noon £10 a stall. Email for more info rockfieldpta@hotmail.co.uk Deadline for applying Sat 22nd March.	OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND & FRIENDS IN CONCERT Thursday March 13 @ 7.30pm Corran Halls, Oban Tickets: £8 adult, £5 under 16/concessions Family Ticket (2 adults/2children) £20 Tickets from Oban Music Shop, Oban High School, and Committee Members.	A SOUP LUNCH in aid of OBAN PIPE BAND will be held in Oban Pipe Band Hall Shore Street, on SATURDAY 8th MARCH 2014 From 12 noon - 2.00pm Admission: £3.00
Crianlarich Village Hall Charity bric-a-brac Auction Friday 14th March Viewing from 5pm Auction from 6pm Donations welcome from Wednesday 12th Contact Bryan 01838 300245	60TH NORTH LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL Appin Village Hall 20-22 March at 7.30pm Tickets available from the Secretary, Tel: 01631 730309 Email: nlornfestival@btinternet.com	Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club Argyll Hotel, Inveraray Wednesday 12th March at 8.00pm Guest Artists From Alloa Jack Delaney & his SDB Supporting players most welcome

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000



Finlay and Sandy Cameron entertain at the Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society Fiddlers' Rally.

Fascinating talk at Lochaber Natural History society

THE LINKS between Fort William and the ancient life of Mistaken Point, Newfoundland, was the subject of a fascinating talk by local geologist Noel Williams to the Lochaber Natural History Society (LNHS) recently.

Noel recounted how years ago he met Dick Allen, a discoverer of one of the oldest fossils on earth, at a Scottish Mountaineering Club meeting in Fort William's Alexandra Hotel.

Dick discovered the primitive, fern-like imprint as a schoolboy in 1957, whilst climbing on cliffs in Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire.

The location gave its name to the fossil, Charnia, which was found in rocks from the Pre-Cambrian era, some 565 million old.

Since Charnia was first recognised, other Charnia-like fossils have been found, notably at Mistaken Point in 1967.

LNHS meets at 7.30pm in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, generally on the third Monday of each month throughout the winter, and all are welcome.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 24 and will include a talk on plant hunting in China by Peter Baxter of the Benmore Botanic Gardens.

Fiddlers from across Scotland gather in Caol for rally

FIDDLERS from all parts of Scotland gathered at a packed Caol Community Centre for Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society 28th Fiddlers' Rally on Saturday night.

The musicians provided a wonderful night of entertainment led by conductor Mary Adam while Roy Bridge brothers Sandy and Finlay Cameron, above, played a stirring selection of tunes on the pipes.

Fiddlers travelled from Aberdeen, Aberfeldy, Bearsden, Dundee, Dunoon, Fife, Garioch, Inverness, Oban, Perth and Thurso to take part in the event, which was chaired by the Rev Donald MacQuarrie.

Guest artist was Fort William's own Royal National Mod gold medalist Robert Robertson, who performed a selection of Gaelic songs. Caol Primary School Choir also sang on the night in their first performance at the rally.

Special lighting effects brought the spotlight on the entertainers and the new venue was voted a hit by the musicians.

Arunda trio return to dry land in Oban

LAST September, Arunda launched the Oban Music Society concerts by performing on the Mull ferry as part of National Chamber Music Day.

They return to dry land next weekend to give the final concert of the society's winter season at St John's Cathedral.

Arunda formed in 2010 after studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The trio of Sarah Cruickshank (oboe), Jenny Stephenson (clarinet) and Anna Mary Lynch (bassoon) are part of the prestigious Live Music Now! scheme, as founded by Yehudi Menuhin and also enjoy regular performances for the Music in Hospitals charity.

They have performed at the St Magnus Festival, in Orkney, enjoyed a spring tour of the Netherlands as well as recitals across Scotland including the Music at Paxton Summer Festival of Chamber Music. They recently gave recitals at Usher Hall and performed on Burn's Night at the National Galleries of Scotland.

Their varied recital of lighter pieces by composers such as Mozart, Rossini and Bizet should provide a welcome herald of spring for Oban concert goers, when they play on Sunday, March 16 at 3pm.



Arunda, who performed on the Isle of Mull ferry last September, return to the town next week.

Rantin production well received by audiences in Oban and Mull

A SCENE from Oban town centre was played out in the Corran Halls last Thursday when the National Theatre of Scotland brought its production of Rantin to the town.

Part of the play, which features a series of short stories, is re-written for each venue, as 28-year-old writer and performer Kieran Hurley explained.

'One of the scenes is localised, re-written so that the character is in the town we are playing. 'She is a market researcher who travels to a new town every day, so we like to include local street names and local pubs.'

The unique production is set in real time, meaning the audience is told of these stories happening outside the venue.

Rantin was also taken to Mull Theatre, Drumfin, and Mr Hurley was delighted with the response from the island.

'It was a good turnout,' he said. 'We have played Mull Theatre before and I have found that the island has a very cultured audience, one that appreciates your work but also has high expectations. 'They are used to that quality of work because Mull Theatre makes a lot of good stuff.'



Kieran Hurley performed in the production as well as writing it. Photo by Eoin Carey



Julia Taudevin as one of her many characters. Photo by Eoin Carey

CRAFTY KITCHEN

ARDFERN ARGYLL 01852 500303
Great Coffee & Delicious Cakes

Home Made Food using Locally Sourced Produce
Wonderful Choice of Jewellery, Bags, Books,
Toys and Other Gifts, Christmas Stock Arrived!

Open 7 days a week, 11am till 4pm
Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/pages/The-Crafty-Kitchen

MacGillivray's

OBAN'S FINEST SEAFOOD

Seafood bar and grill

COME AND SEE OUR NEW TARTAN MAKEOVER!

Al fresco dining in the heart of Oban
Open 7 days a week from 8am - 10pm
Railway Pier, Oban



IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE
ARGYLL & BUTE BOILER REPLACEMENT SCHEME

BCA are urgently looking for customers with an old or inefficient boiler or no heating system to participate in this scheme. Merging grants from the SSE's Energy Company Obligation with additional Scottish Government money through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland Area Based Scheme, we can fund the replacement of old and in-efficient GAS, LPG and Oil boilers and may look at new installations where Solid Fuel systems or inefficient Electric heating exists.

To qualify, customers must be in receipt of any of the following benefits and live in private rented accommodation or own their own home:

- Pension Credit
- Working Family Tax Credit (income must be below £15,860 pa)
- Other qualifying benefit with qualifying component (please call for advice)

To find out if you qualify please call **0800 169 6785** and quote **A&B Affordable Warmth Heating**



10 pairs of tickets to be won

THE SCOTTISH
HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING
and Home Improvement SHOW
SECC, GLASGOW 17-18 MAY 2014

If you are interested in home improvements, renovation tips, energy saving solutions or building your dream home then we have the competition for you. The Scottish Homebuilding, Renovating & Home Improvement Show returns this year to the SECC, Glasgow on May 17 and 18 and The Oban Times has 10 pairs of tickets to giveaway. As Scotland's largest consumer exhibition for self-builders, home renovators and improvers, the show is ideal for anyone interested in making the most of their home. Visitors will experience a one stop shopping opportunity where they can find all the products, services and advice for building or renovating their dream home. There will be over 140 exhibitors and experts on hand to give free guidance and support to visitors for every project from first home alterations to a full scale self build.

Visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/scotland.

For your chance to win a pair of tickets simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to **The Oban Times, SHRHI Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB**. Entries must be submitted by **Tuesday, March 18th 2014**.

Question: How many exhibitors will be at the Scottish Homebuilding, Renovating and Home Improvement show this year?
a) over 50 b) over 100 c) over 140

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Telephone..... Email.....

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

WINDOW & CONSERVATORY
Repair Company

We repair window and door locks, hinges, handles, & damaged door panels & gaskets, Repairs broken or misted double glazed units.

WE INSTALL

- Quality Windows • Doors
- Patio Doors • Conservatories
- Decking

WE REPLACE

- Fascias • Soffits
- Gutters • PVC
- No More Painting

For free advice and a free estimate call: **Mobile: 07768 268912**
Tel/Fax: 01436 672882

TOO COLD IN THE WINTER?
TOO HOT IN THE SUMMER?
We can do conservatory roof conversions

20% OFF
Backcare Deluxe Mattresses & Divans



Highland Blind Craft Beds
They work like a dream
39 Ardconnell Street, Inverness, IV2 3EX
01463 233 662 • www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk

PTS Renewable
energysolutions

SOLAR THERMAL | SOLAR PV
GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS
AIR TO WATER HEAT PUMPS
AIR TO AIR HEAT PUMPS
BIOMASS | MVHR

PTS 7e Glengallan Road | Oban | PA34 4HG
Tel: 01631 567640 | Fax: 01631 569808

Plumbing Trade Supplies
facebook.com/ptsrenewables twitter.com/ptsrenewables

OBAN STOVE CENTRE
Come in and see us

Sales stock now available

COMPLETE IN HOUSE FITTING SERVICE HETAS

Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU
Tel: 01631564790 Fax: 01631562919
info@obanstovecentre.co.uk

bowman stewart
Chartered Surveyors + Consulting Engineers

• Architecture • Building Surveying • Civil and Structural Engineering throughout Argyll, the Highlands and Islands

1 Victoria Buildings, 34 Union Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8JS
Tel 01546 606067 Fax 01546 606091
email info@bowmanstewart.co.uk www.bowmanstewart.co.uk



THERE might be a late snap of colder weather, but spring is just around the corner - and that usually means taking a fresh look at your home.

It's inevitable, given the lighter mornings and longer days, that you'll see things you might not have otherwise spotted. Perhaps a crack in a wall or a room you're not happy with the decoration of.

It may even be you've discovered you've outgrown your property - or even decided what you've got just isn't big enough. Either way, this is the time of year you might get itchy feet - or the wallpapering table out.

Whatever option you choose, make sure you're certain in yourself - after all, it's you who has to live there.

More and more people are choosing to build their homes; with a study by NHBC showing a 26.4 per cent increase in the number of new homes registered in the Scotland between November 2013 and January this year compared to the same period 12 months previous.

It is a continuation of the upward trend seen throughout 2013, which resulted in the highest number of new home registrations since the economic downturn in 2007.

It is an attractive option, being able to design your own home, pick its exact location and kit it out with all extras you need it to have.

It can be expensive; thanks to the high cost of buying land throughout large areas of the west Highlands, but it can represent a saving over homes already in place.

If you do go down this route, remember there are other items to consider; drainage, parking, electri-

cal wiring and even renewable energy options. Building a home isn't just a case of putting bricks and mortar together.

The drawback is, of course, that it is not instant fix and you may want to move in straight away.

So if you don't want to hang about; take a look at the options marketed by your local estate agent. There you'll find options for most locations, price ranges and sizes - and you might just stumble across the odd bargain too just waiting to be done up.

Estate agents can also advise of properties about to come onto the market and can even keep your contact details to hand just in case a property comes up that meets your criteria.

Either way, this can give you a temperature of the market and provide perfect inspiration - even if just to do up your own home.

As with all the above options, decorating and furnishing your home is another important point not to skip over. Take a look at interior designers first to see if they can do things to your liking and price range; but if not there are plenty of local companies who can help you either give your existing home a new look, or get your new house feeling exactly like a home.



Half of UK householders think it's cheaper to leave the home heating on all day at low temperature

Half (50 per cent) of all UK householders think it's cheaper to leave their home heating on all day than turning the heating on or off and up or down when required.

This finding is part of an energy saving mythbusting survey commissioned by the Energy Saving Trust as part of the recent Big Energy Saving Week, which highlights the perceptions of the UK public and how they don't always match the reality of the energy saving action or statement.

The survey was carried out to a sample of 2,067 online adults in the UK aged 16-75 last month.

Other findings from the Ipsos MORI survey include:

30 per cent that think screensavers on computers save energy.

Almost half (45 per cent) think switched-off electrical appliances don't use electricity when they're plugged in at the mains.

Nearly half (48 per cent) agreed that it's a hassle to change energy suppliers.

Two thirds (66 per cent) of people think that more heat is lost through the roof of their home than the walls - however for the majority of properties the walls will actually lose more heat.

However, there were other findings which highlighted a level of awareness from the UK public regarding the correct energy saving actions to take in the home.

These include:

Just 27 per cent correctly said turning up their thermostat to a high setting heats the home faster, compared to 54 per cent that correctly said the statement was false.

Three quarters (75 per cent) know that energy saving light bulbs are compatible with traditional light bulb fittings.

And, 69 per cent know that solar panels will work during daylight hours regardless of whether the sun is shining or not, with only ten per cent disagreeing.

Energy Saving Trust chief executive Phillip Sellwood said: 'We commissioned this survey to bust some of the top energy saving myths we encounter on a daily basis. While for certain actions a portion of the UK public think they are saving energy when they're not, it's heartening to see that a lot of people are doing the right thing in the home to save energy.'

'We know it's important for the UK public to stay warm and cosy in their homes. But for the majority the most cost-effective way to do this is to turn the heating on and off or up and down when required rather than leaving it on all day at a lower temperature. This ensures that heat is not wasted and that your home will be at a comfortable temperature.'

According to figures from the Energy Saving Trust, the UK could collectively save nearly £4.4 billion on energy bills if householders took three energy saving actions in the home.

These are:

Turn it off - Make sure you turn your lights, appliances and chargers off when you're not using them. Virtually all electrical and electronic appliances can safely be turned off at the plug without upsetting their systems.

Turn it down - Many households have their central heating set higher than they need, without even realising it. If it's too warm inside, try turning your room thermostat down by one degree and see if you are still at a comfortable temperature. Every degree that you turn it down will make additional savings to your heating bill.

Let there be light - Household can now get LED spotlights that are bright enough to replace halogens, as well as regular energy saving bulbs ('compact fluorescent lamps' or CFLs) for pretty much everything else. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and fittings and can save households money on their energy bills.

For more free, impartial advice call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282. Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Energy Saving Trust.



NEIL McGOUGAN
JOINERS & BUILDERS LTD

The one stop contact for all your building requirements

From new builds and renovations, to extensions, bathroom and kitchen replacements and mobility adaptations. Domestic and commercial work undertaken

Reliable, Professional Service • Competitive Prices • Free Estimates

Unit 1, Sinclair Drive, Oban, Argyll PA34 4DR
Tel: 01631 570060 Fax: 01631 570088
E: info@neilmcgougan.co.uk W: www.neilmcgougan.co.uk

Everything you need to create your own home

We provide our customers with a unique one-stop shop service, not only for coordinating the manufacture and delivery of the timber frame structure, but also the supply of windows, external doors, internal door sets, stairs, architrave, skirtings, finishings insulation, plasterboard and a whole lot more.

Units 3:1 & 3:8, Discovery House, Gemini Crescent, Dundee Technology Park, Dundee DD2 1SW

T: 01382 561772
www.scotframe.co.uk

scotframe
timber frame | packages

energy saving trust

enjoy a warmer home and lower bills

Loft insulation is effective for at least 40 years, and it will pay for itself over and over again in that time. In an uninsulated home a quarter of your heat is lost through the roof. Save that waste and reduce your heating bills now!

For clear and impartial advice call Home Energy Scotland from the Scottish Government free on 0808 808 2282 or visit homeenergyscotland.org

HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
Funded by the Scottish Government

natural scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

JEWSON
The UK's leading chain of builders merchants

With our Fort William Branch now under New Management and an enthusiastic Team eager to help with all of your enquiries and needs

Tool Hire to the Trade and Public Available from our Fort William Branch

Building Materials, Timber Windows, Doors, Joinery, Ironmongery & Fixings, Decorating, Plumbing & Heating and excellent range of Tools for Hire from Drills to Mini Excavators

Open Weekdays
7.30am - 5pm; Sat 8am - 12pm

North Road, Fort William, PH33 6TQ
01397 700744 and for Hire 01397 701086

Glen Creran Wood Scottish **OAK**

Beams • Kiln dried planks • Rustic lintels • Burr planks
www.glencreeranwood.co.uk
01631 730256

From £100,000 built!

Architect designed, highly durable, all-timber homes with superb insulation levels and minimal maintenance requirements. Comprehensive kit packages from £43,995.

SYLVAN STUART LTD, INSCH, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB52 6RX
www.modelhomes.com 01 464 851 208

Aluminium & Glass Balustrading

Grille City Aluminium
0800 169 1604
Unit 3, Inveralmond Trade Park, Perth PH1 3HB
Tel: 01738 639429
Fax: 01738 621358
Email: info@grillecity.com
Web: www.grillecity.com

JURALCO NSCC

BLOCKED DRAIN?

Drain and septic tank survey, installations and repairs

Call 24/7 - **01369 840367**

Your No 1 for drainage in Argyll

ABEL Drainage & Groundworks

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Motors & Drivetimes

Call now to advertise in our new look Motors and Drivetimes section.
Tel: 01631 568020

new car index

ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440	S & S SERVICES Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080/880440
SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080/880440	W.D. SEMPLE Inveraray - Shore Street Tel: 01499 302150 Lochgilphead - Highbank Park Tel: 01546 606767 / 01546 606272
CROFT MOTORS SERVICES Unit 5B, Ben Nevis Estate Fort William PH33 6PR Tel: 01397 703877	TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

All cars fully serviced and MOT'd by ourselves

CAR SALES

2009 Kia Rio 1.5 Diesel, 5 Dr, Blue, 17,000 Miles.....	£4,800
2007 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Life, Blue, 36,000 Miles.....	£4,375
2007 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Sri Silver, 76,000 Miles.....	£2,995
2005 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 5dr, Silver, 61,000 Miles.....	£2,750
2005 Fiat Panda 1.2, 5dr, Blue, 40,000 Miles.....	£2,475

VAN SALES

2008 Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi, Green, 48,260 Miles.....	£3,300+VAT
2008 Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi, Silver, 89,500 Miles.....	£3,000+VAT
2008 Vauxhall Combo Van 1.3 CDTi, Diesel, White, 78,000 Miles.....	£2,995 NO VAT

MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD

61 MITSUBISHI L200 Trovan, 2000 Cab Pickup, Manual, E-Pack, Alloy, Red, 20K.....	£12,950
60 MITSUBISHI L200 Barchuan, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Sat Nav, Leather, Met Silver, 44K.....	£13,950
60 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, E-Pack, Alloy, Black, 25K.....	£11,950
60 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, E-Pack, Alloy, Black, 30K.....	£11,950
60 MITSUBISHI L200 TROVAN, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Leather, Alloy, Black, 45K.....	£11,950
10 MITSUBISHI L200 4 Wheel, Single Cab Pickup, Manual, Avel, Truck man Canopy, Tow Bar, Red, 57K.....	£9,750
09 MITSUBISHI L200 Raging Bull, 2000 Cab Pickup, Auto, Canopy, Leather, Reverse Camera, Met Grey.....	£9,450
57 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN Sport Trovan, 5 Door Estate, Manual, Leather, E-pack Alloy, Met Grey.....	NO VAT £9,450
07 MITSUBISHI FUSO CANTER, 2000 Side Tipper Pickup, Manual, 3.5000K, White.....	£9,950
56 MITSUBISHI L200 4Wheel, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, CD, Alloy Mountain Top, Met Silver, Choice.....	£9,950
56 MITSUBISHI L200 TROVAN, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Canopy, CD, Alloy, Black.....	£9,950
11 TOYOTA HILUX 4x4 2000 Cab Pickup, Manual, Canopy, E-pack, Alloy, Black.....	£11,750
60 TOYOTA HILUX Extra Cab Pickup, Manual, E-pack, Alloy, Tow Bar, Met Silver.....	£9,950
10 NISSAN NAVARA, 2000, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Sat Nav, Heated Leather, Reverse Camera, Met Silver, 20K.....	£12,950
57 NISSAN NAVARA, 2000, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Roll Bars, Reverse Camera, Heated Leather, Sat Nav, Black, 40,000 Miles.....	£9,750
05 NISSAN NAVARA D22 DBL CAB PICKUP, Manual, Roll Bars, Tow Bar, Met Silver, 90K miles.....	NO VAT £9,750
08 MAZDA BT 50, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, E-pack, Alloy, Towbar, Met Grey 80K.....	£9,950
10 FORD TRANSIT 350 115 HD, LWB, High Top Van, 6 Speed, SLD, E-Pack, Ply Lined, White.....	£9,950
09 FORD TRANSIT 350, LWB, High Top Van, Rear Fitted Workshop, SLD, Red, 80K.....	£7,950
58 FORD TRANSIT 350 SWB, 1150cc, 6 speed, E-pack, Gloss, White.....	£9,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350 Double Cab Pickup, Alloy Drop Side Body, White.....	£9,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350 Dbl Cab, Alloy, Dropside Tipper, Towbar, White 50K.....	£9,950
57 FORD TRANSIT 350, LWB, Jumbo Van, 115 HP 6 Speed, Twin rear wheels, SLD, White, 65K miles.....	£7,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350, LWB, Hi Top Van, 115 HP 6 Speed, E-pack, SLD, Met Silver.....	£9,750
05 FORD TRANSIT 350, LWB, Hi Top Jumbo Van, 115 HP, Twin rear wheels, White.....	NO VAT £9,250
08 FORD TRANSIT 260, SWB, Semi High Top Van, SLD, Rear Fitted Workshop, Red.....	£4,950
57 MERCEDES SPRINTER 311 LWB, Single Cab Pickup, Alloy Drop Side Body, Roller Shutter Tool Box, Tail Lift, White.....	£9,950
57 MERCEDES SPRINTER 309 CDi SWB, High Top Van, Manual, SLD, Ply Lined, E-pack, Met Silver.....	£9,950
57 MERCEDES SPRINTER 209 CDi SWB Panel Van, Manual, SLD, Ply Lined, E-pack, White.....	£9,950
60 MERCEDES SPRINTER 313 CDi LWB, Panel Van, 6 Speed, SLD, E-pack, White.....	£9,450
06 MERCEDES SPRINTER 311 CDi LWB, Avel Van, Manual, SLD, Rear Fitted Workshop, White.....	£9,950
59 VW TRANSPORTER 4 MOTION, Combi Van 2.5 TDI 130, 4WD, 5 seater, Twin SLD, White.....	£9,950
59 VW CADDY CDi Van, Auto, SLD, CD, E-pack, Rear Tailgate, White, 80K miles.....	£9,950
10 NISSAN XTRAIL, LWB, High Top Van, 1500cc 6 speed, Manual, Twin Rear Wheels, White.....	£9,950
59 VAUXHALL ASTRA van, 1.7 CDTi Manual, E-pack, Ply Lined With Bulkhead, White.....	£4,950
09 VAUXHALL MOVINO 5000, LWB, Semi High Top Van, 6 Speed, Manual, SLD, Blue.....	£9,750
08 VAUXHALL COMBO CDTi Van, SLD, Tow Bar, CDi Met Silver, 60K miles.....	£9,950
10 KAWASAKI 600 MLLE Drop Side Tipper Body, Masser Cab, Towbar, Red, 1200 HRS, Choice.....	£4,250
04 MERCEDES UNIMIG, 1400 Tractor Unit, 1900cc, 250hp, 54 Report Authority, 1300kms, As New.....	£42,950

Many other vehicles in stock. All above vehicles plus VAT at 20%.

Kilwinning, Ayrshire
Tel: 01294 554098 or 07796 88110
Fax: 01294 554560
www.emcommercials.co.uk

Scotland's most established Renault dealer



New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

63 Renault Clio Media Nav, 5 door, Very low mileage. Choice of colour.....	From £11,950
11 Renault Megane Exp 1.6, 5 door, Ruby Red, 16,000 miles.....	£8,950
59 Renault Scenic Dyn DCI 105, Blue, 40,000 miles.....	£8,950
11 Renault Kangoo Exp DCI, Silver, 42,000 miles.....	£8,450
63 Nissan Micra Visia 1.2, 5 door, Silver, 9,500 miles.....	£7,250
59 Suzuki SX4 GLX 1.6 saloon, Cherry Red, 21,500 miles.....	£6,450
10 Fiat Qubo Active 1.4, 5dr, silver, 13,500 miles.....	£6,150
09 Renault Modus Dyn, 1.5 DCI, Beige, 30,000 miles.....	£5,950
10 Renault Clio I-Music 1.2, 5 door, Silver, 29,000 miles.....	£5,950
58 Honda Jazz SE 1.4 Auto, 5 dr hatchback, Blue, 15,500 miles.....	£5,500
60 Fiat Grand Punto 1.4, 5dr, white, 17,500 miles.....	£5,450
08 Renault Scenic Conquest DCI 130, 39,500 miles.....	£4,350
07 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9, CDTi, 67K miles.....	£3,950
06 Renault Clio Exp 1.6, Auto, 3 door, Blue, 46,000 miles.....	£3,500
56 Astra 1.6 life, 5 dr, Silver, 50k miles, 46,500 miles.....	£3,000

COMMERCIALS

61 Renault Kangoo ML19 DCI, White, 54,000 miles.....	£5,750 plus VAT
60 Vauxhall Navaro DCI Van.....	£8,500 plus VAT
08 Renault Master, SWB, white.....	£8,000 plus VAT

New Dacia range available for test drive today!

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR

- VW GOLF ESTATE
- RENAULT SCENIC AUTOMATIC
- NISSAN 1.6 ALMERA
- CITROEN BERLINGO 1.4 CAR
- FORD FIESTA DIESEL 5DR

CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

W.D. Semple

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER

Approved Renault Dealer
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150 Fax: 01499 302281
Lochgilphead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767 Fax: 01546 606272

NEW DACIA DUSTER AND SANDERO NOW IN STOCK

DACIA

NOW AVAILABLE

The New Dacia Range from £5,995*

Dacia Sandero = from £5,995*

Dacia Sandero Stepway = from £7,995*

Dacia Duster = from £8,995*

Best supermini under £12,000

Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate 1.6 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

WED 12TH TESCO, OBAN

THUR 13TH TESCO, OBAN

CAN'T COME TO US, WE WILL COME TO YOU

SWAP OLD

Guaranteed £1,000 PX*
£199 a month
1 Years Free Insurance**
2 Years Service Plan

FOR NEW

New Yaris Icon + 5 door

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

We will be out and about on Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th at Tesco Oban. Why don't you come and see us or make an appointment.
Test Drives available at Tesco please bring your licence

HELENSBURGH TOYOTA
No 1 for customer care
helensburgh.toyota.co.uk
T: 01436 672779
Like our Facebook page

Terms & conditions apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Quote based on additional £500 deposit. Financed subject to over 18s. PX must have road tax and 4 months minimum MOT & driveable condition. Mileage: Permitted maximum 30,000. Mileage on delivery of the Goods to you. Excess Mileage Charge Rates applicable if the permitted Maximum is exceeded. 6 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Subject to availability. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. 0.0% APR Representative available on model shown when financed through Toyota Financial Services on Access Toyota.

Helensburgh Toyota like to get out and about in the community meeting people.

This week they will visit Tesco Oban and will be showcasing the Toyota Range, including the Yaris and Auris Tourer. The team, Kirsteen McGuire and Leona Barclay, will also be offering visitors the chance to test drive these vehicles from Tesco, so please bring along your driving licence.

Sales Controller, Kirsteen McGuire said:

"There has never been a more important time for small businesses and people in our surrounding area to support each other. Being out and about is giving us the chance to do this and we hope to let the local people see the commitment we have to Argyll and the islands. We will have a new car display on show with some terrific offers so come along and see us."

Helensburgh Toyota are honoured to have over 37 years delivering for our customers and community. A big thank you to all our customers for being completely satisfied with their experience and keeping us Scotland's No1 for Toyota Customer Care and most recently winning Motor Codes Regional Garage of the Year. We are dedicated to supporting all your motoring needs, from purchasing a new Toyota car to servicing and MOTs on all makes and models. We offer uplift and delivery service, also available with a free courtesy car, and have an exceptional team of specially trained staff to help you.

DRIVETIMES

MAZDA 6 ZUGARA SPORT 04



Silver only 37,000 miles
MOT December tax ends April
Half Leather seats V.G.C
Tel: 01770 700597 after 6pm (Arran)
£2500

CITROEN PICASSO



1.6 PETROL MPV 2001 107k miles.
Full service history.
Comes with 2 spare winter tyres, new exhaust and brakes.
MOT till end of May. A well-looked after, reliable family car.
If interested, phone 01631 720 073
£695 o.n.o.

2005 RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE DCI80



1.5 Diesel. Good condition 60,000 miles.
Tel: 07917633449 (Arran)
£1500

WANTED

Caravans, Campervans and Motor Homes, any year, size or condition considered, Best prices paid, Will pay cash and collect.

Telephone: 0754 3359961

OLD LUNAR 2 BERTH CARAVAN



Tel: 01631 562755
Mobile: 07730094865
Only £550 o.n.o.

PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI SPORT



10 plate, 55000 miles, FSH and dealer serviced. Immaculate inside and out. 12 months MOT and tax.
Tel: 01546 606996 or 07769 853694
£6000

KIA PICANTO 1.0



13 Plate. 2000 miles.
5 Door. Petrol. Nil Tax.
Genuine Reason for Sale.
Tel: 01546 870255
£5500



A

Peace of mind motoring with our accidental damage warranty on every Apollo 4G and General car/van tyre purchased.

ADCOCK
AUTOCARE & TYRE SERVICES
Tel: 01546 600040 www.tyresandcarservicingargyll.co.uk
Unit 15, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SH

GENERAL TIRE
apollo
VREDESTEIN

G

Gunns Garage
Tyneribbie, Appin PA38 4DB
For all your servicing and mechanical needs.
Contact us on 01631 730279

THE GARAGE
BURNBANK STREET,
CAMPBELTOWN,
ARGYLL, PA28 6JD
TEL: 01586 552772
Car & Motorcycle MOT'S, Repairs,
Services, Batteries, Tyres,
Vehicle Diagnostics

W

The Wheel Specialist
ALLOY WHEEL REPAIRMENT

TWS offer a wide range of finishes with a SAME DAY SERVICE that can make alloy wheels look as good as new

- Durable Powder Coating to the finish of your choice
- Strip & Refit your Tyres
- Balance Wheels
- New Chrome Valves
- New Tyre Service

26 Shore Street, Inverness IV1 1NG
For more information, please contact us on 01463 226222 or visit www.thewheelsspecialist.co.uk

Call now to advertise your business in the Motoring Classifieds section
Tel: 01631 568020

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE
Find your next property at
www.westcoastproperty.co.uk

- ✓ LETTINGS
- ✓ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
- ✓ SALES
- ✓ PROPERTY REVIEWS
- ✓ PROPERTY NEWS
- ✓ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

Call now to advertise your property in our West Coast Property Guide.
Tel: 01631 568010



New empty homes initiative launched

Potential tenants can now use their DIY skills as sweat equity to bring empty homes back into use in return for cheaper rents and a secure long-term home.

In return for a long-term tenancy for a low or no-rent period of around 10 years, the tenant agrees with the owner to finance and carry out refurbishment work to bring the property back into use.

A new information pack on how Sweat Equity works was launched at the Rural Housing Conference last week by Fiona Todd, empty homes officer from the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership which is run by Shelter Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government.

The step-by-step guide offers a practical solution to owners of empty properties who wish to retain them but cannot afford to renovate.

Kristen Hubert, Shelter Scotland's empty homes co-ordinator, said: 'The Sweat Equity long-term lease agreement could be an ideal solution for those in rural or smaller communities who are unable to find a home on the rental market and offers owners the chance to get their homes back into use for little or no outlay. It also provides security to the owner of having a tenant who has made a big commitment to the property and is much more likely to stay and look after the property.'

The launch of the Sweat Equity information pack coincides with the Scottish Government's announcement that it is extending funding for the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership for another year.

Graeme Brown, director of Shelter Scotland said: 'It's great news that the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership and the various shared services projects we are involved in have all been extended for another year.'

'There is growing expectation among those living in communities affected by empty homes and empty home owners themselves that councils should be providing a holistic empty homes service. This extension means we can now build on those expectations by providing an extensive range of advice, information and incentives to help bring empty homes back into use.'

'I look forward to seeing even more private sector empty homes coming back into use as a result of our work.'

For more information about the Sweat Equity information pack and other help to bring empty homes back please contact Fiona Todd, regional empty homes officer at Fiona.Todd@shelter.org.uk, tel: 07920 570715, or visit the Shelter Scotland website go to our Empty Homes pages.

Property Classifieds

Stalls and lochside shops for rent

THE CREAGAN INN
How do you fancy your own stall at the newly developed Creagan Country Crafts and Cafe?
Fantastic self-contained lochside shops also for rent. 30,000 customer base, available seasonal or annual. Exciting new opportunities for local crafts folk or artisans.
For more details contact Liz - liz@creaganinn.co.uk
www.creaganinn.co.uk
Appin PA38 4BQ

Window Blinds

Chris Craft window blinds
OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 0800 371250
FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES
FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND
ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE
Check out our Customer Views at
www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

Woodburning Stoves

AFFORDABLE Country Kiln
Woodburning & Multifuel stoves
Delivered Nationwide
01560 483966
www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

Window Repairs

A.W.R. ARGYLL WINDOW REPAIRS
WE REPAIR...
Failed & Misted Windows, Broken Handles & Hinges, Windows Resealed, Conservatory & Patio Door Repairs.
We cover Argyll and the Islands
Tel. 01880 730 376
New windows and doors supplied and fitted

TO LET

SMALL SHOP/ OFFICE UNIT TO LET IN OBAN TOWN CENTRE.
Lease term variable and subject to negotiation. For further information or to express interest in the lease contact, David McGregor, Simmers & Co, Chartered Accountants, Albany Chambers, Albany Street on 01631 562169 or by e mail at mail@simmers.co.uk

TO LET Fort William
3 bedroom ground floor flat with garden and parking available, on long let, close to town centre, £650pcm, no pets, smokers or DSS. Landlord reg no 386089/270/07141. EPC rating C74. Telephone 07850 127671.

WANTED

WANTED
Professional person working in Oban area looking for long term let
Tel: 07749 112698

Are you looking to move house?
42% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, which is double the number in any other medium.

WANTED
Wanted all 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.
Telephone: 07703490572 ask for Robert

1998 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER 3.0TD

148,000 miles, all new BF Goodrich tyres, 1 years MOT, tow bar, all new callipers, discs, pads, good condition, excellent runner.
Telephone: 07814 767813 or 01583 431362
£2600

URGENTLY REQUIRED 4X4s

TOP PRICE PAID INSTANT COLLECTION AND PAYMENT ANY AGE AND CONDITION
CALL 07711 573308 01250 872424

WANTED
All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.
Telephone: 07546 788945

Get The Oban Times for only 40p!
Subscribe to our digital edition for one year and save 50%
Delivered straight to your inbox
www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

FS LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.0 TD4 STATION WAGON

5dr, 2006. 154000 miles, Auto Diesel. Full Leather Interior FSH.
Tel: 01855 841320
£3250

WANTED
Any 4x4 vehicle Landrover, Toyota, Mitsubishi etc, high mileage, any condition.
Telephone: 07423736722

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Car, Bike and Home Insurance
Cheaper Insurance for your Car, Bike and Home
Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike and home. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.
0800 081 8989
adrianflux.co.uk
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

west coast PROPERTY west coast PROPERTY

west coast recruitment

A rare opportunity to fulfil a key role in one of the Highlands' great weekly newspapers

EDITOR

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Based in Oban, the new editor will have the drive and passion to deliver the best weekly newspaper possible through an acute awareness and understanding of the readership, imagination, motivation and efficient use of the resources available to them. The editor will oversee the implementation of new developments both traditional and digital, as the newspaper faces exciting challenges ahead.

£ Excellent + car + BUPA + Enhanced Pension

Full driving licence is essential.

Apply with CV and present salary to Ali Arden, ali@obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Advertising Sales Executive

BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

Please apply by email with full CV and covering letter to: ali@obantimes.co.uk



GEORGE MCNAUGHTON & SON

Lochgilphead

Experienced Accounts Manager required for busy office

The successful applicant needs to be focused and work both on their own initiative and as part of a team. Sound knowledge of Sage accounts is essential and background in payroll administration.

Rate of pay negotiable dependant on experience. Apply in writing with CV to janet@gmcnaughtonandson.co.uk

We are looking for full time SOUS CHEF to join our team! Accommodation available. Salary Negotiable Depending on Experience. Closing Date 17th March 2014. Please send your CV to Lorna McKechnie, Manager, Bridgend Hotel, Isle of Islay, Argyll, PA44 7LB. Telephone 01496 810212 Or Email your details to info@bridgend-hotel.com www.bridgend-hotel.com



J.M. BRECKENRIDGE

Driver/Storeperson

Fort William
Apply to Mr C McDonald. Telephone 01631 563 711
Permanent full time position
Full clean driving licence required
• Good rates of pay

Leven Homes Ltd (Kinlochleven)

requires a

FULLY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

for immediate start.
Must hold 17th Edition, ACA, ECS, SJIB and Grading Card
Commercial & domestic work. Driving licences essential.
Starting Salary £31,000 Per annum
Plus Over time+ Callout.
Contact Sylvia Hayes On 01855 831900 or email levenhomes@btinternet.com

EXCAVATOR OPERATOR

Forestry ground works/mounding and forest road construction.
Competitive hourly rate.
Contact: Robin Dixon & Son Ltd
Tel: 01880 821133
Email: robin@jrobindixon.co.uk



Processing IT Systems Support Specialist

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our marine and freshwater sites are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.

We have an exciting opportunity for an IT Systems Support Specialist to work in the Company's processing plant in Fort William.

The primary focus of the role will be to support, maintain and develop a large fish processing system comprising of multiple databases and servers under the direction of the Processing and IT Managers whilst ensuring that security, integrity and availability of data to/from primary systems, third-party integrations, customer documents, invoices and quality traceability are maintained.

Principle responsibilities will include analysis, specification, design, maintenance and development of new or existing fish processing systems to increase functionality, flexibility and to ensure systems take advantage of contemporary technology within any financial constraints.

Applicants will preferably have a minimum of two years' experience supporting IT systems in a factory/processing environment. A strong knowledge of Microsoft SQL administration and data analysis skills and an understanding of software API calls and their usage are essential. Applicants must also possess good communication, design and problem solving skills.

In return, Marine Harvest offers a competitive salary and benefits package along with excellent opportunities for personal growth and development. A generous relocation package will also be offered.

If you would like to be considered for this role, please apply in writing stating your reasons for applying and your relevant skills and experiences to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT by closing date of 21st March 2014.



Temporary Farm Technician

Salary - £17,454 - £22,144 plus overtime

We currently have a vacancy for a Farm Technician at the Company's Seawater site at Loch Linnhe. The position is offered on a full time, temporary basis, however the post may become permanent.

The successful applicant will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feed monitoring, net changing and other general farm tasks, and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. The position will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who are competent swimmers. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided. A current driving licence is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of 21st March 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



YOUR LOCAL PAPER

51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

Mull and Iona Community Trust VACANCY - Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull Local Development Officer (0.5 full-time equivalent)

Salary £24,000 per annum (pro rata)
Mull and Iona Community Trust is looking to recruit a self motivated individual to act as a catalyst for innovative and sustainable community development in the Ulva Ferry area. Reporting to the General Manager, the Local Development Officer will work closely with a local steering group and with the community as a whole. Specific projects include affordable housing, play-park and community facilities; community transport, renewables and communications and assisting local groups. The applicant will have a good understanding of the issues affecting fragile rural areas. Strong computer skills are desirable, as are strong diplomacy and communications skills. A relevant qualification or prior experience in community-led development would be advantageous as would a knowledge and affinity for the locality. Support and training is available for the right person. The position will be a job share for 2.5 days per week. The contract will run until March 2015 with the possibility of two further years subject to funding. The ability to work on your own initiative is essential. To view the job description visit www.mict.co.uk, then contact Moray Finch, General Manager of the Community Trust (enquiries@mict.co.uk) for an application pack; Closing date for applications: 10th March 2014

Mull and Iona Community Trust VACANCY - Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull Housing Project Manager (0.6 full-time equivalent)

Salary £23,000 per annum (pro rata)
Mull and Iona Community Trust is looking to recruit a Project Manager to oversee development of an exciting new housing scheme at Ulva Ferry on the Isle of Mull. Reporting to the General Manager, the Housing Project Manager will work closely with a local steering group and with the community as a whole. The project will involve securing the funding package for construction of two houses, finalising the design and obtaining all necessary consents and the establishment of governance structure under which the two houses will be offered at an affordable rent to local families. The applicant will have a good understanding of project planning and budgetary control as well as the issues affecting fragile rural areas. Strong computer skills are desirable. A relevant qualification or prior experience would be advantageous as would a knowledge and affinity for the locality. Support and training is available for the right person. The position will be part-time for 3 days per week (with flexibility). The contract will run for two years. To view the job description visit www.mict.co.uk, then contact Moray Finch, General Manager of the Community Trust (enquiries@mict.co.uk) for an application pack; Closing date for applications: 10th March 2014

The Scottish Salmon Company

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.

On-Site Harvest Supervisor x 1 - ref: OSHT/S/02/14
On-Site Harvest Assistant x 2 - ref: OSHT/A/02/14

We are currently looking for an On-Site Harvest Supervisor and Assistants to support and take responsibility for the day-to-day-running of the recently introduced on-site harvesting. The positions will work on a permanent night shift, operating to the harvesting schedule. There will be extensive travel involved as the team will be required to cover all Scottish Salmon Company Marine Site areas. The normal working week will be Sunday to Thursday (inclusive of these days) and additional weekend working may be required. A significant part of the job is done at cage level on open sea. For all positions the ideal candidates will have; a high sense of responsibility, be self motivated, have some experience with working within a small team, have previous Marine Site experience and strong organisational and communication skills. The On-Site Harvest Team will operate to the highest standards of Bio security, Health & Safety, Hygiene and Quality, Environmental awareness. Please note: applicants applying for the Supervisor role must have Advanced Powerboat Certification. Applicants applying for the Assistant roles should have at least Level 2 Powerboat Certification but capable of achieving Advanced Powerboat Certification. Other desirable qualifications: Sea crane, Forklift/Telescopic Telehandler. The successful candidates will also provide assistance in staff management, promoting the values of the Company and the principles of our policy of Dignity at work by showing respect for others, valuing teamwork and communicating clearly and openly. A full driving licence is essential for all positions. In return the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package. Hourly rate for Supervisor role is £13.526 and for the Assistant role £11.557. All positions based on a guaranteed 30 hours per week contract. For an application form and job description for the above post, please contact: Veronica Anderson, HR Coordinator, The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 415. veronica.anderson@scottishsalmon.com Closing date for applications is Friday, 21st March 2014 Visit our website: www.scottishsalmon.com

Argyll Net Works

LOTTERY FUNDED

Crisis Intervention Workers

Salary £26,660-27,360 FT
Argyll Net Works is a partnership project based in Argyll to mitigate the difficulties faced by people impacted by welfare reform. The project is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and supported by 3 Argyll housing associations and Argyll and Bute Council.

The project seeks 2.6 Crisis Intervention Workers:

- 1 full time post with Fyne Homes (Rothesay, Dunoon, Lochgilphead)
- 1 full time post with West Highland Housing Association (Oban)
- 0.6 of a post with Dunbritton Housing Association (Dumbarton)

The Crisis Intervention Workers will work with people facing financial crisis and requiring dedicated support in the short to medium term, including help to develop essential IT skills.

Argyll Net Works are looking for motivated individuals who have experience of support work and strong IT and budgeting skills. No formal qualification required but experience of higher education and good communication skills expected.

The posts are for a period of 15 months and depending on outcomes there maybe an opportunity to extend this period.

Application forms available from each of the associations' websites, or by contacting May Tosh on may@westhighlandha.co.uk, tel: 01631 566 451. Applications required to be returned by Friday 28 March 2014 and interviews will be held the week beginning 7 April 2014.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Office Administrator Wanted

Ballet West is looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Office Administrator to join our small team. This is a demanding role requiring a highly organised individual, who learns quickly and values excellence. The successful candidate will be the public's first line of contact and a warm, friendly and appropriate manner is vital. You must have at least one year's experience in a similar position, the ability to work to tight deadlines and the flexibility to manage the changing demands of a busy office environment. Driver essential. Please send a CV and covering letter to balletwest@btconnect.com or call the office on 01866 822641 for a job description. Closing date Monday 17th March.

Opportunity on Isle of Mull Estate

A small estate with a thriving self catering cottage enterprise seeks a multi skilled person to carry out changeovers and all house keeping duties including maintenance, painting and gardening. Accommodation and work for partner or job share may be available.

Application forms available from Caroline Isaac on caroline.isaac@bellingham.co.uk

Increase your local spend. Your customer has.

92% of people spend half or more of their income within 10 miles of their homes.

60% of people take action on advertising in local media.

For more information on the power of local newspapers and their websites go to www.bellingham.co.uk

LOVING LOCAL

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 BT: INSTALLATION OF SUBSEA CABLES

Notice is hereby given that BT has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of subsea cable installations at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Ardvasar to Mallaigvaig Ref FKB/Z296	57° 03.849'N	005° 53.916'W
	57° 03.665'N	005° 54.104'W
	57° 03.627'N	005° 54.040'W
	57° 03.511'N	005° 53.829'W
	57° 01.268'N	005° 48.728'W
Corran to Onich Ref FKB/Z302	56° 44.410'N	005° 14.882'W
	56° 44.215'N	005° 14.612'W
	56° 43.747'N	005° 13.762'W
	56° 43.736'N	005° 13.731'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Mallaig Library, Mallaig and Mora Community Centre, West Bay, Mallaig, PH41 4PY. Broadford Library, Old Corry Industrial Estate, Broadford, Isle of Skye, IV49 9AB. Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, High St. Fort William Lochaber PH33 6EU.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **FKB/Z296**

FKB/Z302

BT

Any general questions regarding the Superfast Broadband HIE project should be directed to www.hie.co.uk/digital

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 BT: INSTALLATION OF SUBSEA CABLES

Notice is hereby given that BT has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of subsea cable installations at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Coilleag, Eriskay to North Bay, Barra Ref. FKB/Z297	57° 00.902'N	007° 25.867'W
	57° 01.011'N	007° 25.961'W
	57° 02.543'N	007° 20.552'W
	57° 04.364'N	007° 18.675'W
	57° 04.347'N	007° 18.261'W
Ludag, South Uist to Balla, Eriskay Ref FKB/Z298	57° 04.986'N	007° 18.615'W
	57° 05.495'N	007° 19.650'W
Dunvegan, Skye to Carnan, South Uist Ref FKB/Z299	57° 06.192'N	007° 21.021'W
	57° 26.158'N	006° 34.849'W
Leverburgh, Harris to Lochmaddy, North Uist 57° Ref FKB/Z300	57° 26.561'N	006° 35.611'W
	57° 27.039'N	006° 36.755'W
	57° 31.202'N	006° 42.444'W
	57° 31.971'N	006° 45.699'W
	57° 26.997'N	006° 57.754'W
	57° 22.659'N	007° 12.288'W
	57° 23.278'N	007° 16.216'W
	57° 23.867'N	007° 19.707'W
	57° 26.158'N	006° 34.849'W
	57° 26.788'N	006° 35.981'W
Ardmair, Ullapool to Branaheue Bay, Stornoway Ref FKB/Z301	57° 31.414'N	006° 49.145'W
	57° 25.317'N	007° 01.927'W
	57° 22.659'N	007° 12.288'W
	57° 23.867'N	007° 19.707'W
	58° 12.297'N	006° 18.661'W
	58° 11.047'N	006° 17.910'W
58° 00.803'N	005° 47.903'W	
57° 56.138'N	005° 28.815'W	
57° 56.931'N	005° 21.679'W	
57° 55.975'N	005° 12.424'W	
57° 56.032'N	005° 11.797'W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at (Z299) Portree Community Library, Viewfield Rd., Portree, Isle of Skye, Skye & Lochalsh, IV51 9ET. Lionacleit Community Library, within Sgoil Lionacleit, Lionacleit, Isle of Benbecula, HS7 5PJ. Daliburgh Community Library, within Daliburgh School, Daliburgh, Isle of South Uist, HS8 5SS, Stornoway Library, 19 Cromwell St. Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS 2DA, Tarbert Community Library, within Sir E. Scott School, Tarbert, Isle of Harris HS3BG, Castlebay Community Library, within Castlebay School, Castlebay, Isle of Barra HS9 5XD, Ullapool Library, Community High School, Mill St. Ullapool, Ross & Cromarty, IV26 2UN

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **FKB/Z297 - Z301**

BT

Any general questions regarding the Superfast Broadband HIE project should be directed to www.hie.co.uk/digital

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 BT PLC: Subsea Cable Installation

Notice is hereby given that BT PLC has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of subsea cable installations at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Jura to Kintyre (FKB/Z306)	55° 50.299'N	05° 56.999' W
	55° 50.538'N	05° 54.138' W
	55° 50.707'N	05° 51.317' W
	55° 52.796'N	05° 40.658' W
	55° 53.670'N	05° 37.165' W
Islay to Kintyre (FKB/Z308)	55° 38.016'N	06° 07.882' W
	55° 36.205'N	05° 48.144' W
	55° 36.798'N	06° 05.224' W
	55° 35.311'N	05° 41.534' W
Tiree to Mull (FKB/Z305)	56° 34.818'N	06° 16.814' W
	56° 34.155'N	06° 18.689' W
	56° 33.032'N	06° 23.834' W
	56° 31.252' N	06° 29.970' W
Mull to Oban (FKB/Z303)	56° 30.434' N	06° 41.021' W
	56° 29.979' N	06° 48.450' W
	56° 26.878' N	05° 39.751' W
	56° 27.397' N	05° 38.299' W
	56° 26.497' N	05° 32.162' W
	56° 26.251' N	05° 28.167' W
Ardmurchan to Mull (FKB/Z304)	56° 27.412' N	05° 39.814' W
	56° 26.491' N	05° 37.107' W
	56° 26.547' N	05° 28.695' W
	56° 41.402' N	06° 05.753' W
Islay to Jura (FKB/Z307)	56° 37.514' N	06° 03.470' W
	56° 39.555' N	06° 05.019' W
	56° 37.278' N	06° 04.197' W
	55° 50.875' N	06° 06.330' W
Bute to Cumbrae (FKB/Z311)	55° 50.805' N	06° 05.466' W
	55° 50.857' N	06° 06.155' W
Bute to Cowal (FKB/Z312)	55° 45.455' N	05° 01.933' W
	55° 44.732' N	05° 00.361' W
	55° 44.509' N	04° 59.179' W
	55° 44.337' N	04° 57.438' W
	55° 44.594' N	04° 57.201' W
	55° 44.558' N	04° 56.680' W
Kintyre to Cowal (FKB/Z313)	55° 44.594' N	04° 56.644' W
	55° 51.481' N	05° 03.731' W
	55° 51.671' N	05° 02.964' W
	55° 51.917' N	05° 02.176' W
Kintyre to Arran (FKB/Z314)	55° 52.134' N	05° 01.519' W
	56° 01.379' N	05° 21.858' W
	56° 01.016' N	05° 21.212' W
BT PLC	56° 00.703' N	05° 19.524' W
	56° 00.503' N	05° 19.279' W
	55° 28.228' N	05° 32.507' W
	55° 28.478' N	05° 29.507' W
	55° 29.843' N	05° 21.490' W
	55° 30.244' N	05° 20.412' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library, 77 Albany St, Oban PA34 4AL, Tarbert Library, Barmore Road, Tarbert PA29 6TW, Campbeltown Library, Kinloch Rd, Campbeltown PA28 6EG. Rothsay Library, Stuart St. Rothsay PA20 0BX, Lochgilphead Library, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8QZ

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

Mull to Oban - FKB/Z303

Ardmurchan to Mull - FKB/Z304

Tiree to Mull - FKB/Z305

Jura to Kintyre - FKB/Z306

Islay to Jura - FKB/Z307

Islay to Kintyre - FKB/Z308

Bute to Cumbrae (FKB/Z311)

Bute to Cowal (FKB/Z312)

Kintyre to Cowal (FKB/Z313)

Kintyre to Arran (FKB/Z314)

BT PLC

Any general questions regarding the Superfast Broadband HIE project should be directed to www.hie.co.uk/digital

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02814/PP	Alterations and replacement of timber decking area	Dalavich Social Club Dalavich Tainuill Argyll and Bute PA35 1HL	Sub Post Office Tainuill
14/00208/PP	Erection of enclosure over existing water treatment plant	Bridge of Orchy Water Supply Station Road Bridge of Orchy Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalnally
14/00289/PP	Erection of Marina facilities building comprising staff accommodation, shop, restaurant, changing and laundry facilities and first floor function and meeting rooms.	Oban Yachts and Marine Services Ltd Kerrera Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SX	Oban Area Office
14/00332/PP	Formation of access track.	Land Approximately 910 Metres Northeast of Willes Cottage Kilchrean Argyll and Bute PA35 1HE	Sub Post Office Tainuill
14/00374/PP	Demolition of derelict dwellinghouse, Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and infiltration area	Land North East of Musdale Farm Kilmore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XX	Oban Area Office
14/00387/PP	Removal of Condition 4 relative to planning permission reference 13/01490/PP (Demolition of shed and erection of restaurant) in relation to bird nesting	Land East of Crossapol Farm Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
14/00389/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of a mobile catering trailer	Land North West of Killechrean Farm Killechrean Isle of Mull	Sub Post Office Aras Isle of Mull
14/00403/PP	Erection of 50kW wind turbine (24 metres to hub height)	Celtic Sea Ltd Arduaine Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XD	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
14/00404/PP	Installation of hydro power scheme.	Glenorchy Farm Glen Orchy Argyll and Bute PA33 1BD	Sub Post Office Dalnally
14/00436/PPP	Site for the erection of 4 holiday chalets, formation of new access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North of An Tigh Dearg Kilchrean Tainuill Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02437/LIB	Repainting of exterior and erection of fascia sign	5 Albany Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4AR	Oban Area Office
13/02594/LIB	Installation of new bathrooms, minor alterations to external drainage to walls connecting to existing waste pipes and installation of extract vents ducted through roof and air bricks	Torsay Castle Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure
14/00334/PP	Installation of replacement white timber frame windows to white PVCU double glazed windows same style.	Argyll Hotel Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute PA76 6SJ	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
14/00437/PP	Installation of access ramp	3 Fern Cottages Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00400/PP	Repair and alterations to existing breaker	Bowmore Harbour Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JP	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) TAXI FARE REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council, having consulted with taxi operators licensed by the authority, propose to make the following changes to the maximum fares for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council. It is proposed these maximum fares will become effective from 9th June 2014.

Any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals should do so by writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT no later than 28th March 2014.

Tariff	Hirings from ranks or "flag"	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof)	Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof)	General effect
Tariff 1	Hiring between 7am and 10pm	£3.00	20 pence	(general effect - increase of 30p to 'initial charge' and distance for each unit of 'subsequent charge' reduced from 200 to 176 yards)
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am	£3.60	20 pence	Tariff 2 also applies to hirings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January (general effect - increase of 40p to 'initial charge' and distance for each unit of 'subsequent charge' reduced from 170 to 150 yards)
Tariff 3	Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and between 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January	£4.20	20 pence	(general effect - 50p increase to 'initial charge', subsequent charge yardage to remain the same)

Soiling Charge - £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence)

Waiting Time - 35 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rata basis per second (general effect - increase of 5p)

Taxi called by mean of telephone - 30 pence additional charge

Large Mini-bus type vehicle (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request) -

- Where Tariff 1 would apply - charge Tariff 2
- Where Tariff 2 would apply - charge Tariff 3
- Where Tariff 3 would apply - surcharge £1.00

Fee by negotiation - for all journeys commencing within but finishing outside Argyll and Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her

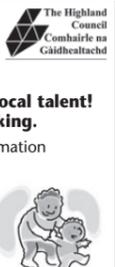
Ferry Fares - The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry

Caol Community Ceilidh

Come along, meet friends and hear music from local talent! Free finger buffet/tea/coffee and homebaking.

Find out more about local Gaelic groups and information about Gaelic Medium Education.

11am to 1pm
Friday 14th March
Kilmallie Free Church Hall, Caol
All ages welcome! Fáilte!



MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 1 Private Mooring, Clachan Sound

Notice is hereby given that Mr Chris Wrighton has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of 1 private mooring at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
	56°18.290' N	05°35.440' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Balvicar Stores, Balvicar, Isle of Seil, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4TE.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **FKB/J269**

Mr Chris Wrighton

MORBAINÉ

Morbaine is consulting on proposals for a mixed use retail park on a site at the North Road (A82), north of Fort William town centre - located between the Rio Tinto Alcan junction and the Ben Nevis Motors Ford car showroom.

Public exhibitions on the proposals will be held at the Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William, PH33 6AN, on:

- Friday 7 March 2014, 2pm - 7.30pm
- Saturday 8 March 2014, 10am - 2.30pm

For more information please contact 0131 603 8996 or email contact@orbit-comms.co.uk.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Supporting Gaelic-speaking children in the Home

An information and guidance workshop for parents of Toddler, pre-school and P1 /2 Gaelic Medium Children.

7pm to 9pm, Wednesday 12th March 2014. St Mary's Primary School, Fort William.

7pm to 9pm, Thursday 13th March 2014. Acharacle Primary School, Acharacle

Workshop Leader - Catriona Macintyre Refreshments available.

For further information please contact; Margaret Mulholland (Community Learning and Development Officer, Gaelic), Highland Council. Tel. 01463 703690.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Ronald & Mrs Joyce Christine Darvill have registered their croft 4 Lower Scotstown, Ardnamurchan and Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 20, 2014. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home

The crofts registration numbers are A0345

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Kilchoan Common Grazings, Ardnamurchan & Sunart Registration Number: CG51

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to

WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS
www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

BUY AND SELL LOCALLY
SAVE ON COSTLY DELIVERY CHARGES

BUMPER CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

PACKED FULL OF BARGAINS FROM LOCAL SELLERS

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES
47 AERO MODELLER MAGS 1955 - 1958, £25 Telephone 01866 822330.

BONE CHINA TEA-SET Royal Tuscan Charade 21 piece including sugar bowl, milk jug and serving plate, £25 Telephone 01631 710790.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao/ Lladro Ballerina with ball no:505, Nao/ Lladro Mother with child and teddy, Nao/ Lladro Girl with candle, £50 Telephone 07748 547770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE L L A D R O S / N A O Large Lladro lady on rock no:525, Lladro lady with bird no: 530, £50 Telephone 07748 547770.

MODEL CORGI GUY ARAB Double Deck Bus, 1:50 scale, W Alexander, £18 post free Telephone 01369 706726.

MODEL SCANIA UNIT with curtainside Trailer, Eddie Stobart 1:50 scale, original box, £29 post free. Telephone 01369 706726.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT
FLOORSTANDING LOUDSPEAKERS Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3 floorstanding loudspeakers in light maple finish.

8 ohm, 150w in excellent condition, £120 Telephone 07795 973802.

BABY EQUIPMENT
BABIES 'R' US COTBED very good condition, suitable up to age 4 as easily converts to bed. Teething rail, drop down side, adjustable height base, £45 Telephone 01631 720674.

BABYBJORN BABY CARRIER the classic original baby carrier in pink spirit colour, excellent condition. Suitable from 0+ months (3.5- 11kg), £35.00 Telephone 01631 730606.

BUGABOOBEEPLUS pushchair, includes newborn cocoon, rain-cover and maxi cosi car seat adaptors. Great condition, £220 Telephone 07795 973702.

CAR BABY CHAIR Halfords, very good condition holiday use only, £20 Telephone 07854 090406.

CHILD CAR SEAT group 1/2/3 with side protection, can be used with harness or car seat belt or just as a booster, machine washable covers, instructions, £25 Telephone 01838 200349 Dalmally.

CHILD EXTENDABLE BED Minnen by Ikea,

with mattress, mattress extensions and fitted sheets, easy to assemble, instructions, £49 Telephone 01838 200349 Dalmally.

COSATTO COTBED sturdy Cotbed turns into junior bed, in excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 07789 228628.

COTBED DUVET AND COT BUMPER Mamas Papas cotbed neutral colours to suit boy or girl, £10 Telephone 07789 228628.

DEUTER CHILD CARRIER Deuter Kid Comfort II Child Carrier Backpack. Red and grey, comes with sun shade and rain cover. Very good condition, £70 Telephone 07795 973802.

INFANT BIKE SEAT attaches to back of adult bike, £15 Telephone 07789 228628.

ISOFIX CAR SEAT Baby Weavers Shuffle SP in black / grey suitable 9 months - 4 years (9-18kg). Washable covers, good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 720674.

LINDAM BACKSEAT MIRROR adjustable mirror to view baby in rear facing car seat, £6 Telephone 01546 602493.

MACLARENTECHNO XT PUSHCHAIR grey cones with cosy toes, excellent lightweight buggy, £45 Telephone 07789 228628.

MEDELA SWING ELECTRIC BREAST Pump, a comfortable & efficient electric or battery breast pump, 2 phase expression technology, excellent condition, rrp £129.99, £45 Telephone 01631730606.

NEW-MOTHER-CARE COT TOP CHANGER pine cot top changer with drawer & towel rail, velcro strap to secure, fits cots or cotbeds, £45 Telephone 01631 730606.

P U S H C H A I R / STROLLER Mamas and Papas Ario pushchair in excellent condition, with rain hood. Barcaldine, £20 Telephone 01631 720751.

SILVER CROSS SLEEPOVER DELUXE birth to toddler Ebony pram, matching Ventura Plus car seat, carrycot wooden stand, changing bag & all accessories, £150 Telephone 01546 602493.

BICYCLES
CHAINSET Shimano triple chainset 40 32 and 22t also bottom bracket sealed un25 68 x 113mm, £30 Telephone 07561 341825.

JOE BLOW SPRINT hand operated tyre pume, £15 Telephone 01631 720751.

BOOKS
CHILDREN'S PRE-SCHOOL BOOKS 13 pre school books all v good condition, £25 Telephone 07789 228628.

CARAVAN AWNING Trio Sport Mexico green 900cm, complete with Magic aluminium poles and curtains. Hardly used, £300 Telephone 01631 564777.

CARAVAN STABILISER BAR, £20 Telephone 07765 901928 or 01586 553533.

CARAVAN TOWING MIRRORS, £12 Telephone 01631 564777.

COOKER Colemans two burner fuel stove IN EX condition used a couple of times for home or camping., £30 Telephone 07561341825.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
BEKO ELECTRIC COOKER oven with integral grill and four metal hotplates, 50cm wide. Barcaldine, £49 Telephone 01631 720751.

BOSCH DISHWASHER 2 - 3 settings. Buyer collects, £30 Telephone 01631 570996.

CANDY FRIDGE-FREEZER fridge at top, height 136cm, width 54cm, depth 60cm white, buyer collects, £200 Telephone 01631 720180 or 07765 526358 Oban.

LG FRIDGE 19" wide under counter fridge with small freezer compartment. Barcaldine, £35 Telephone 01631 720751.

SEALY ELECTRIC RISING BED with headboard, single, rarely used. Buyer collects, £250 Telephone 01631 570996.

ZANUSSI FRIDGE FREEZER height 47", depth 21", width 19", buyer must uplift, £20 Telephone 01586 553684.

IPAD FOR THE OVER 50'S not used, new book, £12.99, £6 Telephone 01631 565404.

BUILDING / DIY
BEREAVEMENT SALE of Tradesman's Tools, hand power and hand tools including Mitre saw, jigsaw, drills, sanders, bench grinder, vice, spanner and socket sets plus much more. All must go. Telephone 07788 993806 Benderloch.

CAR ACCESSORIES
BATTERY CHARGER Selmer 'Startrite' Auto battery charger, 6v or 12v, 4amps, £20 Telephone 01631 720751.

CAR ROOF BAG and soft roof bars, used twice, £39 Telephone 01838 200349 Dalmally.

ROOF BARS for Nissan X Trail, as new, £30 Telephone 01546 603865.

TOYOTA SPACE SAVER SPARE WHEEL new, plus jack and wheel key, buyer collects, £35 Telephone 01397 703452 (Fort William) after 5pm.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT
CARAVAN AWNING Trio Sport Mexico green 900cm, complete with Magic aluminium poles and curtains. Hardly used, £300 Telephone 01631 564777.

CARAVAN STABILISER BAR, £20 Telephone 07765 901928 or 01586 553533.

CARAVAN TOWING MIRRORS, £12 Telephone 01631 564777.

COOKER Colemans two burner fuel stove IN EX condition used a couple of times for home or camping., £30 Telephone 07561341825.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES
ORIGINAL XBOX GAMES 6 original Xbox games all good condition, £10 Telephone 07789 228628.

SCANNER Epson 3490 flat bed scanner good condition, £15 Telephone 07561 41825.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
BEKO ELECTRIC COOKER oven with integral grill and four metal hotplates, 50cm wide. Barcaldine, £49 Telephone 01631 720751.

BOSCH DISHWASHER 2 - 3 settings. Buyer collects, £30 Telephone 01631 570996.

CANDY FRIDGE-FREEZER fridge at top, height 136cm, width 54cm, depth 60cm white, buyer collects, £200 Telephone 01631 720180 or 07765 526358 Oban.

LG FRIDGE 19" wide under counter fridge with small freezer compartment. Barcaldine, £35 Telephone 01631 720751.

SEALY ELECTRIC RISING BED with headboard, single, rarely used. Buyer collects, £250 Telephone 01631 570996.

ZANUSSI FRIDGE FREEZER height 47", depth 21", width 19", buyer must uplift, £20 Telephone 01586 553684.

CATERING EQUIPMENT
COMMERCIAL KITCHEN Stainless Steel double sink unit high quality. Width 240cm, Depth 65cm, Height 80cm. Absolute bargain at this price, £160 Telephone 01852 300276.

VARIOUS CATERING APPLIANCES Soft Serve Ice Cream Machine, Refrigerated Display Cabinet and many more. For further details Telephone 07979 276323 Lochgilphead.

CDS, DVDS AND VIDEOS
CASSETTES Sony/ Fuji video cassettes Hi8 Metal-E still wrapped, £4 each Telephone 07561 341825.

LP'S Selection of LPS all in great condition with original covers about 100 of them. Offers. Telephone 07561 341825.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES
BUNDLE BOYS CLOTHES AGE 4-5 jeans tops and shirts and hoodies. All good makes and all good condition some still with tags on, £25 Telephone 07789 228628.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES
ORIGINAL XBOX GAMES 6 original Xbox games all good condition, £10 Telephone 07789 228628.

SCANNER Epson 3490 flat bed scanner good condition, £15 Telephone 07561 41825.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
BEKO ELECTRIC COOKER oven with integral grill and four metal hotplates, 50cm wide. Barcaldine, £49 Telephone 01631 720751.

BOSCH DISHWASHER 2 - 3 settings. Buyer collects, £30 Telephone 01631 570996.

CANDY FRIDGE-FREEZER fridge at top, height 136cm, width 54cm, depth 60cm white, buyer collects, £200 Telephone 01631 720180 or 07765 526358 Oban.

LG FRIDGE 19" wide under counter fridge with small freezer compartment. Barcaldine, £35 Telephone 01631 720751.

SEALY ELECTRIC RISING BED with headboard, single, rarely used. Buyer collects, £250 Telephone 01631 570996.

ZANUSSI FRIDGE FREEZER height 47", depth 21", width 19", buyer must uplift, £20 Telephone 01586 553684.

DOMESTIC PETS
BORDER COLLIE PUPS black and white border collie pups, good working background, ready now. Telephone 01586 820285.

EQUESTRIAN
MEGAN WELSH SECTION D 14.3hh, 15 years of age. Liver chestnut, good all rounder. Telephone 01681 700541 Isle of Mull.

FIREARMS
THEOBEN RAPID 7 Air Rifle 12flbs.22 7 shot autoloading, 3 clips, sheepskin carrybag, spare cylinders, pellets, maintenance items, service bottle. Robert, £850 Telephone 01546 602770.

WEIHRAUCH HW80K HW 80 K with Richter Optik 3-9 x 50 AOE. .22 calibre in excellent condition rarely used. Complete with gun bag, £300 Telephone 01546 810140.

FURNITURE
PINE TABLE new size 4 feet by 2.5 feet, £30 Telephone 01880 740635.

2 X 5 FOLD ELECTRIC Single Beds including mattresses, in excellent condition, £130 each Telephone 07770 901597.

BROWN LEATHER SOFAS 2 x 2 seater, nearly new, excellent condition, £199 or £100 each. Telephone 01631 564653 or 07833 382864.

CANE 3 PIECE SUITE good condition. Can email photo, £700 Telephone 01397 722253 Fort William.

CHAISE LONGUE faux leather, sofa bed, in excellent condition, rich chocolate colour. Can be viewed in Oban or photos available. Bargain price, £950 Telephone 07876 535185.

CHILD'S JUNIOR BED new and still in box, £100 Telephone 07423 688293.

CIRCULAR EXTENDING single pedestal modern table, very attractive, £100 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

COFFEE TABLE Cubes design, oak effect, H30, W80, D40, perfect condition, Oban, £10 Telephone 07526 724597.

DINING CHAIRS set of four mahogany dining chairs with red velvet upholstery, beautiful condition, Barcaldine, £40 Telephone 01631 720751.

SINGLE BED new and unused, £100 Telephone 07423 688293.

SMALL BLUE MODERN chest of drawers, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SMALL CHEST OF DRAWERS, £3 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE BED clean and comfortable, £30 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DUCAL PINE chest of drawers/bedside cabinets, £100 Telephone 01631 563404.

EXTENDING BEECH DINING TABLE and 4 chairs, £100 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GATE LEG TABLE wood, French polished, open size 60"x33", £40 Telephone 01397 704773.

GREEN THREE SEAT LOUNGE suite, very tidy, £60 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GREEN THREE SEAT SETTEE, £7 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

HORRIBILIS THREE PIECE Suite, perfectly functional and comfortable, £2.34 That's two pounds thirty four pence! Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

KING SIZE ANTIQUE PINE Headboard high quality antique pine headboard for king size divan. In excellent condition, £60 Telephone 01852 300276.

LEATHER COUCHES 2 x 6ft Habitat black leather couches, £150 Telephone 07946 299898.

LEATHER SOFA 3 seater, cream, in excellent condition, £70 Telephone 07423 688293.

MAHOGANY NEST OF TABLES 3 nesting tables with carved edging and embossed leather in-fill. Barcaldine, £20 Telephone 01631 720751.

MYERS SLEEPZONE MEMORY TOPPED single divan, spotless, £80 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

OVAL PINE TABLE 6-seater oval pine table, 5' by 3', very good condition, Barcaldine, £45 Telephone 01631 720751.

PARKER KNOLL 3 Piece living room suite, good condition. Can email photo, £1500 Telephone 01397 722253 Fort William.

PINE HEADBOARD FOR DOUBLE BED in good condition, £10 Telephone 01852 300276.

SILENTNIGHT VAN GOGH DOUBLE drawer divan with headboard, £100 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE BED new and unused, £100 Telephone 07423 688293.

SMALL BLUE MODERN chest of drawers, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SMALL CHEST OF DRAWERS, £3 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SOLID WOOD UNIT can be used as room divider, 6ftx4ft, as new, cost £350, sell for, £175ono Telephone 077896 08714 (Fort William).

TWO SEAT SETTEE in reasonable order, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GARDEN
MACHINE FOR CHIPPING BRANCHES hardly used, good condition machine that chips branches, electric, £25 Telephone 07789 228628.

HEALTH AND FITNESS
REEBOK I-RUN TREADMILL mains powered, folds flat for storage. Hand grip pulse sensor, 6 training programmes. Good condition, £150 Telephone 07739 339428.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES
COAL BUNKER good sized dark green plastic coal bunker in good condition. Includes small bag of coal. Buyer must be able to collect, £25 Telephone 01631 710159.

GRANT OILED FIRED central heating boiler, 60000 BTU, working order, £45 Telephone 01880 740635.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS
AMERICAN QUILTING 20 American quilting magazines, excellent conditions, full with patterns & designs beautifully illustrated call 01852 300154, £20 Telephone 01852 300154.

ARTISTS ABEF ADJUSTABLE wind up Italian Easel, full size wood and brass, on castors, very good condition. Cost £300 accept, £150 Telephone 01631 710790.

NEVER USED INDUSTRIAL SEWING Machine, fully assembled with table, Joy's "Walking Foot" machine with all accessories and instruction book, £225 Telephone 07826 025147.

P A T C H W O R K & QUILTING 31 patchwork & quilting magazines excellent conditions with patterns & designs, £30 Telephone 01852 300154.

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Baby Blue and Baby Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

POPULAR PATCHWORK 45 popular patchwork magazines, excellent conditions with designs & patterns, £40 Telephone 01852 300154.

Share your celebrations with
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
in our new look Announcements Section

Michael and Sophie got engaged on 1st January

Both families are delighted to announce the recent engagement of Michael and Sophie. Congratulations from all family and friends.

Annie Birthday: 25th January

Look who's all grown up! Happy 21st birthday! Have a brilliant day. Lots of love from all the family xxx

Pauline Born: 9th January 2014

Bob and Lesley are delighted to announce the safe arrival of baby Pauline, a little sister for Susie and Gillian.

Share your celebrations with our ALL NEW announcements adverts - starting next week!

5x2 colour ads with artwork, a photo and your own personal message.

Let everyone know about an engagement, birthday, anniversary or new arrival in your family!

Call us now to book your space!

ONLY £25 + VAT

call us today on 01631 568000

SELL YOUR ITEMS WORTH £50 OR MORE FOR ONLY £14.25 + VAT UP TO 25 WORDS TO MAKE A PAYMENT CALL 01631 568000 OR EMAIL ADVERTS@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

SELL YOUR ITEMS UNDER £50 FREE

Your ad will appear in the Oban Times, The Campbelltown Courier, The Argyllshire Advertiser AND online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

To place your advertisement simply fill in the form below and post or hand in to any of our offices Or visit the website and input your details at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NAME..... TEL.....

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE TUESDAY 1.00pm TO ADVERTISERS - No trade advertisers in private sales - All boats, cars & trailers must appear in Drive Times

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:
OBAN: The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
FORT WILLIAM: The Oban Times, Manmore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA
CAMPBELTOWN: The Campbelltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbelltown, PA28 6AE
LOCHGILPHEAD: Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NB

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupon on this page or visit the website and input your details there.

TWO KNITTING MACHINES Knitmaster 560 in cabinet; Knitmaster 500 and table. Various accessories (£20 each ono) and for both, £40 ono Telephone 01546 603771.

HOME FURNISHINGS

CD RACK 5 shelves, £7 Telephone 01866 822330.

NEW DOUBLE BED DUVET goose feather and down, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603281.

OAK MIRROR natural oak frame mirror, 600 x 1200, as new, £65 Telephone 01631 563404.

WOODEN STANDARD LAMP with cream shade, £15 Telephone 01866 822330.

HOME OFFICE

BT TELEPHONE/FAX plain paper Model T78, hardly used, £25 Telephone 07854 090406.

FOUR DRAWER FILING Cabinet, £20 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GUILLOTINE paper guillotine as new for home or office, £10 Telephone 07561 341825.

OFFICE CHAIR in good condition, £12 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

PRINTER Epson Photo R200, £10 Telephone 07854 090406.

PRINTER HP Deskjet 1470, £20 Telephone 07854 090406.

THREE DRAWER FILING Cabinet, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

HOSTESS TROLLEY Ekko Hostess Royal, £49.95 Telephone 07854 090406.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

FOLDING SINGLE CAMPING BED check page 256 Argos catalogue 340/8427 blue canvas camp bed £29.99 mine is green good as new with carry bag. Bargain at, £10 Telephone 01631 565143.

INDOOR GOLF SET (UNUSED) putter, golf ball, flag, 'sounding hole' with battery compartment. No batteries included. Comes complete in wooden case, £30 Telephone 07811 806554.

LIVESTOCK

2 SIBERIAN STURGEONS 1 grey/white, 1 dark blue/black. 17" - 18" long, £100 Telephone 07733 218406.

BLACK ROCK PULLETS genuine Muirfield layers, free range reared, ready to go. Several second hand hen houses at bargain prices. Benderloch farm@kintaline.co.uk Telephone 01631 720223.

HENS FOR SALE from point of lay to older hens, £15/5, several breeds to choose from, contact Ian Wilson Telephone 01583 505204 or 07795 843558.

TAMWORTH WEANERS, £65 Telephone 01687 470243 Lochailort (evening).

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Glentworth and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MARINE

STORM DAMAGED two 10' glass fibre rowing dinghies. Also one 12' with cuddy, storm damaged, repairable. Offers. Telephone 01631 730387.

MISCELLANEOUS

CALIPER Electronic Digital Caliper never been used, £10 Telephone 07561341825.

CLOTHES RAIL chrome lightweight used once, £3 Telephone 07561 341825.

DRYSUIT SHOULDER ZIP ENTRANCE by Northern Diver, good con, plus matching hood, new inflation whip, size medium/large, boot size 10 try it on see if it fits you!, £100 Telephone 01631 565143.

LOCKERS metal, with keys. Each 15" x 16 1/2". 4 stacks of 5 lockers £20 per stack. Telephone 01586 830329.

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES

CHARGER Blackberry charger. Free. Telephone 07561 341825.

HTC DESIRE SMART PHONE excellent condition. Silver/grey, unlocked, camera, 2Gb memory, bluetooth. Wifi, with charger. Barcaldine, £95 Telephone 01631 720751.

ORANGE SAN FRANCISCO ANDROID PHONE. Unused, as new. Boxed with all extras, easy to unlock, £50 Telephone 07500 716262.

MOBILITY

AQUA SOOTHE ELECTRIC Wheelchair, collapses for car, including 2 batteries, £175 Telephone 07854 090406.

QUINGO MOBILITY SCOOTER excellent condition, silver. Fully serviced. Cost £4,000. Can be seen at Matheson's Furniture Store Oban, £1250 Telephone 01360 705549.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

CRAFTER ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC GUITAR, beautiful, bowl backed, black wood front. 1972-2007 anniversary edition. As new. With soft case included. Barcaldine, £175 Telephone 01631 720751.

EARLHAM ALTO SAXOPHONE beautiful brass Earlham Professional Series II. Perfect condition, with hard case, strap, mouthpiece, reeds etc. Barcaldine, £220 Telephone 01631 720751.

ELECTRIC ACOUSTIC BASS GUITAR Swift electric acoustic guitar, black in very good condition. Barcaldine, £49 Telephone 01631 720751.

GUITAR OVATION CELEBRITY Electro Acoustic Model CS148. In very good condition. Excellent sound, with built in graphics equalisers/preamp, £100 Telephone 01852 300276.

UPRIGHT PIANO Collard & Collard, circa 1896, dealer price around £3000, £1200 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

FISHING SHELTERS two fishing shelters, new. One mountain Hardwear, one Li Lo, £15 each Telephone 07561 341825.

GOLF CLUBS John Letters T7s, 5 - SW - 3 + 4 Hybrids, £60 Telephone 01546 886252.

GOLF CLUBS twelve golf clubs in bag with some golf balls, £20 Telephone 07765 901928 or 01586 553533.

LADIES SNOWBOARD K2 Skylla. 147 cm long complete with soft bindings good beginners / intermediate board. Very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563466.

MISTRAL EQUIPE SAILBOARD with 7 premium sails, 2 carbon masts, 4 booms, harness and custom short board with padded board bag. Numerous accessories, £199 ono Telephone 01631 720512.

SNOWBOARD BOOTS Northwave soft boots Size: 7 / 41 / MP270. Unisex, fair condition, £10 Telephone 01631 563466.

PHOTOGRAPHY

BAG Sony small camcorder bag new, £5 Telephone 07561 341825.

POWER TOOLS

ELECTRIC MITRE SAW Ferm FKZ-250, 1400 watt, 250mm mitre saw, excellent condition, Barcaldine, £40 Telephone 01631 720751.

ENGINE TEST AND TUNE-UPKIT Dixco set including timing light, tach/dwell angle tester, compression gauge, vacuum/fuel pump test gauge with instructions, £49 Telephone 01631 720751.

LASER LEVEL rotating head laser level. Puts a

line of light at the same height around your room for decorating, hanging pictures, etc, £45 Telephone 01631 720751.

ROUTER AND ROUTER TABLE McKeller MCKM36, 1020 watt router with router table, £40 Telephone 01631 720751.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

MOVED HOME? Sticky address labels to attach on all your correspondence. 500 labels from £20. Call Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

WRITING PAPER and matching envelopes, printed with your address. Sets from £33. From Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

24 VOLT ELECTRIC SCOOTER with new batteries and full accessory kit bag(fast) with pneumatic, vgc, £95 Telephone 07867 861957.

FRIENDS SCENE IT DVD Board Game. Great fun for Friends fans. Answer questions on the hit TV series. Good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 562796.

WANTED

ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL we uplift scrap cars, copper, brass, lead etc. Smaller quantities considered. Telephone 07435 589701.

EVERHOT 60 electric cooker. Telephone 01546 510226.

PERSONALS

Donald Sinclair

65 today!
Happy Retirement
Love from all your family xxx



THANK YOU

HAZEL EVANS

would like to thank family, friends, and work colleagues for their cards, presents and party at the Golf Club on the occasion of her retirement after forty six years nursing with the NHS.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

PHOTO ORDERS

A5 photograph £4.41
A4 photograph £6.76

You can order photos that appear in the Oban Times

Simply contact the Oban Times office with the date of publication and the code printed alongside the photograph (photographs that do not have codes have been submitted by private individuals and are therefore ineligible for this offer)

Please add £1.30 to your total order if you require delivery of photographs to cover postage and packing

Fort William office
Mamore House
The Parade
Fort William
PH33 6BA
01397 703003

Oban office
PO Box 1
Lochavullin Ind Est
Oban
PA34 4HB
01631 568000

email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk

TO ADVERTISE IN OUR LOCAL SERVICES SECTION CONTACT MARION LACEY ON 01631 568013 OR MLACEY@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

LOCAL SERVICES

OBAN BLINDS

Oban-Blinds

Vertical Blinds • Roller Blinds
Blackout Blinds • Venetian Blinds
Free Measuring and Estimating Service

Vast range of Domestic and Commercial blinds
Telephone: Donald Cameron
07979 826614
Email: oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage
Full range of packing materials
We store boats, caravans, trailers etc
Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848
www.macqueenbros.com

STOVES

OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Experienced and Established Suppliers of Heizomat Biomass Boilers

TRADE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

Scotland's Premier Stove, Spares & Flue Suppliers

Oban Stove Centre, Old Crafters Yard, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU Tel: 01631 564790

MOBILITY

Tower Mobility

we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters

Mathesons, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

PLUMBING

J.M. BOYD Plumbing & Heating Contractors Ltd.

Central Heating Systems • Underfloor Heating • Oil Fired Natural Gas • LPG • Solid Fuel • Complete Bathrooms supplied & fitted • Tiling, Bathrooms & Kitchens • Joiner & Electrical work
New build and complete house renovations
Tel: 01631 562383 • Fax: 01631 565512
Mobile: 07774 480 393
Email: boydnjl@supanet.com
16 Airds Crescent, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5SJ
24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE

ROOFING SLATES

SLATES WANTED AND FOR SALE

Top quality roofing slates wanted.
We also have top quality New and 2nd hand for sale
J Cummings and sons Perth
01738 624020
Anytime as it is diverted to mobiles!
Email jcummysandsons@live.co.uk

RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING

RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND

Couple Counselling Argyll
Do you have a relationship problem?
WE CAN HELP
Appointments are available in Oban, Lochgilphead, Dunoon, Rothesay & Helensburgh
Call 01631 563297
www.argyllcouplecounselling.org
SCO23995

FLOORING SPECIALIST

CALUM SMITH FLOORING
Flooring Specialist

Samples to your home!
FREE ESTIMATES
35 years experience
Measuring, supplying and fitting service
Carpets, Vinyls, Real Wood, Laminate & more.
Contract work undertaken
Mob: 07833 565284 Home: 01631 566188
calumsmithflooring@gmail.com

FIREWOOD

SEASONED HARDWOOD LOGS

Delivered by 1.5 ton tipper lorry, free delivery throughout Oban, Mid and North Argyll.
£85 per load.
Tel 01838 200373

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gordon & Strathern Ltd
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Roofline Conservatories/Porches
Fascias, Soffits & Gutters
GRP/Flat Roofs Replacement Sealed Units
Garage Doors Doors & Windows
Carports and Door canopies
Ronald or Lachie 01631 720074 or 07776402550
gordon961@btinternet.com

STATIONERY

Promotional material
Posters, flyers, leaflets, calendars, tickets
Photocopies/Laminating
Colour double sided copies up to A3
Laminating up to A3

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Main Street/Longrow South,
Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

CALL
01631 568000
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

CALLING ALL OBAN TIMES SUBSCRIBERS

Contact details for the subscription department have changed!

www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/subscribe
You can now manage your subscription on-line by registering at the above web address.
In some cases your subscription account number may have changed. If you have difficulty accessing your subscription on-line contact the helpline number below

01371 851868
Open 9am - 5.30pm
Monday to Friday

Wyvex Media Ltd
Freepost RTEY-YUBG-TYUB
Trinity House
Sculpins Lane
Wethersfield
Braintree
CM7 4AY

If you have recently received a renewal reminder, please use the details above to renew

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



Farming



Farming Focus

with Lucy Sumson, NFU Scotland regional manager covering Argyll and the Islands, including Arran

AS MANY of you I am sure are aware, Argyll and the Islands as a region is a hotspot for biodiversity.

We have a wealth of species that occur here, many as a result of farming and crofting practices, such as the cornflake and marsh fritillary butterfly. A significant amount of agri-environment funding has come in to the area in recent years in order to support management practices that benefit these species, with some farmers and crofters relying on these payments as an important part of their income.

In some instances however, some species management can conflict with farming and crofting causing a range of problems for land managers.

NFU Scotland recently held a meeting for members in the Lorn, Mull and Lochaber areas relating to the problems associated with sea eagles. We will be working with SNH over the coming months to secure further support for farmers and crofters who lose livestock because of sea eagle predation.

This week we held a meeting in Crianlarich with members from Argyll and Tayside to discuss beavers.

On May 31, the Scottish Beaver Trial in Knapdale will have completed its five-year long scientific monitoring phase. Scottish Natural Heritage will report to the Scottish Government in 2015 on their findings, as well as from the other, unlicensed, beaver population living in the wild in Tayside.

A decision on the future of beavers in Scotland is expected from the Scottish Government in late 2015, with the Knapdale beaver population remaining in-situ until a wider decision on their future is made.

NFU Scotland organised the meeting this week in order to discuss the impacts that beavers can have on farming when we met with Simon Jones, Scottish Beaver Trial project manager. Whilst the Knapdale beavers have predominantly stayed within the trial area, and to date have caused little impact on surrounding farms, there are significant concerns from farmers in Tayside who have experienced considerable impacts and associated costs from the wild, unlicensed population, there.

Next week, March 10 and 11, NFU Scotland has organised a national conference which will focus on the management of wild geese in Scotland. The event is being held on Islay, with speakers coming from across the UK, covering a range of topics including the challenges set by farming with protected and quarry species of geese.

With over 40 people booked to attend, the event should be useful in trying to reconcile some of the issues relating to agriculture. So, much of our work lately seems to be dealing with conflict management – and I haven't even mentioned the independence debate – but I think I will that for others to discuss.



A buoyant ringside of buyers led to good prices at Dalmally Auction Mart's March sale of all classes cattle and sheep on Saturday. 16_0105ale01

All classes sell well at Dalmally Mart sale

UNITED Auctions held their Annual March Sale of all classes of Cattle and Sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday, where all classes of stock sold well to a good ringside of buyers.

Bullocks sold to average 242.9pence per kilo (+4.9p) whilst heifers levelled out at 225pence per kilo (+9.8p).

Glenshellach led the prices per kilo for both bullocks and heifers when their consignment sold to 275pence and 249pence per kilo respectively.

Garraron and Melfort Farms consignment led the prices per head for both bullocks and heifers when their consignment sold to £925 and £850 respectively.

Store Hoggets from Benview, Tiree, sold to £73

and cast ewes from Middleton Farm, Tiree, sold to £68.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:

Bullocks: Limx: £925, £810(2), £780(3) – Garraron and Melfort Farms : £775 and £755 – Tullochcan Farm : £720(2) – Glenshellach.

SIMx: £785(3) and £740(2) – Laggan Farms.

HERx: £785(3) – Laggan Farms.

HIGH: £645 and £635(2) – Innishewan Farms.

Heifers:

LIMx: £850(2) and £755(4) – Garraron and Melfort Farms.

SIMx: £730(2) and £700(2) – Laggan Farms.

Top prices per kilo: Bullocks: LIMx: 275p(2) and 257p(2) – Glenshellach : 255p(3) – Garraron and Melfort Farms : 252p – Glenshellach and Garraron and Melfort Farms(3).

HERx: 252p(3) – Laggan Farms.

HIGH: 211p – Innishewan Farms.

LUING: 243p(2) – Homefield Croft, Colonsay.

SIMx: 252p(3) and 245p(2) – Laggan Farms.

Heifers:

LIMx: 249p(2) – Glenshellach : 226p(4), 223p(2), 222p(3) – Garraron and Melfort Farms.

SIMx: 237p(2) and 230p(2) – Laggan Farms.

AAx: 220p – Glenaros Farm, Mull.

Breeding Cattle:

In calf Heifers: £920 – Knock Farm, Mull

In calf Cows: £780 – Knock Farm, Mull.

Sheep: Hoggs:

SUFF: £73.00 – Benview, Tiree.

CROSS:

£55.50 – Knock Farm, Mull : £55.50 – Benview, Tiree : £53.00 – Garrogie Estate.

BF: £47.00 – Stronmagachan : £45.00 – Garrogie Estate.

Ewes:

TEXx: £68.00 and £65.00 – Middleton Farm, Tiree.

CROSS: £60.00 and £55.50 – Middleton Farm, Tiree : £50.50 – Barguilean Farm.

BF: £38.00 – Ichrachan Farm : £37.00 – Knock Farm, Mull.

Follow us on facebook



www.facebook.com/obantimes

C. Hodge Fencing

After a wet winter we are introducing...

SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR LAMBING

We also have wire, netting, half mesh gates and hurdles

www.hodgefencing.co.uk or 01631 563271

ARGYLL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

OBAN

CASE 885XL

4WD Tractor 1992

All in working order

Price £7,000 + VAT

Tel: 01631 565011 Mob: 07831 609128 e-Mail: info@argyllagricultural.co.uk

WANTED

Auction Entry - Circa 1952 Case CLASSIC tractors WANTED.

Call Morris Leslie Vehicle Auctions on 01821 642 574 to auction your Classic on Sat 29th March.

morrisleslie.com

Morris Leslie

Wed 26th March 10.30am

Errol Airfield, Perth PH2 7TB

Call On Auction Entries

Plant, machinery, agri-equipment, vehicles, HGV's, tools and equipment welcome. Items include direct from councils, liquidators, and national plant hire companies.

Call on 01821 642 940 or visit morrisleslie.com for full catalogue

Farmer's move to outside lambing 'took a lot of nerve'

KINTYRE monitor farmer Duncan Macalister has decided to lamb all his ewes outside in a move which he admits 'took a lot of nerve'.

Mr Macalister owns and farms Glenbarr Farms, a 1,730 acre unit located on the west coast of the Kintyre Peninsula, just north of Campbeltown. Glenbarr Farms is one of the network of monitor farms throughout Scotland which are part of the programme run by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).

The sheep enterprise is based on a breeding flock of approximately 500 ewes, the vast majority of which are Lleyn crosses. All lambs, other than retained replacements, are finished.

Prior to the 2013 lambing Mr Macalister had split his ewes into two equal-sized lambing groups. The earlier lambers, lambing inside, started on March 25, with the later group, lambing outside, starting a month later.

In 2013, all the Glenbarr ewes were lambed outside, with an April 20 kick off. In 2012, a total of 746 lambs were marked. For 2013, when all ewes were lambed outside, 737 lambs were marked.

Explaining his decision to use the Lleyn Mr Macalister said: 'I don't intend to go back to lambing any ewes inside and while an 'easycare' system may sound simple, it's important to work with a type of ewe which is easy lambing and has a strong weather instinct which matches your environment. The ewe needs to be naturally territorial and have excellent mothering ability and needs to be able to stand her ground to protect her lambs against predators.'

For further information, please contact either of the joint facilitators Alan Boulton, on 01397 708891 or alan@huntawayconsulting.co.uk or Linda McLean 01586 820226 or kilmahofarm@btconnect.com.

Vets urge dog owners to keep pets on lead near sheep

VETS are asking dog owners to keep their pets on leads when walking near sheep as the annual lambing season gets underway. Ewes are particularly vulnerable at this time of year, as they prepare to give birth, and sheep worrying can have tragic consequences.

It is good practice for owners to keep dogs on leads at all times when walking near livestock but it is particularly important during the spring.

Vets have seen a rise in the numbers of attacks, the results of which may often lead to lambs being lost and sheep being killed and injured.

British Veterinary Association president and vet Robin Hargreaves said: 'Even dogs who are usually calm and good natured can become very excitable and difficult to control when faced with livestock. Tragically this can lead to chasing, attacks and fatalities for sheep and other animals.'

'Over the coming months ewes in the field are likely to be heavily pregnant or to have recently given birth. Chasing and worrying can have severe consequences at this time, leading to serious injuries, early labour and fatalities.'

Crofters urged to act on consultations

CROFTERS are being urged to respond to the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) consultations or risk losing what is rightfully theirs.

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) parliamentary spokesman Norman Leask said: 'Crofters need to wake up to what is being suggested in the consultations. The objective in the European Commission has been to provide more support to small producers right, but gradually the large farmers' representatives have eroded this intention. In Scotland it is the same. We were led to believe that crofters, small

producers existing in the harshest and most fragile areas of the Highlands and Islands, were to get real and equitable support at last.

'But in the short time between the first consultations and this second stage, the large farmers' representatives have stepped up lobbying pressure in the desperate attempt to keep the money, and the Scottish Government seems to be bowing to this.'

The consultations can be found on the Scottish Government website and hard copies should be available from your local Agriculture Area Office.

Market reports

Caledonian Marts Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 239 live cattle at their weekly primestock sale in Stirling last week, comprising 126 bullocks and heifers, 12 young bulls, six under 36 month OTM and 95 cast cows and bulls.

Bullocks averaged 213.5p per kilo and sold to 250.5p per kilo for 632kg of Limousin from Brockwoodlees Farm, Camnachie or to £1,652 per head for 662kg of Limousin from Learielaw Farm, Broxburn.

Heifers averaged 218p per kilo and sold to 254.5p per kilo for 562kg Limousin from Learielaw Farm, Broxburn or to £1,576 per head for 672kg Limousin from Brockwoodlees Farm.

Butchers Cattle sold in excess of 230p per kilo to average 237p per kilo and sold to 249.5p per kg (Twice) with Heavy British Blues from Mains of Culmalundie, Perth and Learielaw Farm.

Young Bulls sold to 214.5p per kilo with Simmental from South Milton Farm or to £1,583 per head for 22 month old Simmental Woodhall Farm, Dunbar.

Under 36 month OTM Clean Cattle sold to 189.5p per kg, for 670kg of young Charolais from Euorabus Farm, Islay or to £1,270 per head.

Also forward were 101Cast Cows, Bulls and OTM Cattle.

Limousin Cow sold to £1,235 from D and L Graham, Mains of Burnbank. Friesian Cow sold to £915 from M/s Reid East Mains of Ballencrieff, Bathgate.

United Auctions Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 5,198 Prime Sheep including 3,972 lambs and 1,226 ewes and rams at its Stirling sale last Thursday.

Lambs: Park (Suff) £95.50; Park (Tex) £100; Over Kepdowie (Chev) £97; Holehouse (Mule) £88; Cadogan (BF) £87; Easter Ochtermuthill (Btex) £99.50; Old Fackler (Char) £86; Meadowbank (X) £90.

Lambs: Old Cambus (Suff) 194p; Halkerston (Suff) 194p; Coilavoulin (Tex) 224p; Abbey Farm (Chev) 209p; Monzie (Mule) 185p; Tay & Torridan (BF) 185p; Easter Ochtermuthill (Btex) 227p; Little Drumgughan (Char) 202p; Craigalbert (X) 186p.

Ewes: Glenrath (Suff) £96.50; Forthview (BFL) £100; Parks of Keilour (Btex) £85.50; Wester Mye (Tex) £99.50; Monzie (Chev) £78.50; Ballingall Mill (Cross) £77.50; Culteuchar (Easy Care) £65.50; Carhurrie (Zwart) £59.50; Cleeves (Mule) £73.50; Loanhead of Duchally (Chev/Mule) £73.50; Cadogan (BF) £65.50; East Green (Ber) £52.50.

Rams: Coulshill (Suff) £84.50; Easter Harprew (BFL) £80.50; Gaskbeg (Tex) £87.50; Monzie (Chev) £106.50; Gaskbeg (Cross) £50.50; Glenrath (BF) £59.50; East Green (Bev) £78.50.

Gordon Agri, Loch Lomond

QUADS & ATVs - Full selection of brand new Suzuki King Quads. Also brand new Arctic Cat 700 Diesels in stock. Good selection of used quads in stock all serviced/new tyres/warranty

www.gordonagri.co.uk

Tel: 01360 661001 Mob: 07801 052 007

Scottish Field

ST ANDREWS

MARCH ISSUE OUT NOW

INSIDE ST ANDREWS the family who took Fife to their hearts

Who's afraid of Kirsty Wark?

Independence for Shetland

Swimming With Cows on Staffin

Andy Murray: Born to Run

The Ba Game - Brutal and Bloody

The wildlife of North Ronaldsay

10 Great Scottish statesmen

WIN A LUXURY £500 WEEKEND BREAK

Go Digital and Save 50%* every week PLUS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT**

Read The Oban Times as soon as it comes out

Access the newspaper anywhere in the world

Delivered straight to your inbox

Subscribe today! *Offer applies to one year subscriptions minimum **Terms and conditions apply

Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

Follow us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - Duncan and Elaine (née Thomson) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter Mollie Jane on February 15, 2014, a wee sister for Findlay. Many thanks to all the Oban midwives.

DEATHS

ASKEW - Peacefully at his home with his family, after a short illness so bravely borne, on Sunday March 2, 2014, in his 58th year, Thomas William Askew beloved son of the late Thomas and Isobel, much loved brother to Brian, David, Denise, Isobel, John, Kathleen, Terrence, Collette and the late Nadia, a dear brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and friend to many. Tommy will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

CRAWFORD - Suddenly, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on Friday, February 28, 2014, John Crawford (Painter and Decorator), aged 66 years, of Glennan, 30A Kilmory Road, Lochgilphead and formerly of Furnace, loving husband of Catherine (née MacKinnon), much loved father of Joanne and Cara, devoted pappy of Charley and Lewis, dear brother of Moira and Christine and a much loved brother-in-law and uncle to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and much respected work colleague to many. A popular member of the local community. Funeral service will be held in Cumlodden Parish Church, Furnace, on Friday, March 7 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Kilevin Cemetery, Minard. Family flowers only please. Donations to Macmillan Nurses and Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital.

DUNCAN - Suddenly but peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on February 26, 2014, aged 70, Allan Blair Duncan (Shorty), beloved son of the late William & Jane Duncan, a dear brother to Billy, Aileen, Sandra, Glenys & the late Thomas and Jean, brother-in-law and uncle. Sadly missed.

ROBERTSON - (late of Tiree). On Saturday 1 March 2014, at Raigmore Hospital, after a long and brave struggle with disability. Elizabeth Stuart Robertson, sister of Janice and Mary. Funeral at the Inverness Crematorium on Wednesday, 12 March at 11.30 am. No flowers please, but donations if desired to the Highland Disabled Ramblers Club, either at the service or care of Alasdair Rhind, 4 Mayfield, Dingwall, IV15 9ST.

WALKER - Peacefully at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish, on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, William Allan (Willie) aged 78, beloved husband of Anne (Kennedy), loving father of Diane, Vicki and Derek, and much loved grandad and father-in-law.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HOWARD - The family of Jean Howard would like to thank all relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy and support after our recent sad loss. Special thanks to the ambulance crew, also staff at Mull and Iona Community Hospital, Lorn and Islands Hospital, and Salen Surgery for all their care. Thanks to Rev. Johnny Paton for such a beautifully conducted service, to organist Nick Reed and pipe major Davy Garrett, also Billy McClymont for his efficient and sensitive handling of funeral arrangements. Thank you to all who attended at Kilmore Church, Dervaig, and at the graveside at Calgary Cemetery to pay their respects and for the generous contributions to the collection of £512.07 for SSAFA and RNLI.

LIVINGSTONE - The family of the late Alastair Livingstone would like to thank all relatives and friends for their many kind expressions of sympathy received following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to doctors and nursing staff of Mid Argyll Hospital, and to carers at Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig for their care and support shown to Alastair. Our thanks to Rev. Cliff Acklam for a comforting service; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for caring and efficient arrangements and to the Cairnbaan Hotel for fine purvey. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. The retiral collection raised £135 for Macmillan Nurses, Mid Argyll.

MACFARLANE - The family of Emma MacFarlane would like to thank all friends, the Easdale medical practice for care during her illness, the Rev. Bill Gray for spiritual support, Hamish Hoey and Son for their professionalism, and the Cuan Ferry staff.

MACGILLIVRAY - The family would like to thank all friends and family for the support that was given to them on the death of Jean. Special thanks to Val, Kevin and Willie on the night of January 18, also to Oban Hospital, Golden Jubilee and

especially staff of Ward 8 the R.A.H. Paisley for their care of mum. A big thank you to Rev. Ken Hunter for a comforting, uplifting and humorous service, and to Catriona and James of H. Hoey & Sons for all their help and advice. Also thanks to the staff of the Royal Hotel. The retiring collection for Oban Hospice was £417.00.

STEWART - John's family would like to express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to all relatives and friends for all the cards, visits, phone calls, flowers and gifts of baking and refreshments received following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to Drs Pickering, Abel, Taylor and MacTaggart and the staff at Islay Hospital who looked after John when he took ill last August. A very special thank you to all the doctors, community nurses and the staff at Gortanvogie Care Home who cared so well for John over the last 5 months. Sincere thanks to Rev. Jim McNulty for such a comforting and fitting service, to Jean Campbell and Niall Oliver for their beautiful music and to Hugh Smith for the Gaelic reading. Thank you to Jean and Craig MacAffer and family for efficient funeral arrangements, to Dominic and Jim who assisted and to the cemetery staff. The family would also like to express their heartfelt appreciation to all family and friends who travelled to Islay for the funeral, to those who provided transport from/to the ferry and to everyone who came to pay their last respects at the church and graveside. Thank you also to the McLellan family and staff at the Bowmore Hotel for the excellent purvey. The donations received for Gortanvogie Independent Fund amounted to £780.50. Thank you all.

MEMORIALS

BEATON - In fond and loving memory of my dear husband, Hugh (Veek), father, father-in-law, and grandad who died March 6, 1999. No morning dawns, no night returns without a thought of you.

- Inserted by his loving wife Bella, Hugh, Mary, Lorna and David.
BURTON - For our boys Paul and David Burton. Always in our hearts and minds.
- The Burton family, Oban and East Kilbride.

CLARK - Remembering our auntie Alice, a special wee lady who passed away March 10, Mother's Day, 2013. Loved and missed always.
- Brenda, Poacher, Danica and Leigh. xxx

COUTTS - Treasured memories of my dear mother Isobel, who died March 8, 1992, my dear father Alex, died June 17, 1976, my aunt Jean, died on October 26, 1988 and my brother Alistair died November 2, 2007. Precious memories never fade away.
- Cathie, Inverness.

DONN - In loving memory of Ina who passed away on March 3, 2012. Our thoughts are ever with you though you passed away. Those who loved you dearly are thinking about you today.
- Iain, William, and all the family.

GALBRAITH - In loving memory of our dear son and brother Finlay Neil, who passed away on March 5, 2010. If memories bring you closer, we are never far apart, not a day will we forget you, you're always in our hearts. So sadly missed,
- Mum, Dad and Christine.

KIRSOP - Treasured memories of Robert who passed away on March 3, 2012. Loved and missed so much by all of his family and friends. Always in our thoughts.
- Mum and family.

LEITCH - In loving memory of my dear wife Myra, mum and grandma, who died so suddenly on March 9, 2005. We hold you close Within our hearts And there you shall remain To walk with us Throughout our lives Gus an coinnichidh sinn a-rithist
- Ivor, Neil, Debbie and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear brother and our uncle, Dian, who died on March 7, 1977, and loved ones gone before and since. Always in our thoughts.
- Freena and family.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, Hamish, died March 5, 1997 and Mary, September 20, 2004. Though time has gone on Precious memories of wonderful parents, warm and true will never fade.
- Love from your girls, Johan, Annie, Marion and families, Killin, Lawers and Fersit.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mum, granny and great-granny Lottie, who died March 9, 1993 at Sunnyside, Tiree. You shared our lives Our smiles, our tears Thank you mum For those precious years
- Rita, Johann, Morag, Ian and families.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of a much loved son and brother Fraser, who died tragically in an accident on March 8, 2002. In God's hands but forever with us and in our hearts.
- Mum, Dad, Catriona, Niall, Ruairidh and Arran.

MALLOY - James. Died 5/3/13. Missed terribly.
- From all the Family
MAXWELL - In loving memory of my husband Alex who left us on March 7, 2009. They say there is a reason They say that time will heal But neither time or reason Will change the way I feel For no-one knows how many times I have 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 hard to be without. Love always Margaret.

MAXWELL - In loving memory of my fantastic dad/grandad Alex, who passed away on March 7, 2009. Loved and missed every day.
- Diane and Ryan.

MCGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of Graham McGillivray, who was taken away from us on March 4, 1994 aged 26. Son of Joyce and the late Sandy McGillivray, brother of Karin, Derek and Sean and much loved nephew and uncle. Precious memories.
- love mum.

We miss our handsome brother, you were so talented, funny and loved by all, we have so many memories that will last forever.
- love from Karin, Derek, Sean and families. Remembering that single yellow rose.
- love and miss you Auntie Sandra.

Your passing has left a big void in our family's lives, you're gone but will never be forgotten. xxx
NICOLSON - In loving memory of John who passed away on March 6, 1999 and Margaret who passed away on March 13, 2012. Always in our thoughts.
- Joan, Derick, Lynda and Sarah.

SMITH - In memory of Dugald Mitchell Smith, who passed away on March 8, 2013.
- Greatly missed father of Lorna, Maureen, Sheena, the late Iain, and husband of the late Jessie Smith.

STODDART - In loving memory of our dear mother Isabella Livingston died March 11, 1990. Forever in our thoughts.
- From her sons and daughters, Glasgow.

WEATHERALL - In loving memory of Jack, much loved husband, dad and grandpa (Ali) died March 6, 2010. Always in our thoughts and hearts.
- Katie, Anne, Carine and family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 9 March 2014
Lent 1
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08:00
Sung Eucharist.....10:15
Children's Corner
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Nicki McNelly, Provost
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11:00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....09:30

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Meet 2nd Sunday of each month 11am
Port Appin Hall
PA38 4DE
(tel 01631 730594)
2pm every Sunday
Lora Villa
Connell, PA37 1PD
(tel 01631 711838)
All welcome

CHARITY DONATIONS

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK
Angel Building
407 St John Street
London EC1V 4AD

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Mrs Lillian Kermode
Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban
01631 571009

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Jack Tolan
Birch Hill
Achnacreebeag
North Connel, PA37 1RE

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0800 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

MEMORIALS

OBAN MEMORIALS
A & D MacLean
Master Sculptors
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

PERSONAL STATIONERY

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes
krisp print
Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Main Street/Longrow South,
Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

GRADUATIONS


Congratulations to Kyle Menassa who graduated from Harrogate Army Foundation College on February 20, 2014 as a Trooper in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Dolina celebrates a century

FOLLOWING a joint Gaelic/English service on Sunday, February 23 a special lunch was held in St Columba Gaelic



Dolina MacPhee cuts her birthday cake.

Church, Glasgow to honour Miss Dolina MacPhee who celebrated her 100th birthday that day.

Dolina, who has attended the church for around 60 years, lived at Inverawe until the age of three when her father, head gardener at Inverawe Estate, was killed in action in France.

His death meant the family, which included one-year-old brother Alex, had to vacate a tied house.

Dolina's mother came from Tiree, which was totally Gaelic speaking then, and they spent some time there before settling in Connell, from where Dolina attended Oban High School.

This was followed by a career in the civil service, both in London and Glasgow.

Dolina now resides in Castlebank Cottages, near Anniesland Cross, Glasgow.

A highly intelligent and modest lady, Dolina simply smiles when asked the secret of her longevity.

It might not even be a surprise if she were to turn up at this week's Oban High School Former Pupils' Dinner Dance.

Trail West play charity gig in Oban



Ceilidh band Trail West played at a fundraising ceilidh in Skipinnish Ceilidh House last Friday, in aid of Oban Mountain Rescue Team. The band are pictured with mountain rescue team member Ian Campbell, centre, who organised the event. 16_110trailwest01

Kilchoan bus driver moves on after 16 years

KILCHOAN'S bus driver is moving on after 16 years service.

Gordon MacKenzie faced an early rise every day to drive the Shiel Bus from Kilchoan to Fort William and back but has now given up his position to work at

the new Adelphi Distillery in Glenbeg. Mr MacKenzie also plays for Kilchoan FC, sponsored by the distillery.

Local man Jon Haylett said: 'He's done his job with infinite patience and great good humour. He's also done many of us many

favours, from collecting things from Fort William to making deliveries - such as punctured tyres to Shiel Garage.'

'For a man who enjoys both football and a dram, his new job must be nothing short of a transfer to heaven.'



Kilchoan bus driver Gordon MacKenzie will give up the job after 16 years. Photo Jon Haylett

Workshop for carers will be held in Oban

A CHARITY workshop for parents or carers of disabled children will run on 12 March in Oban Community Fire Station, Soroba Road, Oban.

Families will be offered information and guidance on

powers of attorney and planning for the future of their child. The free event has been organised by Contact a Family Scotland charity and will run from 10.00am to 12.30pm. There will be tea and coffee on arrival and

lunch will be provided. Booking is essential and a booking form is available from Susan or Donna at scotland.office@cafamily.org.uk. Further information on the workshop is available on 0131 659 2930 or 2939.

The Oban Times & West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week
Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial
Northern Editor
Stephen Norris
snorris@obantimes.co.uk
News Editor
Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk
Senior Reporter
Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
Reporter
Emma Crichton
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk
Web Co-ordinator
Marian Miller
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk
Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising
Advertising Executive
Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Advertising Sales Executive
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk
Advertising Executive
Eilidh MacLennan
emacLennan@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices
Fort William
Tel 01397 703003
Fax 01397 702495
Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345
Fax 01546 602661
Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646
Fax 01586 553006
Arran
Tel 01770 302142
Fax 01770 302021

SAVE 50% when you subscribe to The Oban Times digital edition!
details at www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyre Media Limited.
Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyre Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or refund the cost of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10. Advertisers under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to issue an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.
Published by Wyre Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 Fax: (01631) 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://www.northernadvertising.com>

Athletic throw away 2-0 half time lead

'We told the boys not to do anything daft'

West of Scotland AFL
Oban Athletic 2
Dennistoun 3

A LARGE crowd was in attendance as Oban Athletic took on Dennistoun in a West of Scotland Premier League match, but they left disappointed as the home side contrived to throw away a two goal lead to lose 3-2.

Athletic started positively and were awarded a penalty after only five minutes, Kris Gillies having his legs taken away from behind, which was clumsy at best from the Dennistoun defender. Gillies got up dusted himself down and gave the keeper the eyes before slotting the ball home.

The ascendancy was with the home side who were left very frustrated as they cut open the Dennistoun defence at will, only to be met with offside calls, time after time. Thirteen calls for offside in the first half alone.

However, Athletic did get a second goal just before half time as Paul Carmichael cut inside and curled his shot beyond the

diving Dennistoun keeper to put Athletic in the driving seat at half time.

The second half had started but no one told the home side as Dennistoun found their way back into the game after two minutes of the restart when a scuffed shot sneaked under Sugar Douglas which gave the away team a much needed lift.

It was one way traffic after that and Dennistoun equalised on the hour with a decent strike from an advancing midfielder and this was followed by a red card a piece as a flare up involving Steven MacLeod and a Dennistoun player saw them both head for early showers.

Wonder strike
It was a wonder strike from 35 yards that won the game for Dennistoun which again keeper Sugar Douglas might have done better with.

This led to a more direct approach for Athletic towards the end and should have had a penalty in the final minute when Martin Bonar was bun-

ded over but maybe the referee might have felt he couldn't give another spot kick, despite this one looking a stonewaller, and so Athletic were on the end of another disappointing result, their third defeat at home this season.

Athletic manager Calum Fox said: 'I was disappointed with our performance in the second half. We told the boys not to do anything daft but they must have thought that meant don't do any more attacking as we sat and waited for Dennistoun to come back and win.'

'We rushed our play, despite being ahead for most of the game and stopped defending as a unit from front to back, which allowed the visiting full backs to attack. That's what disappointed us most, we had the game won and stopped grafting.'

'Having said all of that, the amount of offside calls against us was very frustrating from the referee. There was not one instance of giving the benefit of the doubt to our strikers and some of his decisions were not even close.'

'We were battering Dennistoun at one stage and these decisions had a big impact on the half time score. However, that is not an excuse, just a major factor in the outcome of the game.'

'We will shake off this defeat and hope to get back on track on Saturday when we travel to take on Possil YM in a Premier Division league match.'



Oban Athletic's Paul Carmichael takes on this Dennistoun defender during last Saturday's match. 07_110athletic01

Saints on Scottish Cup duty this weekend

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team were due to take on Eastfield of the Central Scottish League for a place in the last eight of the Scottish Amateur Cup at Glencruitten last Saturday, but a pitch inspection found Glencruitten to be waterlogged and the game was called off.

Saints secretary David Buchanan said: 'I checked the pitch at lunchtime on Friday along with groundsman Ian Hay who tried forking the worst bits of the park, but with the forecast not good for Friday night it was decided to call the game off.'

'Our opponents had a bus booked and asked for a decision to be made on Friday.'

'I checked the pitch again on Saturday morning and it was still unplayable but by the 2pm kick-off time the match could probably have been played.'

'It's just one of these things. You have to make a decision. You can't take the risk of a team travelling all the way to Oban and the pitch being unplayable.'

'Oban Celtic's shinty match against Aberdour was called off as Mossfield was waterlogged and Oban Lorne's rugby match was switched to Connel as Glencruitten was deemed to be unplayable.'

The match against Eastfield has been re-scheduled for this Saturday with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is James Winter from Glasgow.

The 3G pitch at Oban High School is now available on Saturday and Saints would like to thank Oban Athletic for changing their fixture to allow the team's biggest game of the season so far to go ahead if the weather doesn't improve.

Manager Iain Jackson should have a strong squad to choose from for this important cup tie although Allan MacKay is unavailable and Dene Cassells is suspended but Mattie Rippon comes back into the squad after suspension.

Results and fixtures

WOMEN'S SHINTY

Marine Harvest National Division One
Skye 1 - 2 Badenoch & Strathspey
Aberdour 2 - 1 Glasgow MA
Glengarry - Lochaber - postponed due to bereavement

Fixtures: Sunday 9 March
Marine Harvest National Division Two
Dunadd - Cowal & Bute
Strathglass - Lovat
Oban - Glasgow Mid Argyll

Harris Gun Club holds first ever ladies' competition

SHOOTING

HARRIS Gun Club made history with its first ever ladies' competition at its Aline Forest shooting ground on Saturday.

The all-round event featured three different disciplines, down-the-line (DTL) double rise and automatic ball trap (ABT).

Members competed for a new trophy kindly donated to the club by local sporting goods retailer, Engebret Ltd.

Current competition winner Fiona Knappe was a clear favourite from the beginning, taking pole position from the first discipline and going on to score a hat trick.

The runner-up positions were keenly fought with the rankings changing after each discipline but in the end second place went to Mairi MacKenzie and third to Emma Hendry.

HGC secretary Colin Knappe said: 'Harris Gun Club would like to thank all who participated in this historic moment, especially the Western Isles RFD, Engebret Ltd who donated the shield and trophy and to Mairi for the home baking.'

Cellar Bar favourites to lift Oban Filling Station Cup

POOL

THE CELLAR Bar will be regarded as favourites to lift this season's Oban Filling Station Cup after a clinical semi-final win over The Lancaster 'B'.

Both teams started the match last Thursday hoping to put themselves in pole position to pick up the first piece of silverware of the domestic pool season, unfortunately it quickly became apparent only one side was ever realistically going to progress.

Current league champions The Cellar ran out comfortable winners in the end but a dogged performance from The Lancaster 'B' made them fight for every frame.

The Cellar now await the winner of this week's tie between The Lancaster 'A' and Markie Dans 'A'.

The Lancaster 'A' hosted Markie Dans 'B' in the only other competitive fixture from last week, playing their rescheduled league game from the previous week.

Many thought this would just be a routine win for the home side and perhaps even The Lancaster players themselves believed just turning up would

secure the two points. A lethargic start from The Lancaster 'A' coinciding with some polished performances from Markie Dans 'B' saw the latter take a commanding early lead.

Awaken
The Lancaster lads seemed to awaken out of their slumber after this but were unable to overhaul their visitors, eventually settling for a point.

Although this will be seen as a point dropped from The Lancaster, credit must go to Markie Dans 'B' who, in truth, controlled large parts of the proceedings in an amazing turnaround

Oban Pool League - Sponsored by The Creagan Inn

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 Cellar Bar	15	14	0	1	118	32	28
2 Markie Dans A	15	14	0	1	109	41	28
3 Lancaster A	15	13	1	1	115	35	27
4 Lancaster B	14	8	1	5	79	61	17
5 Markie Dans B	15	6	4	6	77	73	16
6 Lochnell	15	6	3	6	74	76	15
7 Foley's Bar	15	5	1	9	70	80	11
8 Claredon	14	3	2	9	56	84	8
9 Gluepot	15	4	0	11	59	91	8
10 Lochavullin	14	4	0	10	47	93	8
11 Creagan Inn	11	2	1	8	24	86	5
12 Outreach	14	0	0	13	34	106	1



Oban Athletic unveiled their new strip kindly sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors. 16_110athletic01

Mull sports hall athletics

SEVENTY-EIGHT young athletes competed in the Mull contest of sports hall athletics held on February 22 in Tobermory High School, with one age-group record falling. Athletes from Mull Harriers, based in Bunnassan, made up a third of the total entry and the long journey was well worthwhile as they won three out of the 10 individual titles and also won the annual trophy for first place in the primary schools contest.

There was one new record and it was in the girls' under-13s high jump. Molly Reade from Tobermory was the under-13 champion after easily winning the high jump, clearing 1.40metres and adding two centimetres to the existing record from 2005.

Abbie Cato from Bunnassan Primary was the under-11 champion, repeating her success of last year, winning all seven events with some style.

Another Bunnassan girl, Gemma Cameron, was under-7 champion, just ahead of Ellen MacRae from Salen.

ATHLETICS

The third winner from Bunnassan was Iain MacCallum in the under-9 contest. Salen primary had two winners in the morning session and dominated in the boys' under-7s with Ewan MacPhail the champion only half a point ahead of Rio Brown, also Salen. Sarah Westland was the other winner from Salen with success in the under-9 age group.

Alfie John Riley from Tobermory was the under-11 champion and he almost certainly exceeded the Argyll age record of 21.25metres in the javelin but because of the restriction in the length of the hall it was only possible to record an estimated distance.

Aaron Paterson from Salen was the under-13 boys' winner just ahead of James Henderson from Tobermory.

The entry in the under-15 competition was disappointing with Charlotte Peacock winning the girls' events and Murdo MacLennan the boys' events.



Oban Saints Under 13s played Campbeltown Pupils Youth at the Oban Community Pitch last Sunday. The game ended in a 2-2 draw. Our photo shows Saints' Scott Mossman netting the equaliser with an acrobatic overhead kick. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Oban no match for Dunfermline

District Plate
Oban 2
Dunfermline City 11

OBAN Hockey Club's men's team faced the strong opposition of Dunfermline City in their first match in the district plate competition.

The game, which was held in Lochgilphead, started with two quick goals from the visiting team giving Oban an uphill challenge for the rest of the match.

Oban's newer players were given a baptism of fire as defensive short corners came thick and fast and, by half time, the hosts were 4-0 down.

Spurred on by captain Jim Elliot, Oban started the second half with renewed determination, which was quickly rewarded as Mark Lockhart slotted one past the Dunfermline keeper.

With points on the board, Oban built on their success with a second from Lockhart finding the back of the visitors' net.

Superior skills

However, the comeback was short lived, as Dunfermline subsequently eroded any Oban hopes throughout the remainder of the second half with their

HOCKEY

superior ball skills around the pitch.

The club is always looking for new players. Anyone who is keen to give hockey a go can come to mixed training on Thursday nights from 6pm - 8pm at Oban High School.



Oban Hockey Club and opponents Dunfermline line up before the match.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

WIN £1300

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.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyves Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D Brown, Hamilton Drive, Erskine

D Menzies, Ardentiny, Dunoon

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please
tape your
£1 coin
here

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel No.

Opening shinty fixtures affected by the bad weather

Nine games called off due to unplayable pitches

KINGUSSIE co-manager Dave Anderson will mix youth with experience in the forward line as he prepares his team for the visit of Lovat to The Dell.

Lee Bain and Thomas Borthwick, together with 17-year-old Savio Genini and 18-year-old Rory MacGregor will provide Kings' cutting edge against a Kiltarlity side who got their season off to a flying start with a 2-0 win over Kyles.

Anderson told *The Oban Times*: 'These four were our forwards for most of last season and I'm confident the young boys have progressed and will give more support to the others.'

'Lovat over the season I feel will be the team to mount the biggest challenge to Newtonmore and it will be a tough task for us. Getting a game last week will be a plus for them too.'

'Still, we are at The Dell and maybe that gives us a better chance. If we can get our full team on the park I think we can challenge most teams.'

LOVAT take on Kingussie at The Dell in fine fettle after beating Kyles 2-0 at Kiltarlity in their opening premiership match.

Coach Allan MacRae will be without Calum MacAulay, who is in Abu Dhabi, and the injured Martin Mainland but the remainder of his squad should be intact despite several players picking up knocks against Kyles.

MacRae said: 'Kingussie are a wee bit like ourselves, but we just have to try and play our own way and take the game to them.'

'All their forwards are capable of scoring and then you have the likes of Fraser Munro in the centre line who can also get goals.'

'They will definitely be a team who will be there or thereabouts this season but we are confident of playing anybody right now. I can tell you we won't be sitting back or worrying about them.'

'I'm sure they will be thinking the same thing.'

Owen Ferguson netted for Lovat against Kyles after 18 minutes in a first half dominated by the home side and Greg Matheson sealed the win with a late strike.

MacRae said: 'We stuck in well in the second half and stole a goal in the last minute.'

KINLOCHSHIEL will be desperate to bounce back against Inveraray at Kirkon after last weekend's disappointing 4-0 defeat to Glenurquhart in the season's opener.

'Shiel coach Colin Fraser had hoped injuries would not bedevil his side's efforts to the same extent as last season, but unfortunately the omens are already looking unfavourable.'

Dave Falconer broke his collarbone against Glenurquhart and will be out for at least six weeks, while Gordy MacDonald is sidelined after damaging his knee again after recovering well from a cartilage operation.

Keith MacRae will also sit out the Inveraray game as he recuperates from hernia surgery.

Fraser told *The Oban Times*: 'I will be hoping for a better performance than last Saturday and I think the boys know that themselves.'

'After Davie got injured we had to reshuffle and we never really got into the game after that. They looked a lot sharper than us - maybe because they had a couple pre-season of friendlies and we didn't - but it showed.'

'Inveraray will be hard game but we have home advantage and we will be looking to make that pay.'

'We have plenty of boys who can come in from the second team if we need them but it is a disappointing start to our season with so many injuries.'

INVERARAY will be hoping they don't have an uphill struggle when they travel to Kinlochshiel this Saturday.

The 'Ary boys have not yet lost to Shiel but player-manager Garry MacPherson says the unpredictable north side could present plenty problems.

He said: 'We are confident going into the match but it is not the best pitch to play on because of the steep slope. It is usually a game of two halves, because of the hill.'

'If we can take our chances early on we should be alright but you can't predict how these games will go.'

'Kinlochshiel have had some fantastic results at home in recent years and have a cracking forwardline.'

Inveraray's match against Kingussie was postponed last week, following the death of a dedicated supporter of the club, John Crawford, uncle to players Scott and David Robertson.

KYLES ATHLETIC made a disappointing start to their 2014 campaign, going down 2-0 to Lovat in Kiltarlity.

Chasing the game from the 18th minute onwards, Kyles suffered a killer blow on 90 minutes when Greg Matheson scored the second for the home side.

And the games don't come any easier, as the Tighnabruich men face a tough home tie against defending champions Newtonmore this Saturday.

Orion Group Premiership champions **NEWTONMORE** take on arch rivals Kyles at Tighnabruich in their first game of the new season.

Coach PJ Mackintosh will take an almost full strength squad to Argyll, with Rory Kennedy (broken hand) and Chris Sellar (knee ligament damage) the only absentees.

Mackintosh watched Kyles in action against Lovat at Kiltarlity on Saturday and was impressed, despite their 2-0 defeat.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I thought Kyles were unlucky not to take something from the game. We have to stop them at the back and shackle Roddy MacDonald, while up front we have to get goals.'

'But we have four forwards, anyone of whom can score - Glen Mackintosh and Danny MacRae are both deadly finishers.'

He added: 'We could do with our season getting started.'

LOCHABER CAMANACHD open their Orion Group Premiership campaign against Glenurquhart at Spean Bridge after last week's match away to Newtonmore was postponed due to tragic death of club stalwart Bryan Whyte.

Manager Robert Johnstone worked wonders with his team after he took over midway through last season to guide them safely to mid-table after relegation had looked a certainty.

Now he will be looking for the same response from his players to secure survival in the tough new eight-team league.

Johnstone has pencilled in Pat Toal, Kevin Ferguson, Ben Delaney and Stuart Callison for the forward line for Saturday's match.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are looking for goals from them but we are going to have to work hard for 90 minutes.'

'We have not played a game so far because of the weather, so it's not going to be easy. But we are going to put a big effort in to get a result, although we are going to be rusty.'

The islanders' difficult start to the season will continue this Saturday when they travel to play Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

The Oban side, who were relegated from the Orion Group Premiership last season and have already got their first win this season, will present a tough test for a largely inexperienced Bute side.

FORT WILLIAM make the trip to Glasgow Mid Argyll for their season's opening fixture after last week's match against Glenurquhart was called off at a waterlogged An Aird.

Co-manager Adi Robertson expects to take a full squad south apart from the injured Duncan Rodger, while defender Liam MacIntyre has almost recovered from a fifth operation to repair his broken hand and is likely to travel.

Robertson said: 'Liam is still not fully fit yet but he may be involved at some stage. We will speak to him this week to see how he is but he seems to be a lot happier since his operation.'

'He is desperate to get back to playing but there is no point in rushing him back too early for the sake of one or two games.'

He added: 'We played Glasgow Mid Argyll in the Camanachd Cup last season and beat them 3-0 but I thought they were a fairly useful side compared with previous seasons.'

'They were beaten 3-1 at Beaulieu last week but Beaulieu is a hard place to go - so it will not be an easy game for us.'

GLENORCHY'S newly-formed second team played their first competitive match on Saturday - but still managed to forget the strips.

With the senior side's match against Fort William called off, the Dalmally men were perhaps too eager to get down to Glasgow.

But their own match went ahead thanks to the ladies of Glasgow University shinty team, who kindly loaned Glenorchy a set of strips.

However, not all of the kit came in the required size.

Glenorchy coach John Smith said: 'We were really grateful but some of the strips were a bit of a tight fit!'

'I think Allan MacKechnie, in particular, was left with a smaller size than he was used to.'

Glenorchy's goalscorers in the eventual 6-2 defeat were 13-year-old Shay Smith and Andy MacLean, who is 42 years Shay's senior.

KILMALLIE will get their season underway against old rivals Beaulieu at Canal Parks - weather permitting.

Last week's game in Caol was wiped out in the deluge and manager Duncan Kelly can't wait to see his team test themselves in the new National Division.

New captain Liam MacDonald will continue at full centre after switching from the forward line in the latter part of last season and will play a key role.

Kelly said: 'With John Stewart unavailable we have given Liam the captaincy this year. When he is in form he is a great leader on the park and we also have the experience of Peter Carmichael and Martin Stewart in there as well.'

'We have also brought in 16-year-old Shane Gillies but we know he is a fine young keeper.'

'Beaulieu won their first game and we have to do the same. If we can get a good two points off them then that will give everybody confidence for the season ahead.'

He added: 'We will just need to see how the weather goes - at the moment the pitch is really bad.'

SKYE CAMANACHD got off to a flying start in North Division One as a Will Cowie hat-trick helped them to a 6-0 win over Beaulieu - but a far sterner test awaits this weekend with the visit of Strathglass to Paire nan Laoch.

Coach John MacLeod reports no squad injury worries and will have Jamie Gannon back for selection following his recovery from flu.

MacLeod was satisfied with his team's performance against Beaulieu - but knows Strathglass will present a challenge of a different order.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'No disrespect to Beaulieu, but we fell away in the second half and dropped to their level a wee bit.'

'We won't be able to do that against Strathglass and we will need to keep the tempo up. The game will show us where we are at because Strathglass had a good win on Saturday as well.'

'The only concern is the pitch - it was very heavy on Saturday and made life difficult for both teams.'

OBAN CELTIC are looking kick-start their season with a win in Strachur this weekend - a venue where they have struggled in recent years.

A postponed fixture last weekend against Aberdeen means they have not yet played a competitive match but club president David Hamilton insists his team are ready.

He said: 'We lost there last season but we are looking forward to the trip.'

'We have three pre-season friendlies behind us, so we are well prepared.'

'I would hope to pick up at least a point, although it is never easy down there.'

LOCHSIDE ROVERS face a tough match this weekend against newly-promoted Ballachulish.

The visitors were punching above their weight in South Division Two last season and present a real challenge for the young Oban outfit.

Last weekend's tie at Taynuilt on the opening day was cancelled because of a waterlogged pitch.

It wasn't long ago that **TAYNUILT** would be expecting two points from a trip to Fife but a much improved Aberdeen present a more difficult challenge these days.

With the weather playing havoc with their pre-season schedule and a postponed home match last weekend, Taynuilt's new, young side are largely untested for competitive action.

Manager Davy Thomson said: 'Aberdour finished above us in the league last season and are getting pretty strong.'

'They have had good pre-season games, so it will be really tough for us on Saturday.'

Taynuilt are missing David Campbell and Steven Campbell through work commitments.

A late goal by Preston Shuttleworth meant **STRACHUR** got their new season off to a positive start with a 1-1 draw against Kilmory.

The league match was moved to Strachur Park from MacRae Park due to the bad weather and the heavy pitch proved a challenge for both teams.

The Cowal men went a goal down when Alister MacArthur scored for Kilmory on 46 minutes.

But, the Strachur side came back to dominate the remainder of the match with Shuttleworth finding the net on 87 minutes.

John Montgomery, Strachur manager, says he feels confident the side will be able to go one step further and win against Oban Celtic this Saturday.

He said: 'There will be a few tweaks to the match this weekend, but we really want to try and get a consistent team. Again, I think we are quite evenly matched. Last season we were disappointed to lose against them.'

KILMORY face a tough test at home against Kyles Athletic this Saturday, as they try to get over the disappointment of dropping a point at Strachur.

The Mid Argyll men were one goal to the good last week through Alister MacArthur but conceded an equaliser with minutes left to play.

GLENGARRY will look to get their season off to a winning start at Aberdeen University after last week's opening game against Skye was rained off.

Coach Ewen Cameron has lost talented full back Michael Brady to Glenurquhart and will also be without Daniel MacLennan, who is suspended.

Cameron said Martin Cameron would start in the forward line but would welcome goals from any quarter.

He said: 'We are hoping to win and I fancy our chances. We beat them down there last season and would like to do the same again.'

SHINTY



Kyles Athletic's Roddy MacDonald and Lovat defender Drew Howie fought out a tough duel throughout the game at Kiltarlity - but Lovat eventually prevailed 2-0. Photo: Neil Paterson



Fixtures

Saturday 8 March

Orion Group Premiership
Kingussie v Lovat
Billy Wotherspoon
Kinlochshiel v Inveraray
Evan MacRae
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore
Deek Cameron
Lochaber v Glenurquhart
Colin MacDonald

Marine Harvest National Division
Glasgow MA v Fort William
Ted McDonald
Glenorchy v Caberfeidh
Graham Cameron
Kilmallie v Beaulieu
Innes Wood
Oban Camanachd v Bute

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu v Glenurquhart
Ron Kennedy
Lovat v Kingussie
Archie Ritchie
Newtonmore v Kingussie
John Angus Gillies
Skye v Strathglass
John Matheson

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen Uni v Glengarry
Ronnie Campbell
Fort William v Lochaber
John MacGregor
Kinlochshiel v Boleskine
Calum Girvan
Lochcarron v Skye
Robert Morrison

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Strathspey v Lewis
Martin MacLean - 1.30pm
Caberfeidh v Kilmallie
Rob MacAskill

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour v Taynuilt
Ewen MacDonald
Kilmory v Kyles Athletic
David Stafford
Lochside Rovers v Ballachulish
Robert Baxter
Strachur v Oban Celtic
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish v Glenorchy
Andy MacLean
Bute v Col Glen
Lachie Wood
Inveraray v Aberdeen
David Stafford
Tayforth v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Neil MacDonald

Results

Saturday 1 March

Orion Group Premiership
Kingussie v Inveraray
Postponed due to bereavement
Newtonmore v Lochaber
Postponed due to bereavement
Glenurquhart 4 - 0 Kinlochshiel
Lovat 2 - 0 Kyles Athletic

Marine Harvest National Division
Bute v Kilmallie
Postponed field unplayable
Fort William v Glenorchy
Postponed field unplayable
Beaulieu 3 - 1 Glasgow MA
Caberfeidh 1 - 2 Oban Camanachd

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Inverness 1 - 6 Newtonmore
Kingussie 4 - 1 Glenurquhart
Strathglass 8 - 1 Lovat
Skye 6 - 0 Beaulieu

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glengarry v Skye
Postponed field unplayable
Kinlochshiel v Lochcarron
Postponed field unplayable
Lochaber v Aberdeen Uni
Postponed due to bereavement
Boleskine 5 - 4 Fort William

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Postponed field unplayable
Lochbroom 3 - 1 Inverness

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kyles Athletic v Ballachulish
Postponed field unplayable
Oban Celtic v Aberdeen
Postponed field unplayable
Taynuilt v Lochside Rovers
Postponed field unplayable
Strachur 1 - 1 Kilmory
Match Transferred to Strachur

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish v Inveraray
Postponed field unplayable
Tayforth 2 - 0 Col Glen
Match Transferred to Musselburgh
Aberdour 0 - 3 Bute



Newtonmore's Evan Menzies shields the ball from Daniel Palombo of Inverness during last Saturday's North Division One match. Photo: Donald Cameron

Fears that The Meadows would not stand up to the persistent rain proved to be founded on

Oban Lorne fail to impress against the Bonnie Banks

Green Machine turn in a below-par performance at North Connel

**RBS West Division 2
Oban Lorne 19
Loch Lomond 13**
DESPITE continuing a winning run, it was a disappointed Oban Lorne that left the North Connel pitch last Saturday following a below-par performance.

The Green Machine would have expected to comfortably beat Loch Lomond, on current form, but an error-strewn match gave the home support little to cheer about.

The match was Oban's first since January 18, so they were keen to get the match played, despite Glenurritthen being waterlogged, and scheduled the fixture for North Connel, the first time Oban have played there since 2012.

The home side welcomed Andrew Johnston back into the team alongside Travis Smith at second row and Cameron Smith at centre. There was also a first start for winger Daniel Hoey.

Oban made a poor start to the game, failing to take possession from the kick off and immediately found themselves under pressure from a big Lomond pack and a strong wind.

The visitors took advantage of Oban's poor opening by scoring the first try of the day, from close range.

After another close scare

shortly after, Oban started to keep possession and found themselves surging towards the Loch Lomond line.

Ever reliable centre Cameron Smith threatened on a couple of occasions with some powerful runs at the away defence but this tactic suggested Lorne had little other option in attack.

Eventually Oban's other ball carriers came into the game and this paid instant dividends with their first try of the game on 20 minutes, fullback Callum MacLachlan bursting over from 10 metres out. Craig Wright was successful with the kick to put Oban 7-5 up.

Confidence boost
Oban took a huge confidence boost from this and increased their lead shortly after with a try from David McCabe.

Both sides played out a scrappy finish to the first half with the referee quick to point the finger at both sets of forwards, who were not performing well at the breakdown.

Oban started the second half as they started the first with error after error frustrating players and fans.

Another good run from Calum MacLachlan and man-of-the-match Cameron Smith should have delivered more points but moves from promising positions

RUGBY

could not be finished off by the hosts.

Andrew 'Pads' Johnston was also held up over the line after a series of five-metre scrums and there was a harsh yellow card for stand-off Dave McCabe.

The men in green eventually let their dominance count with Crawford Brown touching down after breaking free from a driving maul.

Leading 19-5, Oban looked to have settled into their stride and were looking for the fourth bonus point try that would have ended the day on a high but Loch Lomond had other ideas.

The visitors hit back with a well worked try as a result of a cross field kick, followed by a penalty at the death to secure a well-deserved losing bonus point.

As the final whistle sounded there was disappointment in the Oban Lorne ranks at not securing a bonus point win to keep the pressure up on Garnock and Carrick at the top of the league.

A two-week break will only mount further pressure on Oban Lorne, who would have preferred a match this weekend to improve match sharpness.

The next fixture is away to Waysiders in Coatbridge on March 22.



Winners Taynuilt celebrate their 4-0 final victory over Portree. 20_110shinty04

Taynuilt youngsters lift the silverware

HAVING struggled to fill the trophy cabinet for a number of years, the junior shinty team at Taynuilt has lifted four major titles in the space of a fortnight.

The class of 2014 recently won all three titles at the Oban area Winter Indoor League and exceeded all expectation last Saturday by lifting the Gilmour Sports National First Shinty Tournament in Fort William.

The village side won the national P6/7 tournament by beating Portree in the final 4-0, thanks to a hat-trick from Blair MacFarlane and a single from Taynuilt coach Stephen Sloss's son Daniel.

Taynuilt had won their group with four

wins and one defeat but needed a 'golden goal' from Kenni Gray in their semi-final against Kincaid to win through.

Taynuilt coach Stephen Sloss said: 'It's fantastic - we are just from a small village and we only had six players and no subs.'

'I thought we could compete with anyone but I was delighted to win it and in the final we played the best we had all day.'

At the P5-and-under finals at Lochaber High School the same day, Beaulie edged out Glasgow Gaels 2-1 to take the title.

National shinty development officer Ronald Ross said: 'It was great to see 25 teams from across Scotland take part in the finals

YOUTH SHINTY

and that is evidence that shinty continues to go from strength to strength at school level. 'The standard of play was fantastic in both competitions and bodes well for the future of shinty.'

'It is hoped that these young players will go on to become the mainstay of their clubs in years to come.'

Taynuilt's triumph followed the presentation of a clean sweep of all three trophies at the Oban area Winter Indoor League.

Sports Hall Athletics in Oban

ATHLETICS

SPORTS Hall Athletics comes to Oban this Saturday, when the contest for the Oban and North Argyll area takes place in Oban High School.

The competition is the last of four local area events promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club this winter and supported by all the athletic clubs in Argyll. The competitions are sponsored by a Communities 2014 Lottery Grant.

Competitors are reminded that the Oban contest starts at 12.30pm at the high school and all entries will be taken on the day from noon in the high school gymnasium. For all age groups the age is taken as on September 1 and an under 7 category will be introduced for the first time at Oban.

There will be trophies for the overall winners in each age group and all competitors will receive an award.

Successful athletes from the Oban competition will qualify to compete in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Saturday, 29th March.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 2, Campbeltown Pupils Youth 2; Scoring for Saints were Keir MacLean and Scott Mossman. Under 14s no game; Drumchapel Utd v Under 15s postponed; Milngavie v Under 17s postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Riverclyde; Under 15s v Helensburgh; Milngavie v Under 17s.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup 7th Round - Oban Saints v Eastfield postponed; Premier Division 1 - Campbeltown Pupils 4, Hillington 3; Dunoon 1, Eaglesham 3; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Goldenhill postponed; Division 1A - Tarbert v Eaglesham 'B' postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup 7th Round - Oban Saints v Eastfield; Premier Division One - Paisley v Campbeltown Pupils; Hillington v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic v Lochgilphead Red Star; Division 1A - Millbeg v Tarbert.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

RESULTS from the Islay Golf Club March Medal played 2 March: 1 N Carmichael 72 Less 5 = 67; 2= N Johnston 82 Less 9 = 73; 3 D Johnston 80 Less 7 = 73.

Open doubles

CARPET BOWLS

AT THE open doubles held in Taynuilt Hall on Saturday February 22, the winners were Lachie and Mary Strathearn. Runners up were Angus and Ally Dickie losing semi finalists Euan and Lorraine MacPherson, Hughie MacLeod and Mike Kelly.

West Highland Championships secures £3,000 grant from Scottish Sea Farms



West Highland Tennis Championship treasurer Lynda Oxland, left, and tournament referee Mary McLean, with young tennis players Gregor Brydon, centre, and Euan and Rory Dods.

OBAN'S West Highland Tennis Championship has scored an ace with a grant of £3,000 from the Heart of the Community Trust, run by Scottish Sea Farms.

West Highland Tennis Championships has been running annually in Oban since 1972 and is now one of the most highly ranked and popular tournaments in Scotland, attracting players from the UK, as well as players from Texas, USA.

This year's championship runs from Sunday, June 30 to Sunday, July 7.

Mary McLean, tournament organiser and referee, said: 'We very much appreciate Scottish Sea Farms' sponsorship of the tournament.'

'It will help us promote and develop our tournament both within Oban, through Argyll

TENNIS

and the wider Scottish tennis community. It will also help us provide more opportunities for young people to play and compete at tennis and encourage more adults to play.'

The organisers also want to develop 'Argyll' days, where players from all areas of Argyll are invited to join Oban players in an Argyll Derby Day. They also hope to introduce new events like this year's Over 35 gents' singles competition.

Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'With the success of fellow Scot Andy Murray we are seeing a real surge of interest in tennis and we are really pleased that we can give such an excellent home grown tournament a boost.'



Cairnbaan win rinks competition

North Connel Bowling club held the Robert and Gary Memorial Rinks Competition recently, with Cairnbaan winning after a terrific night of competition. Pictured with skip Finlay Clark are Alisdair Smith, Ross Stewart and John Trew.

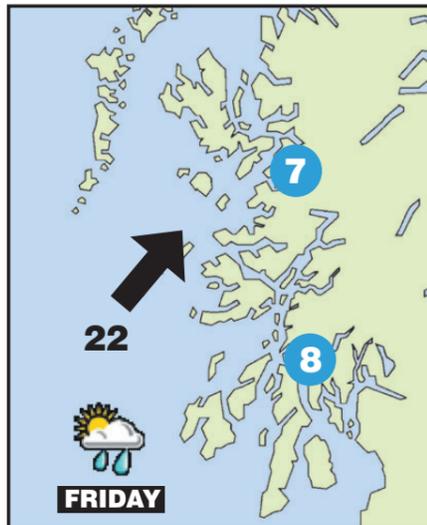
Weather

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers
Outlook Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate to rough



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 6, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	08.43	3.6	15.16	1.0	20.48	0.7
Thur	03.00	0.8	08.43	3.6	15.16	1.0	20.48
Fri	03.41	1.2	09.21	3.3	16.01	1.3	21.25
Sat	04.29	1.5	10.06	3.0	16.53	1.6	22.13
Sun	05.27	1.8	11.21	2.7	17.55	1.8	23.38
Mon	06.50	2.0	14.13	2.7	19.08	1.8	*** **
Tues	01.55	2.8	09.14	1.9	15.18	2.9	20.33
Wed	03.07	3.0	10.07	1.7	15.53	3.1	21.39

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk



HOMES & interiors

Improving your home couldn't be easier with our two page guide. **Pages 16-17**

PLUS
Grab yourself a bargain from our bumper classifieds section

Drink drive student banned from roads

A WEST Highland College student has been banned from driving for a year after he was behind the wheel whilst almost double the legal drink drive limit.

Brian Curren of The Chalet, East Glenmor, Fort William, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell told the court the 31 year-old, originally from Utah in America, didn't realise how much he had to drink while watching his friend play music in a local bar before he was caught driving at Middle Street car park, Fort William on November 23 last year.

Sheriff Richard Davidson fined Curren £500 and issued a 12 month driving ban.

Threats land

pub-goer in court

A FORT William man admitted threatening two pub employees and holding a lit cigarette to one of their faces.

William Wallace of 39 Kennedy Road told staff of The Crofter that he was 'going to batter them' and threatened to stub the cigarette out in one's eye, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. The 27-year-old was asked to leave the pub on the night of 29 December last year and stood at the door smoking when he was approached by the staff for a second time, said procurator fiscal Alison Wylie.

Sheriff Richard Davidson called for a social work report on Wallace and said: 'Thrusting cigarettes towards faces and threatening to stub them out on faces is never going to be acceptable behaviour.' Sentencing is set for April 1.

New hospital

options outlined

THE NHS Highland board agreed to examine options for building a new hospital at either Broadford or Portree at a special meeting on Tuesday.

The new community resource centre and hospital would replace the existing Portree Hospital and the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford and would bring all medical services under one roof. Input from both communities would be 'crucial' during the consultation, NHS Highland's Maimie Thompson said.



Sportsman's dinner pitches £6,000 into Fort FC funds

Fort William FC raised more than £6,000 for club funds at a successful Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday night. Former Old Firm Scotland stars Andy Goram and Murdo MacLeod were guest speakers as over 100 people turned out for the fundraiser in the Moorings Hotel. Club stalwart Colin Neilson, 84, and wife Grace, 80, joined the footballing legends at the top table. Mr Neilson was thanked for all his hard work ever since the club was formed in 1972. Above, Fort William FC players line up for The Oban Times before the speeches. 20.110100101. See page 15.

Skye community hub project's £1m boost

AN AMBITIOUS project to build a community hub in south Skye has taken a huge step forward after receiving £1 million towards its cash target.

The BIG Lottery Fund award to Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) is the biggest it can make to any group.

The go-ahead community company applied for the maximum grant last year and had been nervously awaiting a decision ever since.

Had the bid been rejected, plans for the £1.8m development on Camuscross common grazings

comprising a gathering place, hall, shop and café would have collapsed.

But now CDI can pursue other funders for the remaining money armed with the £1 million package.

The Lottery has also offered almost £200,000 extra to help the hub become a self-sustaining social enterprise within five years.

The development, earmarked for a stunning site overlooking the Sound of Sleat from the main A851, will provide up to seven full-time equivalent jobs.

CDI chair Mark Wringe said: 'This is fantastic news, we're all air bhioran [really excited] that the hub is now within touching distance. Getting this far is down to the hard work and dedication of a number of individuals within the community, great advice from outside it, and an early announcement of support from Highland Council - plus architects who have been outstanding in working with the community.'

He added: 'There is still a very significant amount of match-funding to be achieved from

other sources, but it's hugely significant that the BIG Lottery has shown complete confidence in our ability and our plans.'

'Their endorsement can only help our discussions with the other sources of funding.'

If all the bids succeed, the hub should open in 2016/17. The project includes support for the Gaelic language, an outlet for local crop produce and year-round employment.

An informal céilidh to celebrate the news will be held in the Talla Dearg, Eilean Iarmain, from 6pm on Saturday.

Sheriff jails man for 15 months on drugs charge

A FORT William man has been jailed for 15 months for possessing drugs worth £1,200.

Mark MacDonald was found with six bars of cannabis resin after police raided his home at 10 Connochie Road during a search on April 11 last year.

The 47-year-old was appearing

for sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court after previously admitting the charge.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said MacDonald bought the drugs with friends to share among themselves.

He said: 'He is insistent there was never an intention to make

financial benefit.' But Sheriff Richard Davidson rejected that, saying: 'He did make a gain by dealing in the way he dealt. As with most things you save money if you buy in bulk.'

Bulk Sentencing MacDonald, Sheriff Davidson told him: 'By

entering into the arrangement that you did you saved yourself some money by buying in bulk.'

'You saved a supplier the difficulty of dealing in five or six separate transactions and that makes life easier for a dealer because the risk of being caught is reduced.'

Spean Bridge mourns darts star Bryan

THE GRIEVING fiancée of a top darts player who died in a

horrific road accident near Fort William on Friday afternoon has led tributes to the man she loved.

Dawn Gordon was in Inverness with friends for a hen weekend when she heard her husband -to-be Bryan Whyte had been killed.

The Spean Bridge couple had been due to marry on April 12 after a nine-year engagement.

Mr Whyte died when his car collided with a Ford Transit near the entrance to Inverloch Castle Hotel around 2.40pm.

The 34-year-old, a mechanic with local firm Boyd Brothers, had just been picked to represent Scotland at a darts international in Halifax on April 5-6. The couple have four children, two of whom will have their birthdays in a few days' time - Cameron,

who will be 12 on March 22, nine year-old Tyler, Innes, who turns eight on March 15, and three-year-old Katlyn. The couple had been together for 13 years and got engaged when Tyler was born.

Dawn, 31, told *The Oban Times*: 'I heard there had been an accident on the road and we all got on our phones but Bryan did not answer.'

'He was meant to be picking up Innes from school and when other members of his family could not get a hold of him that's when we knew.'

'Bryan was so full of fun and just enjoyed life to the full. We were all very proud of his darts but he was a family man first and foremost. Every year we would go on holiday with the kids.

That's what he worked so hard for - to provide for his family.'

Ms Gordon said the support from local people had been 'incredible' and could not get over how good the community had been.

She added: 'All the kids attend Spean Bridge Primary School and every parent, even the ones I don't know, have been offering help.'

'We did live here for 13 years but we have had so many messages of support from all over Lochaber and beyond. Bryan played darts all over Europe.'

Bryan's younger brother James, 31, a welder with Rio Tinto Alcan in Fort William, told *The Oban Times*: 'Bryan lived life to the absolute full. He was the oldest and was a fantastic big brother.'

'Myself and Bryan went all over the place playing darts and he was on the verge of the big time. When he got the call up to play for Scotland he was absolutely delighted. Representing your country - it doesn't get any bigger than that. Things for the family will never be the same again.'

The accident closed the A82 for seven hours. Four people have died on the A82 between Spean Bridge and Fort William since October.

Shinty club shocked at news

LOCHABER Camanachd chairman David MacFarlane took Dawn and her friends up to Inverness in the shinty club minibus for the hen night on the day of the accident.

He said: 'It is a complete tragedy. The whole community is in shock over it as are all the shinty boys.'

'We decided to cancel the game out of respect to the family. Bryan used to play for us years ago and coached the

second team as well. He played for Invergarry and Kilmallie before coming to us.'

'He was a good family man. There is a tremendous sense of loss and everybody is thinking about his partner Dawn and the children. There's a terrible sadness about the place and folk just can't get over it.'

Mr Whyte was a member of the under-17 Kilmallie team which won the MacTavish Juvenile Cup in the early 1990s.

A regular in Corpach pub

BRYAN Whyte may have been heading for international darts stardom, but he was still a regular at the Trade Winds pub in Corpach.

Owner Duncan Carmichael told *The Oban Times*: 'Myself, Linda and staff and all our customers are devastated at the passing of Bryan.'

'He was a fantastic person and friend, he got on with everyone and always made you laugh.'

He was a passionate sportsman and an outstanding darts player, he had the ability and the determination to go to the very top.

'There was no one prouder than Linda and I when he got his Scotland call up. Darts in Lochaber will never see anyone with the talent as good as Bryan again. He will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with Dawn and all his family.'



Darts star: Bryan Whyte.



KMF CAR SALES AND MECHANICAL SERVICES

STOCK LIST

12 62 Audi A4 S Line Black Edition Quattro TDI.....SOLD
2.0cc, 4 Door, Saloon, Black, 14,400 miles, CD/Radio, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Air Con, Heated Wing Mirrors, 1 Owner, FSH, Manufacturers Warranty Until Dec 2015.

11 11 Vauxhall Corsa SXI.....SOLD
1.2cc, Petrol, Silver, 17,000 miles, CD/Radio, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Fully Serviced, Manufacturers Warranty Until July 2014.

11 11 Peugeot Bipper S HDI.....SOLD
1.4cc, Diesel, Grey, 27,000 miles, Side Loading Door, Ply Lined, CD/Radio, Central Locking, Electric Windows, 1 Owner, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT

11 60 Volkswagen Jetta SE TDI.....£8,995
1.6cc, 4 Door, Saloon, Diesel, Silver, 45,500 miles, CD/Radio, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Air Con, 1 Owner, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT

11 60 Nissan Primastar DCI 115 SE SWB.....£8,795 +vat
2.0cc, 5 Door, Diesel, 17,000 miles, High Roof, Side Loading Door, Silver, CD/Radio, Central Locking, Electric Windows, 1 Owner, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT

10 10 Vauxhall Zafira Exclusive.....£8,795
1.6cc, 5 Door, 7 Seater, Petrol, Silver, 6,500 miles, CD/Radio, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Air Con, 1 Owner, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT

10 10 Ford Focus Zetec 100.....£7,795
1.6cc, 5 Door, Petrol, Blue, 28,700 miles, CD/Radio, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Air Con, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT.

09 09 Ford Fiesta Zetec 82.....SOLD
1.2cc, 3 Door, Petrol, Blue, 24,000 miles, Central Locking, CD/Radio, Electric Windows, Alloys, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT

08 58 Skoda Octavia Ambiente TDI.....£5,995
1.9cc, 5 Door, Estate, Diesel, Silver, 83,500 miles, CD/Radio, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT

08 58 Vauxhall Astra SRI CDTI.....£5,995
1.9cc, 5 Door, Diesel, Black, 51,000 miles, CD/Radio, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Multifunction Steering Wheel, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT.

05 55 Peugeot 206 Zest HDI.....£2,995
1.4cc, 3 Door, Diesel, Silver, 70,000 miles, CD/Radio, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloys, Fully Serviced, 1 yrs MOT.

NEW CARS ARRIVING SOON AND FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL CARS
Unit 1 Caol Industrial Estate, Fort William
Tel/Fax: 01397 704624 Mobile: 07866552902
www.kmfcars.com
Good deals on car and van rentals + valeting

Fight on to save council service points

OPPOSITION councillors will seek to overturn a decision to axe 23 council customer service points across the Highlands at a full meeting of Highland Council next week.

To succeed, the Independent group will need to persuade some coalition councillors that replacing 35 rural service points with 12 'hub' facilities is a step too far.

If the council rubber-stamps the finance, housing and resources committee's decision last Wednesday to close the offices, service points at Fort William, Ullapool and Portree would be the only ones remaining on the west coast.

Gairloch, Lochcarron, Broadford, Kyle, Fort Augustus, Kinlochleven, Achacrae and Mallaig would all shut by June 2015.

They would be replaced by staff-supported self-service points, mostly in libraries, and a mobile outreach service to people needing face to face advice. A new council website designed to simplify paying for services and seeking information online will also be launched next month.

After the vote, Fort William and Ardnamurchan independent councillor Andrew Baxter remained hopeful of a change of heart.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I know for a fact there were some administration councillors who were not happy and against their conscience voted with their colleagues. I am not convinced they will do so again. This decision should never have been made by this committee because this affects so many communities right across the Highlands.'

'I think the administration were making things up on the hoof to try to soften the blow by suddenly introducing the outreach officers.'

'But sending staff out to visit people at home would cost more than we are trying to save - so it would be better simply to keep our service points open.'

Highland Council leader Drew Hendry rubbished suggestions that pressure had been applied and said modernising the service was the only way forward.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Did our councillors

vote the way they wanted to vote? Yes they did. Were they forced to vote they way they did? No they were not.'

'None of us are happy at having to make changes that people don't like. I'm not happy that sometimes we have to carry forward decisions that people have objected to.'

'But we need to make sure that people have a 21st century service, not a 20th century service because without making a change we will be left with something in three or four years time that not only will be expensive, but also totally irrelevant to people's needs. We have 15 months to design exactly what is needed.'

Independent group leader Carolyn Wilson's motion that all 35 service points should remain open, with savings taken instead from a loan fund surplus, has been signed by at least 25 members ahead of the full council meeting on March 13.

A Sleat Community Council petition against the move has gathered well over 1,000 signatures online and in local shops. See page 2.

LETTERFINLAY LODGE HOTEL
The small hotel with BIG character, on the banks of Loch Lochy

Start off with some romance, add a touch of magic, a soupçon of breathtaking beauty... and a whole brigade of dedicated chefs & staff and you will have a perfect wedding here at Letterfinlay Hotel. All you need to bring is the romance - we'll take care of the rest!

We've hosted some wonderful Weddings here at Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel and can cater for small and intimate gatherings or hotel exclusive celebrations for up to 120 guests (evening).

If you would like to discuss your Wedding plans or a copy of our Wedding brochure, please contact David or Ian on 01397 712 622.

Spean Bridge, near Fort William info@letterfinlaylodgehotel.co.uk www.letterfinlaylodgehotel.co.uk

AJG PARCELS

Argyll & Highland Deliveries

0845 4000 300

Contact us on 0845 4000 300 or info@ajgparcels.com

Paicr buyout vote under way

AN ISLE of Lewis community will find out next week if they have become the new owners of the land on which they live.

Residents on Paicr Estate in South Lochs have already begun voting by postal ballot on a proposal that the Paicr Trust takes over the estate from present owner Barry Lomas.

Ballot papers must be returned by 4pm next Thursday ahead of a count run by the comhairle at a public meeting in Paicr School, Gravir at 7.30pm.

A 'yes' vote would see the trust become the new community landowners of the 26.775-acre estate under a £500,000 deal agreed amicably with Mr Lomas. The trust made a formal offer to the landlord after residents overwhelmingly backed the move at a public meeting in November. Funding is already in place to cover the purchase price, legal costs, two full-time posts and associated costs for the first two years following purchase.

Man ordered to pay girlfriend compensation

A FORT William man must pay his girlfriend compensation after a Boxing Day struggle resulted in her falling down stairs.

Stuart Young of Khan Yunis, Lundavra Road, repeatedly shouted at his girlfriend in her home, pulled bed covers from her and struggled with her in the early hours of December 26 last year. Young admitted the charge at Fort William Sheriff Court last month and Sheriff Richard Davidson deferred sentencing until Tuesday for a social work report. The woman fell down the stairs as she tried to get away from the 30-year-old and suffered a knee fracture, procurator fiscal Laura Ryan told the court. Sheriff Davidson ordered Young to pay his girlfriend £250 in compensation and carry out 75 hours of unpaid work in the community.



Disneyland bound: Lochaber High School Pipe Band with instructor Carolyn McKee, third right, prepare to play at St Andrew's Church Hall. 20_110band01

Disneyland date for Lochaber Schools Pipe Band

DISNEYLAND Paris is holding a Scottish theme day on July 5 - and Lochaber Schools Pipe Band will be there.

The theme park is holding a Scottish day on July 5 and invited the band to play at the event after hearing their audition on DVD.

The Lochaber pipers and drummers will

take part in a parade and play on stage with other pipe bands. But getting over to France will be expensive and to help fund the band struck up a fine tune at St Andrew's Church Hall in Fort William on Saturday.

Inside the hall, a coffee morning helped boost the total while band members collected

donations from shoppers on High Street in between sets. The money raised will also help pay for equipment.

Piping instructor Margaret MacMaster told The Oban Times: 'It is the first trip we have had for a long time so we are looking forward to it.'

Councillor hits out over Kinlochleven High School sports pitch lockout

BARRING children from a school pitch in south Lochaber was described as 'a scandal' at a meeting in Fort William last week.

Lochaber area committee heard the all-weather playing field Kinlochleven High School was locked to the local community during holidays and evenings under a contract between Highland Council and the school's owners, Alpha Schools Highland Ltd.

The new Kinlochleven High was completed in 2008 under the controversial public private partnership, which provided state-of-the-art facilities but limited community use to working hours. Now moves are underway to open up the pitch to the public after local councillor Andrew Baxter condemned the lockout. He said: 'It is an absolute scandal because of the PPP contract that community groups and children from the village are

effectively barred from the pitch outside school opening hours. It is ridiculous that throughout the summer holiday last year not a single game was played on that pitch because that gate was locked.'

'We have the perfect opportunity for children in south Lochaber to use that shinty pitch and they simply can't. The council really needs to be getting to grips with the current PPP contracts that we have to see if

there is any way of varying their conditions.' Education, culture and sport learning and leisure client manager John MacDonald vowed to tackle the issue.

He said: 'It does seem ridiculous that the playing field at Kinlochleven is sitting locked up during the summer.'

'We will try and find some way within the contract to look at the allocation of hours so that at least it can be used over the summer months.'

Dramatic rise in credit union membership

LOCHABER Credit Union has seen a dramatic rise in membership as local people choose a safe and affordable way to borrow and save.

The union, based at Claggan in Fort William, has welcomed 50 new members since October, compared to 12 in the same period last year, bringing the total number of members to 570.

Staff believe increased awareness of the benefits of joining a not for profit co-operative, rather than using 'payday' loan companies charging up to 6,000 per cent interest, was partly behind the trend. Lochaber Credit Union charges 26.8 per cent on loans under £2,000.

Office manager Cheryl MacFarlane said: 'Because it's a not for profit organisation, members aren't trying to make any money from your loan so they'll never try to force you to borrow more than you can afford to pay back.'

'Any profits made from interest rates go straight back into the credit union and used to improve our services.'

'We want to encourage all kinds of people to save and borrow with us. We want to

By EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk



Lochaber Credit Union manager Cheryl MacFarlane wants to encourage people of all ages and incomes to start saving. 20_110union01

to use payday loan companies and finding themselves in a lot of debt.

She added: 'We also want people to understand the importance of saving.'

'When you have been a member with us for three months you can borrow up to triple what you've saved so the more you save, the more you can borrow if something goes wrong with a car or your house.'

Ms MacFarlane has been visiting local schools to encourage children to start saving from a young age. Since visiting Caol Primary earlier this month 28 children have opened junior savings accounts.

She said: 'It's about explaining to children the value of money and the value of saving. It's not just for people who are struggling it can be used by anyone, including those who want to protect long term savings.'

'We hope that this will encourage children to become financially responsible adults and that parents will pick up on this message from the kids.'

To set up a credit union account or for more information call 01397 700746 or go to www.lochabercreditunion.org.uk.



Fergie's Folk with Fergie MacDonal

M15 - KGB - Mull Highland Games

During the fifties and sixties piping competitions at the Mull Highland Games attracted the world's top pipers.

Two of these were Pipe Major Donald MacLean and Pipe Major John Burgess. Even Bobby MacLeod composed a tune call John D Burgess in honour of this great piper. Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban is another favourite tune.

During the Cold War the Soviet Union and America were about to blow us all off the face of the earth in a nuclear holocaust.

There was a spy ring operating in Great Britain passing top secret coded messages to the KGB.

Two Cambridge University graduates wormed their way into top posts in our secret services like M15.

Two of the most infamous characters involved in this act of treachery were called Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess. When their disloyalty was discovered by fellow M15 officers in the world of espionage a move was made to arrest them. They got wind of this and made their escape to Russia, warmly welcomed by the KGB.

Meantime while this great escape was headline news, our very own Donald MacLean and John Burgess were performing at the Mull Highland Games, having won between them all the piping events, piobaireachd, jigs, reels and marches, it called for celebration.

So intense was the celebration in the Mishnish that the King George sailed off to Oban without them. Eventually they got a lift up to Craignure hoping to get and alternate boat to Oban.

As they nipped into the Craignure Inn for a dram, the locals immediately recognised them and the inevitable ceilidh got into full swing.

One can almost picture the scene. Gaelic songs, bagpipes, accordions, fiddles and strip the willows. Couple this with everybody back slapping and shaking hands with these two piping celebrities celebrating their triumphant win at the games.

Now, the new barman from Buensan in Mull had just started in the bar the previous day, he had never witnessed anything like this in his life.

Who are these two guys creating all the fuss he asked a local? He was told that Donald MacLean and John Burgess were very famous personalities.

Amid the hilarity there was a BBC news flash alerting the British public that two British spies were on the loose and probably hiding in some remote part of the British Isles waiting to be picked up by the KGB agents.

Catch them before they defect to Russia was the message. Their names are MacLean and Burgess. Would you believe it?

The barman nipped out to the public phone box and informed the local policeman of the terrible situation.

'MacLean and Burgess are in my bar' he said. The local policeman figured out that this was too hot a case for him to handle and called for reinforcements.

It would seem that the Oban Criminal Investigation Department and marksmen were mustered and dispatched by speedboat in haste. Destination - Craignure.

You couldn't make this up, but the fact is that it's true. Some story.



Fun for all at Banavie school car boot sale

Kilmallie Playgroup was among the stallholders at Banavie Primary School's car boot sale on Saturday morning. Above, trustee Elaine Dennison, gets a helping hand from Banavie P6 pupils Molly Henderson, left and Josie Rigby. 20_110banavie01

Council accused of wasting public money by not maintaining grounds

HIGHLAND Council has been accused of wasting public money by failing to properly maintain grass sports fields in Lochaber.

And recent costly upgrades of pitches including An Aird and Jubilee Park in Ballachulish could prove worthless unless regular maintenance works were carried out. Lochaber area committee heard last week.

The warning came during a debate on a Highland Council report stating that pitches were 'in good condition for this time of year' and maintenance had 'improved'.

But furious councillors said those conclusions were not borne out by the reality clubs were facing on the ground.

Blasting the report as 'Alice in Wonderland', Andrew Baxter

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

future maintenance programme in place. It is a waste of money.'

Brian Murphy pointed to 'a considerable mismatch' between the report and clubs telling him that essential maintenance was 'not happening'.

He said: 'We have a real difficulty here. We have worked for a number of years to get these pitches brought up to a reasonable standard but we are at the point where it will almost be seen as a waste of money.'

He added: 'All that money that has gone in is in the balance.'

Bill Clark demanded any savings from building the new Caol school campus should go towards pitch maintenance and repair.

He said: 'Bluntly, the report is so far out. Lochaber has more

rainfall than any other Highland area.

'This must be taken into account if our sports clubs are to be given the opportunity of playing on pitches which match the standard in other areas.'

'We keep saying we want young people to lead a healthy life and take up sports - well we have got to play our part.'

Committee leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'I have had more phone calls about pitches than I have ever had before. The strongest possible message has to come out from this committee today.'

The committee agreed to request an urgent meeting with top officials and clubs to discuss an action plan for proper investment and maintenance.

Lochaber groups combine to form revamped Chamber of Commerce

A NEW organisation was launched this week to champion Lochaber businesses and promote the area to visitors.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, created through a merger of The Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK) and the chamber itself, will now lead the drive to grow local companies and sell Lochaber as a premier destination for outdoor activities.

Negotiations on the move started last year, with regular meetings between the office bearers of both organisations, members and potential funders.

Chamber chairman Don Hind said on Monday: 'I am delighted to have been involved in the creation of this new entity which is an innovative, positive way forward for Lochaber.'

'Lochaber's economy is not only being driven by commercial industries but also by our substantial tourism attractions.'

He added: 'I believe that consolidating the Chamber and OCUK effort will allow us to work together to combine our efforts - attracting visitors and companies to Lochaber and creating new jobs for our area.'

Vice chair Marian Austin said a newly formed subsidiary company, Lochaber Chamber Enterprise Ltd, would develop internet services already in use by members, clients and visitors for marketing and information.

And chief executive officer Lesley Benfield was 'confident' the consolidation would target resources better



Chairman Don Hind and vice chairwoman Marian Austin launch the revamped Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. 20_110chamber01

and cut administration costs. She said: 'We are looking forward to developing a number of initiatives over the coming year, all of which will benefit businesses throughout Lochaber.'

Alison Gainsford of Highlands and Islands Enterprise looked forward to working with the new organisation.

She added: 'To have a single voice for business will help to grow Lochaber's economy.'

Shops face fines over illegal workers

FOUR Fort William High Street businesses face stiff fines after eight immigration offenders were found working in the premises.

Seven men were arrested and face deportation following an intelligence-led operation by Police Scotland and Home Office immigration enforcement officers.

Four Bangladeshis aged 23, 25, 28 and 31 at Spice Tandoori were found to be in the UK illegally during the 5pm swoop last Thursday. At Nickel 'n' Dime, a 22-year-old man from Pakistan was detained for overstaying his visa, while a second Pakistani, aged 32, was arrested at his home on Friday after checks revealed him to have no right to be in the UK. At Indian Garden, a 54-year-old man from Bangladesh was also arrested for being in the UK illegally.

Meanwhile, officers escorted a 50-year-old Chinese man from Highland Star after

checks revealed he had no work permit. He will have to report regularly to the Home Office and if his outstanding application is refused he also faces removal from the UK.

All four businesses have been served with a civil penalty notice for breaching immigration rules.

The employers will be fined up to £10,000 per illegal worker unless they can prove the correct right to work checks were carried out - potentially costing Spice Tandoori £40,000, Nickel 'n' Dime £20,000, Indian Garden £10,000 and Highland Star £10,000.

Iain Stewart, from the Scotland Home Office immigration enforcement team, said: 'Businesses in Scotland which follow the rules have nothing to fear, but those who either deliberately employ people with no right to work or fail to carry out the legally required checks on their staff should expect to face heavy financial penalties.'

FLOORSHOP
massive sale
on all our flooring
FREE underlay with all orders this week only
Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

Argyll Voluntary Action
Volunteer of the Year 2014
The Age of Integration
Your chance to find out about Health, Social Care, Volunteering & Future Plans
Volunteer of the Year and Voluntary /Community Group Award
Young Volunteer, Social Enterprise Volunteer
Regional Timebank Heroes and Health Volunteer Categories too!
Nominations are now OPEN - an opportunity to put forward members of your community who should be recognized for all the voluntary work they do and the impact they have on our towns and villages.
Council Chambers Kilmory
Friday 13th June 2014
10.30am - 2.30pm
Tickets from Argyll Voluntary Action on 01631 564839 (kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk)
www.argyllcommunities.org argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk
Nomination forms now available in AVA offices or online!
Deadline: Friday 18th April 2014
Argyll Voluntary Action, 21 High Street Oban PA34 4BG
Charity No: SC029947 Company No: SC277345
The Scottish Government, The National Lottery, ROBERTSON youngstart, NHS Highland

ScotRail denies banning bin men from behind barrier

SCOTRAIL has denied there have been 'any issues' over collection of bins at Oban's Railway Pier, despite council staff saying they were 'accosted' by railway workers. Oban councillor Roddy McCuish has described the company as 'arrogant' after the latest incident, which this week saw Argyll and Bute Council's bin men told 'not to enter the station area again' after attempting to collect bins behind the controversial ScotRail car park barrier, erected last year. A ScotRail spokesman said: 'We understand that refuse bins are being collected using the access route via the pier - without any issues.' But Mr McCuish said: 'I cannot understand the petulance of a national, multi-million pound organisation. This must be stamped out immediately. I would urge anyone who has any influence over this company to address this at once.'

Police Scotland to scrap Oban chief inspector post

POLICE Scotland intends to scrap the chief inspector post at Oban Police Station, *The Oban Times* has learned. There are currently chief inspectors in three parts of Argyll: Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI); Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI); and Helensburgh, Cowal and Bute. The changes, proposed to take effect on April 1, would see one chief inspector - thought to be Lochgilphead-based Marlene Baillie - take over both OLI and MAKI. Following a consultation exercise on his 'management reorganisation', Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan has indicated he is to follow through on the proposals and is planning to meet with councillors and community councils to discuss the changes. Oban and Lochgilphead will retain their respective inspector posts, while Oban's Acting Chief Inspector Alastair Davidson is expected to return to a detective inspector role, based in Oban.



Oban's Robert MacIntyre, winner of the Adam Hunter Award, at his home course of Glenruiten. 16_110b001

Oban golfer's pride at winning mentor's award

AN OBAN golfer, who has been named as the country's most promising young player, has spoken of his pride at picking up an award given in memory of his mentor. Glenruiten Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre won the Adam Hunter Award, for the best Scottish junior, at the Scottish Golf Awards in the Hilton Glasgow at the weekend. But few people realised the importance of this particular award to the 17-year-old. Former European Tour player Adam, who died in 2011 of leukaemia, was a close family friend and mentor to the youngster, who refers to him as 'uncle Adam'. Robert lost out on the main prize on the

night, player of the year, to Solheim Cup heroine Catriona Matthews but insisted the Adam Hunter Award was the one he wanted. The Oban High School pupil told *The Oban Times*: 'Dougie Donnelly presented me with my award and was interviewing me on stage but he had to cut it short when he started asking about my relationship with Adam. I got quite emotional.' Adam, who coached Paul Lawrie to his Open win in 1999, latterly told young Robert under his wing and the teenager has dedicated his latest award to his mentor.

'I wouldn't be the player I am today without him,' said Robert, who won two national boys' tournaments in 2013. 'He always told me 'fail to prepare, prepare to fail' and I still remember that before every competition. He would even make sure I was keeping up with my schoolwork. It has been such a good year for me but this tops it off. This award means more than any of the others because it has Adam's name on it.' Robert travels to Italy on Scotland duty this Sunday for the under-18 quad championship to compete against Italy, France and Sweden.

Calls for public enquiry into Oban hospital care

CALLS have been made for a public enquiry into the standard of care delivered to vulnerable patients at Oban's hospital after fresh complaints emerged this week. But NHS Highland says its own processes are adequate. Scott Clark McGregor contacted *The Oban Times* after he claimed his own father was left 'fighting for his life' in Ward I at the Lorn and Islands Hospital (see full story, page 3). He said he felt compelled to speak out after reading Mabel Braidwood's story in *The Oban Times*, who was ignored by nurses for days despite 'screaming in agony' because of the effects of pancreatic cancer. Another woman also wrote to the paper after she claimed nurses failed to act on warnings that her husband fell out of bed twice. On the third occasion, he was left with seven stitches over his eye. He died a week later. Mabel Braidwood's daughter, Dawn, has now called for a public enquiry to ensure patients are cared for properly at the hospital - a call backed by Argyll and Bute's MP, Alan Reid. Dawn

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY STEVEN FLANAGAN

said: 'These things should not happen and I absolutely think there should be a public enquiry. I'm heartened that my mum's story has brought other people forward, but I'm disappointed that these other stories exist in the first place. It is important these complaints are dealt with and I think an enquiry would help.' Mr Macgregor said: 'Something has to be done. This cannot continue.' **Justify** Asked if he'd back a call for an enquiry, Alan Reid MP said: 'In general I do get very few complaints about health but three similar cases in a relatively short time period do justify an enquiry. Three related events is a concern and it is something I would want looked at further.' While aware of the concerns, Argyll and Bute's MSP, Michael Russell, stopped short of supporting calls for an enquiry.

He said: 'I am aware of this. I am aware of a number of concerns, some of which are quite worrying. I'm in touch with the health board to seek reassurances for the people of Oban and Lorn and more widely to ensure there's attention from the health board towards patient-focused activity. We do need to get to the bottom of this but in a way that helps all patients.' An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'NHS Highland takes very seriously any allegations related to poor standards of patient care, which would include any cases of physical or verbal abuse of patients in their care. When any such concerns are raised we have clear processes which we follow to immediately address any issues which are compromising safe and effective care of all patients. We work within the Adult Support and Protection legislation and guidance, making sure that all appropriate agencies, including both social work and police are informed of any concerns.'

Growing concern over threat to Tiree Highers

TIREE High School may stop offering Highers as soon as next term because of dwindling pupil numbers, *The Oban Times* has learned. A shrinking choice of subjects to study at Higher level has seen many parents send their children off the island to pursue their chosen careers, with the school currently only offering six subjects - English, maths,

computing, art, music and social studies - at Higher level. While Argyll and Bute Council has said there are 'no plans at this time' to restrict secondary education on the island to S1-S3, *The Oban Times* has learned the possibility is being discussed with a view to making a change in time for next term. That would coincide with the introduction of new National

qualifications to replace Standard Grades. The authority's spokeswoman said: 'New National qualifications replace Standard Grades from this year onwards. Pupils from Tiree in S4-S6 will sit the relevant National qualifications or Higher/Advanced Highers this year as normal, albeit there are currently very few pupils in those age

brackets at the school. There are no plans at present to change the school to support primary only - any such proposal would require a formal statutory consultation.' Kate MacCallum, who sits on Tiree High School's Parent Council, said such a move 'wouldn't be a surprise' to the islanders. 'We thought it'd come one day,' she said. 'The fact we've had a significant

fall in pupil numbers and the expansion of the hostel in Oban meant we were expecting it. There have been a lot of issues with the limited number of subjects and parents taking their children elsewhere to study. It's quite sad for the island as, if they do it, it will signal the death knell for staying on the island for a lot of people. If you're only going to get part of your secondary

NEWSDESKS
FORT WILLIAM
01397 703003
OBAN
01631 568000

Councillor to stand down in corroboration law protest

AN OBAN councillor elected as a member of the SNP has announced his decision to stand down after saying he can no longer support the principals of the party. Fred Hall believes that the SNP's decision last week to vote for the removal of the legal requirement for corroboration in criminal complaints was a blow for justice and would make corruption and malicious complaints easier to prosecute. He further believes the move - which requires to pass through two further

legislative stages, including Holyrood's Justice Committee - could lead to a cut in police numbers, as only one officer would be required on patrol instead of two. **Chief inspector** Oban's former police chief inspector will however stand for re-election when his seat is contested in May, saying that he wants to be selected on his own merit rather than that of the party he resigned from in May 2013 in protest at planned cuts against Atlantis Leisure. In a letter to *The Oban*

Times, he said: 'On justice issues the division between my views and the SNP's are not compatible so I cannot in all honesty rejoin the party and therefore am of a view that I should stand down and fight a by-election as an independent candidate standing on my record to date.' He added that the SNP government's decision on corroboration, which every SNP MSP voted for, could 'arguably lead to convictions for offences from breach of the peace through to serious



Fred Hall offences based on nothing more than the word of one

person against another'. He said he has timed his decision to coincide with the date of the May European elections, making a by-election 'cost neutral' to the council. Responding to Mr Hall's comments, Argyll and Bute SNP branch convener Bob Allan said: 'He's not a member of the SNP so whatever he does is up to him. It will be interesting to see who puts themselves forward. I imagine we will have a candidate.'

Technology helping high-flying scientists in Oban

AIR TRAFFIC control was on hand to teach the next generation of pilots for unique helicopters last week - in Oban's Corran Halls. The pilots, however,

weren't getting ready to pin their wings on, but were preparing for cutting-edge scientific research by learning how to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) carrying a range of bespoke

surveying equipment. Led by Dr Phil Anderson, scientists from across the UK and Europe gathered in the Corran Halls for a day of training, which saw teams learning first of all

how to fly the hovering survey vehicles, then how to use the instrumentation on board to gather data about the environment. That meant navigating a course simulating different

scenarios to learn how to use the bespoke sensors on board, learning how to decipher readings for volcanoes, health of plant-life, oil spills and even identifying and photographing wildlife on hard to reach places. Dr Anderson said: 'This is for students who will be doing environmental research in their career. Part of what we're doing is learning how to use the instrumentation, but it's also about learning the rules of flying the aircraft.'

Among the appliances for the aircraft is measuring weather patterns by measuring the reflection co-efficient, or albedo, of surfaces - which is particularly useful for monitoring fluctuations in the ice-caps - or even identifying sick plants within a forest or amongst thick vegetation by measuring subtle colour changes. Several missions have already been flown in the north Lorn area, with Oban Airport being 'extremely helpful' in aiding progress, added Dr Anderson. He said: 'We're producing and publishing papers already. It's science getting done and science we couldn't do in any other way and that's very pleasing.'



Among those learning to fly the remote-control aircraft last Wednesday are, from left, Elias Berra from Newcastle University, Richard Boothroyd of Durham University, Douglas Finch of Edinburgh University, George Graham from Plymouth University and Caroline Griffin of Stirling University. 16_110a001

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Business Opportunity

An opportunity is available for a person/company to run the woodland weddings at Caig Waterfalls, Loch Arkaig.

Previous experience of running this type of outdoor wedding is mandatory. Expressions of interest to be received by **20th March 2014**.

For more information please contact Kirsty Mann at Lochaber Forest District on 01397 702184 or email kirsty.mann@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

2014 Calendars

Save 50% when you subscribe to **The Oban Times digital edition!**

details at www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

WATER

Problems our speciality!
Springs; Boreholes;
Stream Collection; Roof Water
Get your own!
THE WATERMAN

SEWAGE

Does your system work?
Percolation Tests
Layouts for new builds
All systems serviced
We have 40 years experience
CALL THE WATERMAN
01360 860575
07787 548339
07787 548340
Normanmcknight-MCK@hotmail.co.uk
ALL SCOTLAND COVERED
Based in Stirlingshire

Scottish Field Miniature

£7.50

Last few remaining get your 2014 calendar while stocks last to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call 01371 851 868

Target your customers

HALF PRICE

Promotional material design & distribution in your local paper

Only available at Krisp Print
Use promotional code CAKP1013

Advertise in one publication or a combination

Call today for your free quote **01586 554975**

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

krisp print

Man admits drugs charge

PLAIN-clothed police officers searched a man in Oban's Station Square after seeing what they thought was a drug deal taking place.

Elio Lopez, aged 53, of 14 Soroba Road, Oban, admitted at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to possessing cannabis resin on September 13 last year. 'The officers saw the accused with two other males and formed the impression this might have been a drugs transaction taking place,' said procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty. When searched by the officers cannabis resin weighing 2.9 grammes was found in Lopez's possession. He was fined £300 and warned by Sheriff Douglas Small: 'With your record any involvement with drugs is going to involve going to prison.'

Car damaged during fight

A 21-YEAR-OLD man must pay for the repairs to a car he damaged during a fight.

Jamie Macdonald, of 59 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg admitted damaging the car parked at MacCallum Court, Dunbeg, on September 9 last year.

Macdonald and a friend had been drinking and argued. During the fight which ensued someone was pushed against the car and the cost to repair the damage was £550.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined him £270, on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court, and ordered him to pay compensation for the full £550.



Gordon MacGillivray with his whisky from the First Minister in front of his new tartan-clad seafood bar. 16_t10macgillivray01

Seafood bar returns resplendent in tartan

AFTER coming through a 'hellish' winter when his seafood bar business almost went under, Gordon MacGillivray is back for the 2014 season with a brighter outlook - and a brighter logo.

Mr MacGillivray, the owner of MacGillivray Seafood, has given his Railway Pier seafood bar a tartan makeover, following a dispute with a rival business over its colour.

Last October the court of Session in Edinburgh ruled that Gordon MacGillivray had to

change the colour of his then green seafood bar on Oban's Railway Pier, as it caused confusion with a similar nearby premises, The Original Green Shack, owned by John Ogden and Marion Ritchie, who started the court action.

Response

In response, the entrepreneur has covered his bar in a MacGillivray tartan vinyl wrap and officially launched the new look last Saturday.

Mr MacGillivray said: 'I had to come back strongly. There

was no point having just one colour; it had to be impressive - and something that wouldn't get me another court bill!'

'The past few months have been hellish.

'For a small business like mine it was a really tough winter that was just about survival.

'Now I am looking forward to a busy season.'

Mr MacGillivray has added new dishes to his menu and has placed his new branding on every product.

He says early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. 'Everyone is enjoying the tartan and think it is a great attraction for Oban.'

First Minister Alex Salmond declined an invitation from Mr MacGillivray to open the new-look seafood bar, as he was unavailable, but promised to visit during the summer.

Through Oban councillor Louise Glen Lee, Mr Salmond gave Mr MacGillivray a signed bottle of whisky from the Scottish Parliament.

Oban hospital patient left 'fighting for his life'

A MAN has claimed the care his 68-year-old father received at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital was so poor he was left 'fighting for his life'.

Sixty-eight year old Peter Clark was admitted to the hospital on December 3 last year after a mix-up with his medication for Parkinson's disease meant he needed closer monitoring.

But just weeks later, his son Scott Clark McGregor became concerned his dad was going to die as his health rapidly deteriorated and he was told by doctors he wouldn't be fit to return home.

He became frail, incontinent and increasingly withdrawn. Claiming he was being shouted by nurses, he told his son he wanted to commit suicide.

Scott put the stories down to early-stage dementia, but a care worker contacted him to say his father was being bullied - triggering a series of events that saw social workers demand he be moved from Ward I into Ward A.

After that, his father's health

improved dramatically and he was able to return home at the end of February, now requiring only minimal care from home helps.

Recalling his dad's stay, Scott, 41, of Livingston, said: 'I thought he was going to die. It's no exaggeration to say he was fighting for his life.'

'He went in on December 3 and he soon became very agitated. I just put it down to his health and because a doctor said he had early stage dementia - although there is doubt about that now.'

Shouted

'My dad kept trying to tell me a male nursing assistant had shouted at him for wetting the bathroom floor.'

Noticing his dad was exhausted during one afternoon visit, Scott suggested he get a sleep. Peter replied 'I'll get in trouble'.

When Scott lifted his father into his bed, he instantly fell asleep. He said: 'I was sitting by him while he slept when this male nursing assistant raised his voice and said "he won't sleep tonight!'

Scott's fears were only realised when his father's link worker became concerned after observing a nurse shout at him.

'Alarm bells in my head started ringing,' said Scott. 'I felt like I'd let my dad down.'

Other concerns included noticing medication was late over a mix up with keys and finding unexplained bruises on his dad. Soiled clothes were also left in a plastic bag on the floor.

Social Work insisted he move to Ward A after a complaint was made.

Scott said: 'Ward A was brilliant. I wish I had acted sooner and I felt if my dad had not been removed from Ward I he would have died.'

'This has caused considerable stress for me and my family and I have only just recovered from cancer. I cannot believe this would happen in an Oban hospital.'

NHS Highland said: 'NHS Highland is not in a position to make any direct comment related to specific patients and staff members.'

Newsdesks
01631 568000
01397 703003

Community gets behind new Oban playpark appeal

'AN AMAZING response' from the community is helping boost plans to build a new playpark in Oban after the old facility at Atlantis Leisure was finally condemned.

Oban Community Playpark chairwoman Lyndsay Elliot has welcomed the support the charity has received since the aged equipment just off Dalriach Road was removed; with the core of the equipment proving just too old to repair.

She is now hoping a fresh wave of donations and support from national funding bodies can speed along plans to bring a new £400,000 all-abilities playpark to the town, which would be one of the few disabled friendly playparks in Scotland.

She said: 'There has been a huge response since the playpark closed. We sent letters to 385 local businesses and some

have started replying. I actually took my car in to get serviced at Roddy's Garage and Roddy wrote me a cheque for £100 right there.

'There has been an amazing response.'

Another Oban business to go out of its way to help the playpark is Craigard Decor, which is offering leftover pots of paint from its Craigard Road home in return for a donation to the playpark fund.

With £21,000 currently in the bank, every penny helps - although the playpark committee last week submitted applications for a total of £160,000 of funding which they hope to hear back from soon. Lyndsay added: 'We do have a massive target but we are applying for funds from as many people as possible.'

'The councillors have been really supportive too and there

will be a meeting on Friday to see what we can do.'

On the now closed playpark, she added: 'The park had just reached the end of its life. It was actually condemned three or four years earlier but it could be repaired then. It just became so old it couldn't be repaired anymore.'

In a bid to help their fundraising efforts, the committee's members are arranging to launch a new Just Giving page, which will allow donations to be supplemented with Gift Aid. This should be launched within a week, while those who wish to donate by mobile can text Oban14 followed by £2, £5 or £10 to 70070.

Anyone who would like to donate or arrange a fundraising event can contact Lyndsay on 07919 651 181 or email lyndsay.elliott@unk.com.



Hazel Evans, front row, third from left, is joined by Ward A colleagues at her retirement party. 16_t10hazel01

Nurse calls it a day after 44 years on town wards

FORMER colleagues have been full of praise for a nurse who is one of the town's longest-serving health professionals, having worked in Oban's hospitals for 44 years.

Hazel Evans retired last week as an enrolled nurse in Ward A at Lorn and Islands Hospital, bringing to an end a 46-year career with the NHS.

Hazel worked in Fort William's Belford Hospital for two years before moving to Oban, where she met her husband Nigel.

She has been in the town ever since and worked at the former West Highland Hospital, Dalintart Hospital and the County Hospital, before transferring to Lorn and Islands

Hospital, and is also a former accident and emergency nurse.

Former colleague Louise MacLeod, deputy charge nurse on Lorn and Islands Hospital's Ward A, said: 'They don't make nurses like Hazel anymore.'

'She was one of a kind. She was a great nurse who showed care and compassion and she will be missed by all of her colleagues.'

Her co-workers in Ward A hosted a retirement party at Glencruitten Golf Club last Friday and made a presentation, complete with a cake depicting a nurse's uniform.

Hazel, aged 62, said: 'I will miss the nursing side of the job and all of my colleagues.'

Break-in at George Street flat

A GROUP of youths has been reported after breaking into a flat on George Street in Oban.

The six juveniles have been reported to the Reporter in connection with the break-in last Wednesday, February 26 at 4.50pm.

Staff at the Yorkshire Building Society alerted the police after hearing a noise in the flat above them at 93 George Street.

Police are asking members of the public for help in relation to the crime and are appealing for witnesses.

Lorn Lines

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

THIS year's Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match will be held at Dunach Estate, Kilmore on March 22.

The annual fundraising whist drive for the event was held recently in Appin Village Hall. Allan MacKenzie took the role of card master and 11 tables turned out to support the cause.

The ladies section was won by Agnes Thomson, with Anna MacLean in second place. Consolation went to Doreen Evans and the travelling prize was won by Christine Pearson.

The gents competition was won by Christine Jackson, with Iain MacCormick runner up. Colin Malone took the consolation prize, while Janice Gunn was awarded the travelling prize.

Entries to this year's ploughing match should be made to Gregor MacCormick on 01631 730 265.



Oban's Air Cadets are finally able to lead parades after raising £800 for a new banner. Pictured with the new flag are, from left, Cadets Nicola Eddleston and Oran Hart, Sergeants Erin Cameron and Gareth Samson, and cadets Martin Henricksen, Duncan Turner and Chantelle Lopez. 16_t10cadets1

Organisers confident Mull Rally's 45th year is shaping up to be the best yet

IDEAS are being sought to make the 45th Mull Rally the event's best yet as organisers hope to attract a bumper field of entries.

Enquiries have come in from as far afield as Canada for the landmark anniversary of the event, which was the first rally in the UK to use public roads and one of only two in the country to still do so.

Now course clerk Iain Campbell is hoping this October's rally can be used as a vehicle to revive the event's fortunes, after a flagging entry field in recent years which has seen the number of competitors drop from

the full roster of 150 to a record low of 100 last year.

He said: 'I don't profess to having great ideas, but I am keen to hear what people would suggest. After last year's rally, we circulated a questionnaire to find out what people thought about the event to see why the entry was falling. Cost was an issue, in terms of travel, ferries and accommodation. It's something we're looking at.'

'But we're keen to make sure the rally improves in future. For example, would people prefer the event was held on one day rather than

staggered over three stages? We'd be keen to hear all opinions.'

Gearing up for this October's race, Iain said the excitement is already accelerating.

'There are a lot of people who were at the 30th or 40th anniversary who want to come along for this,' he said. 'We've also had enquiries from people down south, with one guy in Bournemouth among those to get in touch and one guy wants to get his car built and shipped across from Canada.'

'Entries don't open until August - but there is a lot of buzz.'

Pledge to fix Nant Drive street lights

RESIDENTS of Nant Drive, Oban, have been given an assurance by the local authority that they will not be kept in the dark for long, as work to repair street lights gets underway.

Last Thursday Argyll and Bute Council restored some of the street lighting, which has been out for more than a fortnight, but explained

further repairs would take more time.

A spokesman for the council said: 'There is a major underground fault at the upper side of Nant Drive in Oban. The problem stems from the original cabling being made up of a three-way joining system (sometimes called T-joints). This joining

system makes it impossible to carry out accurate electrical testing.'

'As power from the whole area comes from one distribution pillar, with the help of Scottish and Southern Energy, we are planning to install new supply points which will minimise the impact of any future outages.'

Man on serious assault charge

A 22-YEAR-OLD man appeared on petition before Sheriff Douglas Small at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, facing a charge of serious assault. The alleged incident happened in the town on March 2; no plea or declaration was given.

Witness appeal

AN ASSAULT on a 47-year-old woman took place in the Lorne Bar, Stevenson Street, Oban on Saturday, March 1 at 1.30am.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the alleged assault by a Polish speaking female who was removed from the premises.

High court appeal

A MAN convicted at Oban Sheriff Court of a 'thoroughly unpleasant and depraved indecent assault' on a young woman will have his appeal heard in April.

Timothy Robson, 50, who lived in Kilmore, was ordered to serve four years in prison in June 2012 after a jury unanimously found him guilty of plying a 25-year-old woman with drink and drugs and photographing himself sexually assaulting her.

Robson, who had given the girl so much valium and alcohol that she became

unconscious, denied the indecent assault charge. He claimed his victim had consented to the acts and even asked for pictures to be taken.

The incident was reported to police when Robson handed staff at Tesco the photographs to be put onto a CD.

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced him to four years in prison and three years on licence once released, but Robson later appealed both his conviction and his sentence. Edinburgh High Court will hear the appeal on April 17.

Book your advertising now for Holiday West Highland

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to reach your full visitor potential for the 2014 season, call our sales team now on 01631 568000 or 01586 554646

FIBRE BROADBAND. BT INFINITY FOR BUSINESS FROM £30 A MONTH.

- SUPERFAST SPEEDS EVEN AT THE BUSIEST TIMES
- FREE UNLIMITED WI-FI FROM OVER 5 MILLION HOTSPOTS
- 99.99% RELIABILITY
- 24/7 DEDICATED BUSINESS HELPDESK

Call today to join the thousands of businesses that choose us each month.

0800 345 7963
bt.com/businessinfinity

BT Business

Subject to availability. BT Infinity for business may require a BT line or similar and a fibre compatible router such as the BT Business Hub provided with Infinity. Not all lines in an Infinity-enabled area can support the service. £30 a month is based on BT Infinity for business Option 1 with a 24 month Minimum Period. Terms and conditions apply. The speeds you get with BT Infinity for business are more consistent than standard broadband, giving you 16Mb assured throughput at 90% of the internet busy period. You can get onto BT Wi-Fi as long as you're in a BT Wi-Fi hotspot and your laptop, tablet or phone has wireless internet. We've got a Wi-Fi Fair Use Policy. Network reliability as at September 2013.

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Main Street/Longrow South,
Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Wheeler's race at Nevis Range

CYCLING

WEST HIGHLAND Wheelers set a little piece of sporting history by running the first ever Winter League Enduro-style event at Nevis Range.

Four timed stages on well-known gravity-assisted trails were linked by sociable, non-timed rides between each stage.

Also on the route was the Big Doon, a feature of the World Cup downhill track, which proved to be a popular spot for winding riders up before they set off down the hill.

Emma Holgate took the ladies race podium top spot with Christina Bell and Mairi Meldrum not far behind.

The junior race was won by Keir Coupland who also placed a non-too shabby fourth overall. Stephen Dent was second with Ruairidh Cant in third position.

Alastair MacLennan was the overall winner, just in front of Lachlan Blair and a very well-placed Dave Underwood. Three juniors were also placed in the top ten.

Top 20 (West Highland Wheelers unless otherwise stated):
1 Alastair MacLennan 11:57; 2 Lachlan Blair 12:19; 3 Dave Underwood 12:35; 4 Keir Coupland 13:04; 5 Ewen Thornburn 13:23; 6 Stephen Dent 13:24; 7 Steve Bradley 13:29; 8 BJ Doherty RAF 13:29; 9 Ed Daynes 13:45; 10 Ruairidh Cant 13:49; 11 Sam Wood 13:51; 12 Gavin McLean 14:01; 13 Neil Stoddart Great Glen Outdoor Club 14:09; 14 Stephen Cant 14:18; 15 Jack McCallum 14:26; 16 Gavin Linfield 14:29; 17 Brych Hensman-Martin 14:48; 18 Roddie Wells 15:06; 19 Brian Barron 15:29; 20 Emma Holgate 15:32.

Goon Squad remain top dogs

INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON SQUAD maintained top spot in the Ali Young indoor football league with a 9-4 victory over Caol United at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Lochaber Leisure kept their good run going with a 3-0 defeat of Caol Cosmos to remain six points off the pace but there was a shock for third-placed AFC Distillery, who lost 6-5 to Kentallen in an 11-goal thriller.

Portocwy improved their position with a 3-0 win over HWEnergy, while the Janis B Team and With Ourselves fought out a 7-7 draw.

Balachulish earned three points with a 3-0 walkover win.



The P5 and under teams who took part in the Gilmour Sports National First Shinty finals.

Portree pipped at the post

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

IT WAS so near yet so far for Portree in the P6/7 Gilmour Sports National First Shinty finals in Fort William on Saturday when fell at the final hurdle 4-0 to Taynuilt.

The Isle of Skye youngsters had earned their favourites tag

by topping their group with five wins and one draw.

They then went on to defeat local champs Inverloch 4-0 in the semi-final, with a double from Ross Gordon and one each from Abby Maclean and Gillesbeag MacVicar.

Coveted trophy

But a hat-trick from Blair MacFarlane and a single from Taynuilt coach Stephen Sloss's

son Daniel ensured the coveted trophy headed south to Argyll.

Taynuilt won their group with four wins and one defeat but needed a 'golden goal' from Kenni Gray in their semi against Kincairdie to win through.

Portree manager Willie MacDonald praised his players for coming so close. He said: 'They far exceeded any expectations we had of them in this tournament.

They did really well to get to the final but Taynuilt were the stronger team and put in an absolutely exceptional performance to win it.'

Taynuilt coach Stephen Sloss told The Oban Times: 'It's fantastic - we are just from a small village and we only had six players and no subs. 'I thought we could compete with anyone but I was delighted

to win it and in the final we played the best we had all day.'

Edged out

At the P5 and under finals at Lochaber High School the same day, Beaulie edged out Glasgow Gaels 2-1 to take the title. Inverloch defeated Dingwall to claim third place.

National shinty development officer Ronald Ross told the Oban Times: 'It was great to see

25 teams from across Scotland take part in the finals and is evidence that shinty continues to go from strength to strength at school level.

'The standard of play was fantastic in both competitions and bodes well for the future of shinty. It is to be hoped that these young players will go on to become the mainstay of their clubs in years to come.'



Winners Taynuilt celebrate their 4-0 final victory over Portree.

Tom wins penultimate winter league race

ATHLETICS

THE WEATHER was kind for Lochaber Athletic Club's penultimate winter league event on Sunday, with 47 runners taking part in the vitrified fort race in cold but sunny conditions.

Lochaber's Tom Smith was the overall winner in a time of 33mins 37 secs with

Lawrence Ramsay (unattached) second in 35:16 with Craig Mattocks (Carnethy) third in 36:02.

Kate Jenkins of Carnethy was the victor in the ladies' race in a time of 38:55. Lochaber's Sarah Mackenzie was second in 39:29 and Nix Forster third in 44:24.

There were a few individual

performances to note - Allan Lamont had a storming run to finish in ninth place, Barrie MacKinnon had another solid run along with his partner Vikki, who has been improving with every race, while Elaine Liddell and John Dougan continued the form they have been showing throughout the winter league.

Thanks from the club go to the timekeepers Aileen and Ellen, Jim for the results, and marshals Graham, Nancy and Helen.

Next race is the Glen 10k on Saturday, March 15.



Runners-up Portree played brilliantly throughout only to fall at the final hurdle.

Spean Bridge Golf Club hand out the prizes

GOLF

COMPETITION winners at Spean Bridge Golf Club were presented with their trophies at the club's annual general meeting in the clubhouse last week.

Prize list:
Medals, category 1 - May, A Morrison; June, S Steele; July, K Dalziel; August, K Dalziel; September, W Atkinson; October, G Martin. Final - G Martin.

Category 2 - May, R Turbutt; June, K Fraser; July, I Graham; August, R Turbutt; September, H Campbell; October - K Fraser. Final - K Fraser.

Senior - May, B Britton; June, C Donaldson; July, A MacDonald; August, I Graham; September, J Muncie; October, I Graham. Final - H Campbell.

Stableford pairs - A Morrison/McGuire, Greensome Cup - S Graham/I Graham; MacLaren Trophy - C Davidson; Bogy Cup - W Atkinson; Drummond Cup - W Atkinson; Edbroke Trophy - I Graham; Hotel Trophy (scratch)



Spean Bridge Golf Club winners with their trophies after the AGM.

- D Langan. Hotel Trophy (handicap) - D McCook.
Turbutt, Three-man Texas Scramble - S Steele/S McNeil/D McCook.
Ladies winners:
Medals - May, Aileen Campbell; June, Mary Robson; July, Patricia McVicar; August, Jenny Collins; September, Mary Robson. Bronze medal - Mary Robson; Ferguson Cup - Aileen Campbell;
Championship - Aileen Campbell.
Handicap champion - Patricia McVicar; Eclectic - Sheila Cameron/Julie Fraser; Charlie Taylor Cup - Jackie MacPherson; Mixed doubles - Patricia McVicar/Kevin Fraser. Winter league - 1, Julie Fraser; 2, Aileen Campbell/Mary Robson; 3, Sheila Cameron.

Igor has to settle for the silver medal

BOXING

LOCHABER Phoenix boxer Igor Sliwinski had to settle for silver at the Scottish youth welterweight boxing championships at Ravenscraig, Motherwell last Saturday.

His opponent in the final was the much feared John Docherty of Byron Boxing Club known as the best pound for pound youth boxer in Scotland - and with good reason. At almost six foot two and just 69 kilos he generates tremendous power and had stopped everyone on his march to the final.

Sliwinski, aged just 17, is known as a big punching machine himself so the bout was one of the most eagerly awaited contests of the championships.

Docherty caught Sliwinski on the jaw with a fearsome left cross after only 20 seconds

which physically shifted him backwards.

The Fort William boxer surged forward but was caught on numerous occasions, a pattern which continued in the second round.

The third round highlighted the huge desire Sliwinski possesses as he constantly tried different moves to gain a foothold but Docherty's left hand bombs - which had accounted for so many opponents over the season - continued to find their target.

Although Igor was never in trouble the decision on points for Docherty was a just one, but Sliwinski can consider himself content that he continues to show improvement and surely has a big future ahead of him.



Igor Sliwinski: had to settle for silver.

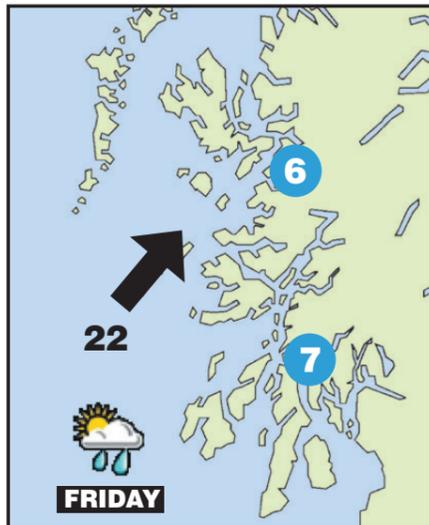
Weather

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers
Outlook Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate to rough



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 6, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.00 0.8 08.43 3.6 15.16 1.0 20.48 0.7	
Fri	03.41 1.2 09.21 3.3 16.01 1.3 21.25 3.2	
Sat	04.29 1.5 10.06 3.0 16.53 1.6 22.13 3.0	
Sun	05.27 1.8 11.21 2.7 17.55 1.8 23.38 2.8	
Mon	06.50 2.0 14.13 2.7 19.08 1.8 ** **	
Tues	01.55 2.8 09.14 1.9 15.18 2.9 20.33 1.7	
Wed	03.07 3.0 10.07 1.7 15.53 3.1 21.39 1.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk