

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8086

Thursday 15 March, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence



For all the latest news video and photos log on to www.obantimes.co.uk Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

92-year old blind woman robbed in her Oban home

POLICE are hunting a female thief who robbed a 92-year-old blind woman in her home after feigning illness.

The woman is alleged to have knocked on the pensioner's door and asked for a glass of water. After she left, the elderly woman discovered the contents of her purse had gone missing.

The reported incident happened on Soroba Road at around 2pm on Monday.

Anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious at that time, or has any information on the theft should contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

More than 60 caught in Kilniver speed trap

POLICE issued 63 charges or warnings to drivers in six weeks for speeding through the village of Kilniver.

Despite closely monitoring the speed of drivers through the village since February 1, Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld expressed frustration that drivers continued to flout the 30mph limit past the village primary school.

The most serious recent incident involved a seven-and-a-half tonne lorry travelling at 45mph last Saturday afternoon.

NHS confirms Islay doctor shortlist

NHS HIGHLAND has this week confirmed it is shortlisting potential GPs for the vacant post in Bowmore on Islay.

The closing date for job applications was March 10 and dates for interviews are scheduled for next month. NHS Highland refused to say how many applications had been received.

Call to attend Scottish Ferry Review meeting

RESIDENTS of Oban Lorn and the isles are being urged to attend a meeting about the Scottish Ferries Review in the Corran Halls tomorrow (Friday).

The meeting will discuss the impact of the proposals on Oban, which has the most Caledonian MacBrayne ferry routes.

The meeting will begin at 7pm.



caption caption caption caption caption caption

Cookery student Liam Roberts, from Oban, with a seafood platter from the Scrumptious Scotland event. 15_1110001

College chefs serve up Scottish treat

COOKERY students at Argyll College have served up a mouth-watering medley of Argyll fare to promote the county's produce.

Scrumptious Scotland is a national event funded by Scotland's colleges and 11 Oban students used the campaign to demonstrate their cooking skills at a special nine-course dinner

for invited guests in the college on Tuesday.

Cookery tutor Chris Wolfe said on Tuesday: 'The students have used as much local produce as possible and all the game is locally sourced.'

'This is a cracking bunch of students and I hope this event will be a recognition of what

they can do. It is a chance for them to show off.'

Among the dishes on the extensive menu were shellfish, pheasant, venison and rhubarb and ginger sorbet.

The students will be hosting another Scrumptious Scotland event, a buffet lunch, at the end of this month.

Buck passed over Mull pier repairs

Government blame council, council blame CMAL, meanwhile islanders and tourists face another summer of delays and discontent

THE ARGUMENT over who is responsible for the pier in Craignure on Mull has been settled by the Scottish Government.

A letter from Transport Minister Keith Brown to local MSP Michael Russell puts the burden of repairing and maintaining the pier firmly at the door of Argyll and Bute Council.

Michael Russell said: 'It clearly lays the blame at the council's door and makes it clear the council should act.' The letter criticises the council for allowing Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) to spend £400,000 of its 'scarce reserves' while to date they, the port owner, have contributed nothing.

Keith Brown said: 'Only Argyll and Bute Council have the statutory responsibility to take forward the replacement of a Passenger Access System (PAS) at Craignure.'

'In addition, given Argyll and Bute Council receives £1m in revenue from CalMac from this port alone, only they are in a position to secure funding for a replacement PAS.'

Long term, and in line with the recommendations in the draft plan for ferry services, the Scottish Government is willing to be



The Passenger Access System is a CMAL asset say council

responsible for all 'lifeline' ferry services in Scotland including their associated ports.

The government will work with Argyll and Bute Council to discuss the possibility of taking over responsibility for services currently provided by them.

In the meantime the letter states 'that both CMAL and Argyll and Bute Council are continuing to work on the design for a permanent replacement and it

is recognised that such procurement will take 15 to 18 months. CMAL will continue to maintain and improve where possible the 'temporary' system.'

Despite foot passengers having to regularly leave the ferry using the vehicle ramp a spokeswoman for the council said: 'The council, Scottish Government officials and CMAL have been working together for a number of months to ensure that the Passenger Access System at Craignure is both safe and fit for purpose.'

'The council's position is that as the Passenger Access System is a CMAL asset, and in line with similar arrangements at other ferry terminals on the west coast of Scotland, CMAL should lead and fund its future replacement.'

'The letter received from the Transport Minister is receiving detailed consideration at this time and a response will be issued within the near future.'

'The revenue derived from Craignure, along with the revenue from all its piers and harbours across Argyll and Bute is reinvested in supporting lifeline ferries operated by the council and the council's piers and harbours which support the local economy and community life.'

Platinum follows gold at Tyndrum

Valuable find is 'highly promising'

HIGHLY valuable platinum has been found on a hillside near Tyndrum in the latest round of exploratory drills by mining company Scotgold.

The company said the results of its drilling programme had shown an area of highly anomalous gold and platinum group elements containing palladium, copper, nickel and cobalt.

Scotgold said the discoveries, at Sron Garbh, added an exciting new dimension to its exploration programme, describing the geological conditions as 'highly promising'.

The drill site is about two kilometres from Tyndrum, and five kilometres northeast of the soon to be developed Cononish gold and silver mine.

It's thought the ground conditions were similar to major deposits in Aguablanca in Spain and in certain parts of the Sudbury mines in Ontario, Canada.

Further test drills at Sron Garbh will be carried out later this year.

Chris Sangster, chief executive of Scotgold, said: 'The potential deposit style adds an exciting new dimension to Scotgold's exploration programme and represents a significant new target in addition to the narrow vein gold and other targets identified elsewhere within the Scotgold's licence areas.'

'Scotgold is keen to advance further work in the area as soon as possible.'

It is the latest in a series of successful test drills by the company, which in February said early prospecting work at its River Vein area, along River Orchy, near to Glen Orchy Farm, showed at least two possible gold and silver bearing structures.

The company was last month given the green light to mine for gold and silver at Cononish in Loch Lomond National Park.

Seven west coast businesses in PSYBT's Scottish top 100

SEVEN successful west coast businesses feature in a list celebrating 100 of the best companies supported by the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT).

Best performers The research, independently verified by the Royal Bank of

Scotland, identifies the 100 best performing companies funded by PSYBT since it launched in 1989.

Among the most successful, those companies with a turnover between £1million-£5million, are Argyll-wide firm Mellex Plant and Construction, better

known as West Coast Plant Hire and Lewis firms Wild West Foods, and Autoparts Stornoway Ltd.

Mull's Island Bakery and Lewis crane hire company, John MacIver and Sons, feature in the £500,000-£1million turnover bracket, while the Harris fish-

ing boat MFV Isbjorn and Treen band, Skerryvore, feature in the £200,000-£500,000 category.

Between them, the ventures have generated 86 jobs.

'Exceptional' Presenting the survey, Mark Strudwick CBE, chief executive of PSYBT, said: 'The 100 busi-

nesses featured in this report are all exceptional; but we must not forget they started off as micro-businesses without the funding and support in place to become sustainable businesses.'

'PSYBT provided that support and, through our volunteer network, helped build the con-

fidence and skills necessary for these businesses to flourish.'

'The supported businesses have a combined turnover of some £157million.'

'This has a huge impact on the Scottish economy and is well recognised by all those who know about PSYBT's work.'



Crinan Hotel

Argyll, Scotland

Early Spring Offer.

2 night stay, dinner, bed and breakfast during March and April from only £90.00 per person per night*.

*terms and conditions apply

Take in the fabulous views whilst dining on your 4 course dinner in the elegant Westward Restaurant or sit by the fire and enjoy a wee dram. Here is the ideal, undemanding base from which to enjoy the peaceful tranquility of this memorable part of the Scottish landscape.

Book online at www.crinanhotel.com or telephone reservations on 01546 830 261

Her Majesty sends letter of thanks to Oban schoolgirl

A TALE by Oban schoolgirl Caitlin McCuish of how goblins and fairies planned a party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has won the favour of Her Royal Highness.

Eight year old Caitlin, of Miller Road, penned the story after her mum suggested she wrote something about the year-long celebrations. So with words and pictures she created a fantastical tale that thrilled Queen Elizabeth so much she wrote to thank Caitlin for her efforts.

Caitlin, a pupil at Rockfield Primary School, is delighted her story received the Royal seal of approval - and can barely keep the smile from her face. The P4 pupil said: 'The story was about how fairies and friendly goblins were planning a surprise party for the Queen for her Diamond Jubilee.

'I brought the story into the class and showed it to the teacher, Mrs

Clark. She said I should send it to her, so I did.

'I got a letter back on Friday. I'm really happy she liked it.'

The letter to Caitlin, sent by the Queen's lady-in-waiting, thanked her for a 'splendid illustrated story'. It said: 'The Queen very much enjoyed your story and colourful illustrations and greatly appreciated the thought you have put into writing it especially to commemorate this historic year.'

As well as the letter, Caitlin received a special commemorative card from the Queen thanking her for her support.

Head teacher Jack Degnan said Caitlin was one of the school's keener writers.

He said: 'The kids write about anything they want and they share their ideas with their class. Caitlin has really taken to it.'



Eight year old Caitlin McCuish with the letter from Buckingham Palace thanking her for her creative story about the surprise party the goblins and fairies are planning for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. 15_1110111

AN TOBAR PRESENTS

MICHAEL MARRA & THE HAZY JANES

THE LEGENDARY DUNDEE SONGWRITER AND A DELUXE BAND PLAYING SONGS FROM THEIR NEW RECORD 'HOUSEROOM'

'HOUSEROOM' IS RELEASED ON TOB RECORDS, ON THE 19 MARCH. www.antoobar.co.uk

THURSDAY 22 MARCH IONA VILLAGE HALL 01688 302211

FRIDAY 23 MARCH AN TOBAR, TOBERMORY 01688 302211

SATURDAY 24 MARCH EASDALE ISLAND HALL www.easdaleislandhall.org

SUNDAY 25 MARCH DUNOON BURGH HALL 01369 703302

Bedroom needing a makeover?

Check out the fantastic range of beds & bedroom furniture on display

SATURN FLEXISTORE 4 DRAWER DOUBLE DIVAN £599 NOW ONLY £299

Mathesons Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 565195

New island school finished on time and on budget

THE NEW West Side Primary School (Sgoil an Taobh Siar) in Barvas on the Isle of Lewis has been completed on time and on budget.

The school is the fourth of six built under the £125m Western Isles Schools Project by main contractor FMP. The first intake of pupils is planned for the new term after the Easter break.

The new Nicolson Institute in Stornoway, Daliburgh Primary School and the balance of the works at Sir E Scott School in Tarbert remain on track for completion in late July.

Macmillan and Comhairle in partnership

A PARTNERSHIP between Macmillan Cancer Support and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is helping people in the Western Isles claim benefits to which they did not know they were entitled.

Ninety-nine people have claimed £226,000 within the first year of the initiative.

Italia 'n' Caledonia comes to Benderloch hall

A SHOW celebrating the lives of Italians in Scotland during the 20th century is to go on tour throughout Argyll and Bute.

The production, Italia 'n' Caledonia, is supported by Mull Theatre and will visit the Victory Hall, Benderloch, on March 24 at 8pm.

£3,000 cash prize for Gaelic communities

BUSINESSES and communities that work in Gaelic, or use the language daily are being invited to enter competitions to win up to £3,000.

Gleus (Gaelic Community of the Year) and Gniomh (Gaelic Business of the Year) competitions offer £3,000, £1,500 and £500 in each competition for first, second and third places respectively. The competitions are managed by Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) as part of its development contract with Highlands and Islands Enterprise. This is the third year the competitions have been run and applications are now being sought, with a closing date of the end of May 2012.

More information on the competitions, and the application packs, can be found on the CnaG website (www.cna.org.uk) or by getting in touch with the CnaG offices in Stornoway (01851 701802) or Inverness (01463 234138).

Scottish salmon USA showcase

AN INTERNATIONAL seafood show will be treated to the delights of Scottish salmon next week in an effort to boost exports to America.

The Scottish Salmon Company will attend the International Boston Seafood Show to develop its business profile in the USA.

The company will meet key customers who have a specific demand for quality salmon with Scottish provenance.

Stewart McLelland, Chief Executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'This is important for us and an excellent platform to engage with our international customers and develop relationships with potential new customers. We believe our premium Scottish salmon together with our proactive approach to product development and service will play a significant role in opening up new markets.'

Landcatch appoints new team

A LEADING aquaculture company has appointed a new management team to guide it through crucial times ahead.

Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd has installed Neil Manchester as its new general manager. Neil has more than 27 years of experience in aquaculture and will be responsible for overseeing the company's UK activities. Keith Drynan has been appointed as head of broodstock production and David Danson as head of freshwater production.

Completing the Landcatch management team are Alan Tinch and Danny Fulton who will continue in their roles of director of genetics and finance director. Hugh Currie will retire later this year after a distinguished career of more than 30 years.

Alan Stewart left the company on February 29 after more than 30 years of dedicated service.



Outer Hebrides Transport Group wants the Scottish Government to postpone the removal of commercial RET, a fares subsidy which pegs prices to what journeys would cost by road, pending a study into the scheme's benefits.

RET campaigners' angry reaction to Allan's comments

Group insists stance 'reflects the anxieties and concerns of all those signed up to the OHTG'

CAMPAIGNERS in the Western Isles have reacted angrily to claims their fight to retain RET for lorry ferry fares are politically biased.

The move follows comments from local SNP MSP Alasdair Allan that tactics employed by the Outer Hebrides Transport Group (OHTG) are sometimes counter-productive.

OHTG co-ordinator Gail Robertson said she was 'amazed' at Mr Allan's claims and insisted the group's stance 'reflects the anxieties and concerns of all those signed up to the OHTG'.

She said: 'I can categorically state that the OHTG has no

political bias and indeed enjoys good relations with the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour parties in the Highlands and Islands.

'We have heard neither sight nor sound of Mr Allan for weeks. He has yet to contact us and explain why he betrayed his constituents when he failed to support MSPs from the highlands and islands and beyond when the ferry fares issue was debated two weeks ago in Holyrood.'

'A disgrace' Stornoway haulier David Wood described Mr Allan's 'unwarranted attack' on 'hard working volunteers in the

OHTG' as 'a disgrace'. He said: 'Our sole motivation is to protect families and business in the islands from the SNPs reckless ferry policies.'

'At the end of this month the SNP government will hit our islands hard with massive ferry fare increases, and all our MSP is concerned about is that we don't let him live in a criticism free vacuum.'

Mr Allan said: 'I appreciate the importance of ferry fares for everyone in the islands, not least for the businesses who use our ferries, who I have kept in touch with about this issue.'

'It must be said, however, that

there have been some unhelpful, and in some cases transparently party politically-motivated claims made in the public arena around this issue in recent weeks.

RET would never have come to the Western Isles in the first place but for the SNP Government, and its permanent continuation for vans, cars and passengers, as well as its expansion throughout other areas of the Highlands and Islands, is a major achievement at a time when the UK Government is cutting Scotland's budget by £1.3 billion this year alone.'

OHTG wants the Scottish Government to postpone the removal of commercial RET, a

fares subsidy which pegs prices to what journeys would cost by road, pending a study into the scheme's benefits.

However, the government says earlier consultations to establish how cheaper lorry fares were helping the Western Isles economy met with a very poor response. As a consequence, the hard evidence needed to justify the scheme's continuation was not there. RET on commercial vehicles over six metres will end on March 31. To soften the blow, the government has set up a £2.5million transitional relief scheme limiting hauliers' fare increases to 50 per cent.

Historian and activist awarded SCF honorary life membership

EMINENT Highland historian and land reform activist Professor Jim Hunter has been awarded honorary life membership of the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF).

The presentation was made by SCF chairman Derek Flynn during the organisation's annual gathering in Strathpeffer last Friday.

Professor Hunter helped form the SCF's predecessor, the Scottish Crofters Union, and became its first director.

Countdown to election result

THE COUNT of postal ballot papers for the first elections to the new Crofting Commission takes place in the main hall of Inverness Town House tomorrow (Friday).

The electronic count will start 11am and is expected to be completed by 2pm.

The new commissioners will be elected under the alternative vote system, in which electors rank candidates in order of preference. The Commission electoral area is divided into six constituencies, each of which returns one member.

Arnie Pirie has already been returned unopposed for Orkney and Caithness, but competition is fierce in the remaining five constituencies. Four candidates are vying for the Shetland nomination, four for the East Highlands, five for the Southwest Highlands, six for the Western Isles and nine for the West Highlands.

The six elected commissioners will take their place beside the three appointed by the government.

Sleat two tackle Three Peaks

TWO MEMBERS of Sleat Community Trust are to take on The Three Peaks Challenge on May 31.

Angus Robertson and Archie MacCalman will attempt to scale the highest summits in Scotland, England and Wales inside 24 hours. The intrepid duo are raising cash for Skye-based charity Lucky2Bhere, which installs heart defibrillators in public places. Angus, 46, and Archie, 41, who are both keen hillwalkers, will be driven between Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis by SCT community forester Chris Marsh.

Angus said: 'It's quite a tall order, mostly because of the driving involved more than anything else. We are just hoping for good roads and good weather.' He added: 'The charity has recently installed three machines in Sleat with one being located in Sleat Community Trust's community shop. This is our way of thanking the good folk of Lucky2Bhere for our machine.'

Anyone wishing to donate should visit <http://www.justgiving.com/sleat>.

Harris to open new golden eagle centre

HARRIS will become one of Scotland's prime locations for viewing golden eagles when a new turf-covered hide opens later this month.

The North Harris Eagle Observatory, seven miles northwest of Tarbert, is accessed via a short walk up Glen Miavaig from the B887 Huisnish road.

The observatory was designed and commissioned by the North Harris Trust, which manages the 25,000-hectare community owned estate.

The building, with turf roof, timber cladding and large glazing panels facing up the glen, is designed to blend into the landscape, providing the ideal location to view the local pair of golden eagles that nest in the glen. Interpretation panels give information on the eagles and other wildlife.

Trust ranger Robin Reid said: 'This is Scotland's first year-round viewing facility for the golden eagle, our national bird.'

'It is hoped that the observatory will be a popular destination for both visitors and Harris inhabitants, enabling more people to view this spectacular predator.'

'Along with other initiatives such as the Harris Mountain Festival, this is one of several North Harris Trust projects aimed at raising the profile of the unique natural history and landscape of the area.'

Funders included Leader, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Brown and Forbes Memorial Trust.



A cormorant's beak can inflict deep, nasty cuts.

Injured cormorant bites man during Kilmelford rescue bid

A WILDLIFE Good Samaritan who tried to help a bird with a broken wing got more than he bargained for from the feisty cormorant.

Ken Campbell, from Doune, was visiting Kilmelford when he spotted the injured bird close to the road.

He picked it up to take the cormorant to the SSPCA but ended up with deep cuts beneath his eye for his trouble.

He said: 'While I was carrying it, it turned round and bit me in the face.'

'The bird was just following its natural instinct

and went for my eye, something I forgot about and a warning to everyone when handling any bird.'

Mr Campbell phoned NHS24 for advice and an appointment was booked for him at the accident and emergency unit of Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

He added: 'The hospital staff were waiting for me and it was their sympathy, gentleness and efficiency that impressed me.'

'The NHS gets such bad press these days but the treatment I received was fantastic and I want to say thank you to those who took care of me.'

Crash skipper asleep at wheel, investigation finds

ANOBAN fishing vessel crashed into the island of Stroma in the Pentland Firth last September because the skipper fell asleep at the helm.

The findings by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) come after the *FV Golden Promise*, owned by John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd, was declared a constructive total loss.

The scallop dredger crashed into the island, off the north coast of Scotland, at around 4.44am on September 7 2011.

The MAIB report indicates the skipper had stayed on duty beyond his usual 16-hour shift - 10am to 2am - as his mate had also worked beyond his 16 hours during the previous shift. There were also three deckhands aboard, one of whom occasionally took watch.

The day before the crash the mate had gone to bed two hours



The *FV Golden Promise* was grounded on the Isle of Stroma. Photograph courtesy of Thurso RNLI.

late after repairing a burst water pipe. *Golden Promise* landed a catch in Scrabster at around 8.45pm but a delay in offloading the cargo gave the crew time to replace a damaged derrick and undertake necessary maintenance.

Because of weather and tidal factors, the skipper then decided

to leave Scrabster at 1.45am but, as the mate had been awake for 24 hours with only a brief rest, decided to continue navigating the vessel. By 2.45am the skipper was alone on watch in the wheelhouse.

FV Golden Promise was making around nine knots when she ran aground on Stroma and at 4.48am the skipper broadcast a Mayday. Lifeboats from Thurso and Longhope attended the scene, as did a rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth, which airlifted the uninjured crew from the vessel.

In conclusion the report states the skipper's decision to sail from Scrabster and remain on watch was probably affected by fatigue and also indicated the watch alarm was probably not working at the time of the accident.

Meanwhile, MAIB has also published its report on the brief

grounding of the *CSL Thames* in the Sound of Mull on August 9, 2011, when the bulk carrier sustained a three-metre fracture to a water ballast tank.

The report highlighted that the ship's electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS), which would have alerted the bridge to a potential grounding, was found disconnected.

The ship, which is run by Alfa Ship and Crew Management, had taken on a cargo of 28,962 tonnes of aggregate at Glensanda and was bound for Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

Travelling through the Sound of Mull, the first officer altered the ship's course to avoid another vessel but steered into shallow water, grounding the ship for approximately 16 seconds.

However, the ship was able to complete its journey to Germany, before entering dry dock for repairs.

Cosmologist gives talks and leads stargazing

THE UNIVERSE will be the subject of discussions throughout Argyll when a cosmologist from Glasgow University visits the county.

Professor Martin Hendry will visit high schools in Oban and on Islay, Mull and Tiree as part of his Island Universe tour where he will give public lectures on astronomy as well as leading a series of public stargazing events.

Martin will discuss the latest theories regarding the universe, such as the formation and expansion of the universe, saying he hoped 'to give people a flavour of what it all means'.

He said: 'Not only is the universe expanding but it's also speeding up. I'm going to tell people about some of the discoveries that have led us to this.'

In addition to a talk in Oban High School tomorrow (Friday), Martin will also visit schools on Tiree (Saturday), Tobermory (Sunday) and Islay on Tuesday. He will also speak at An Tobar on Monday March 19.

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
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Editorial Director
 Stewart MacKenzie
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor
 Stephen Norris
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter
 Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter
 Steven Flanagan
sflanagin@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
 Faith Orr
for@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
 Richard Haddock
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Web Co-ordinator
 Marian Miller
miller@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
 01631 568000
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Sales Manager
 Fiona MacInnes
fmacinnis@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
 Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
 Fiona Bennett
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
 Claire Firth
cfirth@vvyvmedia.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
 Isobel Brown
ibrown@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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Follow us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

BID4Oban move towards September ballot

A MEETING to present the survey results by the BID4Oban steering group was heralded as a success last week.

Dozens of members of the local business community came to the Corran Halls last Thursday night to hear how a BID could improve the town.

Chairman of the steering group, Graham MacQueen said: 'We are delighted with the turnout and it is really good to see so many businesses from the town represented.'

The majority of the presentation was carried out by steering committee member Andy Spence and project manager Pauline Cameron.

The pros-and-cons of becoming a BID town were explained and included promoting year-round events to extend the tourist season and keep Oban sustainable by encouraging more visitors to the town.

Other proposals included improving car parking, signage and availability of public toilet facilities within the town.

A ballot to allow businesses to vote on the proposals is expected in September. A positive result would see all businesses within the 30mph speed limit in Oban contribute financially to BIDs. Asked by one concerned businessman about how binding the ballot result would be the steering group reply was: 'If it is a yes vote you are in it. There is not an opt out.'

Mr Spence said that in the face of a tough economy 'this is a real chance as a business community to all get together and promote a successful BID.'

'Even those not directly affected by tourism can benefit.'

'It is about prosperity in the town as a whole.'

The amount businesses would be expected to contribute to a BID scheme will depend on their current rateable value.

Webster wins right to appeal against murder conviction

CONVICTED wife-killer, Malcolm Webster, has won the right to appeal his conviction for murder.

The 52 year old former Oban hospital managerial staff member, who was jailed for life and ordered to serve a minimum 30 year sentence, had previously been granted the right to appeal his sentence, although at that time an appeal of his conviction was refused.

Three judges have now granted him leave to appeal his conviction after reading written statements from Webster's lawyers.

The grounds for appeal are not yet known. Webster was, in May last year, found guilty of murdering Claire Morris in an Aberdeenshire crash in 1994, and of intending to bigamously marry hospital theatre manager Simone Banarjee, of Oban, to gain access to her estate.

Among other charges, he was also found guilty of attempting to murder Felicity Drumm in New Zealand in 1999.

Woman accused of T'ree child assault

A 40-year-old woman has been accused of assaulting a nine-year-old boy on the Isle of T'ree. The alleged incident happened on March 1 in Scarinish.

Vehicle vandalised in Dunbeg

A BLACK Volvo parked in Lorn Road, Dunbeg was scratched from the front to the rear between March 6 and 7.

Police are appealing for any witnesses to contact PC Mark O'Donnell at Oban Police Station - 01631 510 500.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Bonawe bus future plan to go ahead despite assurances

RESIDENTS of Bonawe are to continue planning a more sustainable future for its bus service despite assurances current provision will remain at least until February 2013.

More efficiency
Steering Ardcattan to Better Buses wants to explore what

can be done to make the current services more efficient and has canvassed residents of Bonawe to see what they need and what they think of what's currently on offer.

More than 50 per cent of households asked to complete the survey responded and while

the full results are yet to be compiled, plans are already afoot to carry out a similar exercise in Benderloch and Barcaldine.

Chairman of Ardcattan Community Council and steering group member, Iain MacDonald, said: 'The survey

is quite interesting. What we've discovered is that a lot of the services were arranged for historic reasons.

'For example, the Bonawe bus goes all the way to the Achnaba - doubling up with another service - because, in years gone by, there used to be a family

there with lots of kids.

'They're now long gone, but the result is we have two buses going to Dunbeg at the same time.'

'As we thought, these timetables are put together by someone sitting behind a desk.'

'So if the council can't give

us a bus service we can use we'll have to devise something ourselves.'

Mr MacDonald said Eleanor MacKinnon, of Argyll Voluntary Action, was compiling the results of the survey for presentation to the group in the coming weeks.

Key Oban meeting to modernise planning system

Investment in infrastructure for rural areas is dwindling

CALLS for a more flexible approach to maintaining rural roads will be made at a Scottish Government planning meeting to be held in Oban this week.

Planners from Argyll and Bute and Highland councils will meet with local developers and government officials at the Corran Halls on Friday in a bid to modernise the planning system.

With tourism reliant on good transport links, yet the size of investment in infrastructure for rural areas dwindling in recent years, government officials

will hear that there is a need to approach the maintenance of essential roads in a different way.

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council's scheme of delegation will come under scrutiny, while Highland Council will discuss its approach to affordable housing.

Other items up for discussion included planning procedures for hydro development, and how the system supports the deployment of micro-renewables.

The discussions will feed into the Scottish Government's new performance framework for planning, to be published later this month and coming into use next month.

Planning minister Derek Mackay said: 'Of course planning must support our overarching purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth. It's clear from those discussions

that while the legislation and the planning system is generally working, we can do more. Getting attitudes and actions right will be key.'

The meeting follows a similar event held in Fort William last October, when developers raised a number of concerns with the way the system currently works.

Among them were apparent inconsistencies between the way some applications were dealt with, the time it takes for some applications to be approved and slow responses from government agencies for statutory legislation.

Lochgilphed teenager to carry Olympic flame

A LOCHGILPHEAD teenager has been selected to carry the Olympic flame later this year as it makes its way through Scotland to the 2012 London games.

Myles Clark, 18, says he is 'excited and nervous' about the once in a lifetime opportunity.

Torchbearer
A S6 student of Lochgilphed High School and Argyll College, Myles will carry the torch on June 9 for a 300-metre stretch of his journey somewhere between Glasgow and Inverness.

Myles said: 'The school nominated me and I only found out about it when my teacher told me I had been chosen; I was very surprised.'

Myles is one of 8,000 people chosen to be a torchbearer by The London 2012 Organising Committee, which received tens of thousands of nominations.

Voluntary work
Lynda Borland, teacher at Lochgilphed High School, said Myles was a very worthy candidate.

'Myles is an exceptionally helpful and caring young man who works exceptionally hard. He has done a lot of voluntary work in the school and the community so this is a well deserved honour,' she said.

Admitting he is not much of a runner, Myles said his 300-metre stretch would be a gentle jog.

Myles, who lives at home with his parents and older brothers, said he hoped his journey would not be far from Argyll so family and friends could enjoy the memorable day with him.

The Olympic flame will be lit in Greece on May 19 and will reach London on July 27 when it will take centre stage at the opening ceremony of the Olympic games.



Quick-thinking watchkeepers Eireen Stephen, left, and Sheila Young pictured at Oban War and Peace Museum. 15_t11wap01

Watchkeepers save flood-hit museum

Quick-thinking rescues War and Peace Museum's priceless artefacts

TWO VOLUNTEERS at Oban's War and Peace Museum brought a new meaning to the term watchkeeper after saving the museum's priceless artefacts from flood damage.

Quick-thinking Sheila Young and Eireen Stephen averted disaster after a burst water pipe began to flood the museum - on only the second day of its 2012 season.

Sheila, a member of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in Cairo during World War Two, said there were four visitors in at lunchtime on February 28,

one of whom reported a hissing noise coming from behind a door.

'I opened the door and out came an avalanche of water, cascading across the floor.'

'One of the visitors was a plumber but he couldn't stop it, so we decided to contact the fire brigade to turn off the water supply in the street. Everything we did was just common sense and at our age you can cope with any emergency.'

The two women have been watchkeeping together at the museum for the past seven years

but have been members since the museum formed in 1995.

Eireen, who donated an old RAF pilot's uniform worn by her late husband, squadron leader James 'Steve' Stephen, said: 'If this had happened at night, or during the winter months when the museum was closed, we would have lost all these wonderful artefacts.'

'There are so many things the museum has collected over the years. It is just luck that we were here.'

Museum curator Bill Leech said: 'Sheila and Eireen got onto

it very rapidly. They phoned me and by the time I got into town I could see the blue flashing lights outside.'

'I would also like to thank plumber Campbell Clark, who was working nearby and reacted very promptly to fix the problem.'

The watchkeepers said they would like to hear from the unknown visitors who raised the alarm. Sheila added: 'They had to rush for a bus and didn't sign the visitors' book, so we don't even know where they are from.'

Gym co-owner found guilty

A CO-OWNER of an Oban gym has been found guilty of indecently assaulting two women by rubbing their breasts during massages, organised to give tips ahead of job interviews.

Robin Morton, aged 50, indecently assaulted one of the women on June 15 last year and another between September 1 and October 10, 2009. Sheriff Ruth Anderson also found Morton guilty of offering one of the women £50 to allow him to massage her.

The victims, who both gave evidence during the trial, explained how they had enquired about a job and had been asked by Mr Morton for a CV before being told to come in for a massage, but described the experience as 'perky'.

One said: 'I feel stupid now. I don't know why I didn't say stop but it just felt horrible. When you massage you apply some pressure but it was like he was just feeling my boobs.'

Morton, of Tigh na Craig, Clachan

Seil, took the witness stand last Friday and claimed the witnesses had been lying about the assault, describing their evidence as 'poisonous' and 'vindictive'. In cross-examination procurator fiscal David Glancy told Morton: 'These witnesses had to enter a punishing cross-examination by your solicitor, which was lengthy, emotionally bruising and rigorous, yet their positions remained unchanged.'

Sheriff Anderson deferred sentence until April 3. Morton has been placed on the sex offenders' register. A spokesman for Energie Fitness said: 'We are appalled that one of our franchisees has been found guilty of indecent assault. The ethos of Energie is one of family values and providing a safe and friendly environment for our members. We have a zero tolerance to any suggestion of sexual harassment or any other form of inappropriate behaviour.'

OFT to investigate delivery charges and excessive pricing

TRADING practices in the Highlands and Islands are to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) - who are asking you to let them know what is wrong.

The OFT wants to hear concerns of consumers and businesses - particularly unfair delivery charges or excessive cost of goods and services. A spokesperson for the OFT said: 'We are building a picture of the experience of businesses and consumers residing in the more remote parts of the UK, where features of distance and connectivity have distinctive impact on the price, quality and choice of goods and services.'

sell, who contacted the OFT on behalf of residents said: 'Almost daily I hear concerns of constituents who have been treated unfairly because of our geography. I am glad the OFT is taking our concerns seriously.'

'The information we give the OFT will influence its work and help to develop ideas for the future.'

The OFT can be contacted at remotecommunities@oft.gsi.gov.uk or write to Office of Fair Trading, 23 Walker Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HX.

Information can also be provided on the OFT website and all submissions must be received by April 20. Findings will be published in the summer.

Argyll and Bute reshaping care for older people

COUNCIL funded care home places and hospital beds will be reduced across the county as part of a project to care for more elderly in their own homes.

The plans, agreed last week by Argyll and Bute Council, is part of a nation-wide project focused on keeping elderly people out of hospital and in good health.

Partly funded by the Scottish Government's Change Fund, the reshaping care for older people project will see £1.7million of fresh investment in falls prevention, medicine management, telehealthcare, dementia services, equipment and end of life services until 2014/15.

It will also help improve the level of support for carers over the next three years.

Executive director of community services, Cleland Sneddon, said: 'The Change Fund will allow the development of community based services and maximise older people's independence and significantly improve the quality of life experienced by our older population.'

FAMILY CEILIDH DANCE

Tickets £8 Concession £5
Family Ticket £20
Tel: 01631 564848

Tickets from the Oban Music Shop, MacQueen Bros, Committee members and available at the door
Visitors Welcome
Corporate tables available

With Michael Garvin, Neil MacKay and Tom Adams and various other local artistes

Friday 16th March 2012 at 7.30pm

Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Oban Local Committee
Registered Charity no 108946

TARIFFS. WE'VE MADE THEM EASY PEASY.

We've made it much easier for you to get the best energy deal with us. Simply choose between a fixed and variable tariff and get 7% off the unit rate when you choose monthly direct debit and paperless bills. No wonder we've been voted number one for customer service by uSwitch for the past six years.* To find out what else we're doing to make energy better, call us or go online.

Call 0800 048 3642

www.hydro.co.uk



*Scottish Hydro is a trading name of SSE Energy Supply Limited, voted Best Overall Energy Supplier every year since 2006 in the uSwitch Customer Satisfaction Reports.

Mull Lines



Le Café François: Iona Primary School pupils invited local residents to a French café on Thursday March 8. The event raised £68 for the Special Baby Unit at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

THE PROPOSED hydro scheme at Garmony has been given a conclusive 'yes' vote by the people of Mull and Iona.

The ballot, which allows Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) to start negotiations with the Forestry Commission, saw an overall turnout of 70.6 per cent of the electorate.

Of those who voted, an overwhelming 96.7 per cent said 'yes' - a total of 1,650 people. There were 53 people who voted 'no' and two blank papers submitted.

These results mean that 68.3 per cent of those on the electoral roll in the islands voted in favour of the scheme.

General Manager of MICT Moray Finch said on Facebook: 'Thanks to everyone who voted and to all those people who helped to promote the ballot to get such a high turnout rate, 70.6 per cent is a massive compliment to the residents of Mull and Iona.'

'The yes vote means we now have to work hard to take the project forward, negotiating a land agreement with Forestry Commission Scotland, getting planning permission, appointing a contractor and securing the loan finance to build the scheme.'

He added: 'Well done Mull and Iona!'



A YOUNG rally star from the Isle of Mull will be heading to Portugal at the end of March to compete in the World Rally Championship (WRC).

John MacCrone, 22, will contest six rounds of the WRC Academy this year alongside co-driver Stuart Loudon from Glasgow.

The championship is the official feeder series to the WRC and MacCrone, who finished top Scot in last year's RallyScotland, admits it is a 'massive challenge'.

He said: 'It's a major step towards achieving my ultimate goal, which is to compete full-time in the WRC.'

But there will be stiff competition in the event: 'Not only are all six events difficult, but there are a number of guys coming back to do it for a second year.'

'They know the rallies and the stages. They also have a lot more experience than me, but I've just got to deal with it,' said MacCrone.

He added: 'It's all part of the learning process and if you want to compete with the best, you need to make that leap at some point. So why not now? I'm ready for it.'

'It's consistency which will pay off this year, so I'll be concentrating on scoring good points in every rally.'

The series sees the world's best young drivers compete in identical Ford Fiesta R2s prepared and maintained by M-Sport. The winner receives the opportunity to contest all rounds of the 2013 WRC.

MacCrone, who competes under the Rally Team Scotland banner, has established The Clan to encourage supporters to contribute vital funds to his campaign. He can be contacted at johnmacrone261@hotmail.com.

Fake fit television thief jailed for five months

A WOMAN who doctors said faked a seizure after she was arrested for stealing a television was given a custodial sentence at Oban Sheriff Court.

Patricia McGuire, aged 48, pled guilty last Friday to stealing a television from Tesco's Oban

store on March 8, while on bail and within a week of being released from a previous prison sentence.

McGuire, whose address was given in court as Room 1, Kerrera Flats, Oban, was seen lifting the television and heading

for the exit but was stopped by store staff who contacted the police.

Examined

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told the court: 'The police apprehended her at another supermarket and in the back of

the police van she suffered an apparent fit. She was taken to hospital and examined by doctors who said she had suffered a 'voluntary pseudo seizure' and was fit for detention.'

Defence agent Laura Russell said her client was the starkest

example of 'the revolving door' the court had seen, because of her mental health problems, adding that she denied her fits were voluntary.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson sentenced McGuire to five months in prison.

Youth business trust helps Argyll's budding entrepreneurs buck trend

YOUNG entrepreneurs in Argyll are bucking the trend in these times of recession and starting up businesses - with the help of the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT).

A gathering last Friday, to highlight youth enterprise in Scotland, saw presentations by Murdo MacLeod, Regional Chairman of PSYBT for Argyll, and Geoff Leask, Director of Operations, among others.

Valuable aftercare

Mr MacLeod said: 'The PSYBT in Argyll has supported 12 businesses since July 2011. We help people between the ages of 19 and 26 who have difficulty raising finance from other sources.'

'More importantly, we also provide valuable aftercare for those who use our services because money alone is not going to keep you in business if you can't make things work.'

He added: 'We give free advice and our volunteers provide assistance throughout the region.'

One of the businesses that started up while being supported by PSYBT was Forbes Boat Care which is based at Barcaldine. Owner Michael Forbes has seen all sides of the trust and is now a regional ambassador.

He said: 'PSYBT helped me launch my business about six years ago. Then two years in I got a growth fund to aid me in expanding.'

'But it is the aftercare and sup-



Michael Forbes successfully started up his own business with the help of the PSYBT.

port that is more important than the money.

'You can get informal advice from people who are experts in their field and it has saved me thousands of pounds.'

He added: 'I started volunteering with the PSYBT two years

ago. The trust is really good to deal with and it is good to keep in touch.'

'I feel like I have experienced both sides of it and just want to help people who are in the position I had been in.'

The PSYBT has helped create

more than 2000 jobs in Scotland and generated a turnover exceeding £157 million. There have been many local businesses supported by the trust including Island Bakery Organics, based on Mull, Mellex Plant and Construction in Tarbert and ac-

claimed band Skerryvore from the Isle of Tiree.

Mr Leask said: 'There has never been a more important time given the situation with the recession but I don't see any downturn in the spirit and entrepreneurship of young people.'

Lorne Resource Centre students receive special awards

James Watt College and Argyll and Bute Council work in partnership

A SPECIAL awards ceremony was held for Oban students who had successfully completed courses run by James Watt College in Paisley.

Members of the Lorne Resource Centre attended the Corran Halls last Wednesday to receive their certificates and celebrate with family and friends.

Student Mairi Scott said: 'I enjoyed my time in the magazine group as it has helped improve my typing and computing skills and made me more confident with my course work.'

A variety of courses were available for students to pick

from including computing, producing a magazine with desktop publishing, film-making, media studies and local history.

The awards were presented by Janice Boyle, the college's curriculum manager.

She said: 'I am delighted to be up in Oban to present these certificates which show all the hard work and creativity the students have put in over the past year.'

James Watt College has worked in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council for several years offering courses for people with learning disabilities in the Oban area.



The delighted students with their certificates. 16_111award01

Lochaber to have say at meeting on integrated services

LOCHABER residents are invited to have their say on plans to integrate health, education and social care services provided by NHS Highland and Highland Council.

Planning for integration, transitions director for education and social care services Jan Baird will

lead the public meeting in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, on March 20 at 7pm.

From April 1, staff across both organisations will work in integrated teams with children and families and people using community care services.

Ambulance windscreen smashed

AN AMBULANCE windscreen was smashed while it was parked on St John's Road, Caol, sometime between 6pm on Monday March 5 and 6.30am on Tuesday March 6.

A Northern Constabulary spokesman described the crime as 'particularly stupid and upsetting'. The ambulance was out of service until it could be repaired.

Oban man placed on two-year payback order

AN OBAN man was ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and was placed on a two year community payback order at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Robert Lopez, 22, had previously appeared to plead guilty to assaulting a police officer.

Lopez also pled guilty to struggling with officers, resisting arrest and attempting to escape custody at 14 Combie Court on Wednesday February 15. At the time he was on early release from another conviction and was remanded in custody since his last court appearance for criminal justice reports to be prepared. At the previous hearing Sheriff Seaton said: 'I am not satisfied that releasing you is in the public interest, your record speaks for itself. Bail is therefore refused and you will be remanded in custody.'

Lopez has four previous convictions for assault and two police assaults.

Spean Bridge copper thefts

A QUANTITY of solid copper lighting conductor lengths was stolen from the BT Station at Achindaal Farm, near Spean Bridge, sometime between February 15 and March 7.

A fence was also damaged.

Oban estate agent launches mobile marketing first

AN OBAN estate agency has become the first in Argyll to advertise properties via a smartphone app.

Bell Ingram has adopted a new branding element into listings on the Right Move application. With the new feature, which includes seller's logos, not only are buyers able to refine their searches more easily, but agents are also able to strengthen their marketing process, increasing the chances of securing house sales.

Steven Hornby, senior estate agent at Bell Ingram, said: 'Mobile marketing is a rapidly growing sector and we want to make sure Bell Ingram is at the forefront of this by embracing the new technologies.'

Bell Ingram is one of the first firms in Scotland to be branded on the property search app which has been downloaded more than 1.3million times to date.

Heating oil stolen from storage tank

HEATING OIL was stolen from a tank at a property in Achaphubil, near Fort William, sometime between Friday March 2 and 5am on Wednesday March 7.

Highland appoints roads manager

HIGHLAND Council has appointed a new area roads and community works manager for Ross, Skye and Lochaber following the retirement of Jim Tolmie.

Chartered civil engineer Cameron Kemp joined the council in 1989 from consultants Halcrow where he worked on roads, bridges and marine works as a design and on-site engineer.

Sustainable design award entries

ENTRIES for Argyll and Bute Council's Sustainable Design Awards 2012 can be lodged until March 30.

First held in 2009, the awards recognise, promote and celebrate examples of exceptional design across the area.

The competition is open to any building that has been designed and built over the past two years that has a completion certificate.

Four categories will be competed this year: new build small scale residential; new build large scale residential; new build non residential and redevelopment or refurbishment of an existing building.

PRECIOUS THINGS
STOCKIST OF LINGERIE AND WOMENSWEAR

NEW SPRING CLOTHING IN STOCK

OPEN : MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM

114 GEORGE STREET, OBAN TEL 01631 562510

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

OBAN AND KERRERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING - FRIDAY 16TH MARCH 7PM - THE THEATRE, CORRAN HALLS

DRAFT FERRIES PLAN

Oban and Kerrera Community Council are holding a public meeting on Friday 16th March to discuss Argyll & Bute Council's response to the Scottish Government's Draft Ferries Plan. The meeting will take place at 7pm in the Theatre, Corran Halls.

www.argyllwindowblinds.co.uk

Shop at home service

vertical venetian roller roman wooden venetian perfect fit velux

ARGYLL WINDOW BLINDS

Why not let Argyll Window Blinds dress your window and give your room a completely new look?

1000's of fabrics to choose from, all the latest styles and finishes. choose from the comfort of your own home. Free Estimates & free Fitting. All Areas Covered. We make it easy for you! T: 01546 602 297 :: M: 07818 462 520

Recycling roadshow comes to Argyll this week

A RECYCLING roadshow comes to Oban and Lochgilphead this week. Having visited Oban's Lidl store on Wednesday (yesterday), the roadshow will visit Lochgilphead's Co-op today before returning to Oban to visit Tesco on Friday.

The events will be supported by Argyll and Bute Council and a waste adviser will be on hand to answer questions about recycling in the area. Argyll and Bute Council's head of roads and amenity services Jim Smith said: 'To encourage people across Argyll to do more, a member of our team will be at the road show events to talk about our local recycling initiatives and collection facilities and provide hints and tips on how they can recycle more often.'

Celtic CONNECTIONS

BIG TOP

BROADFORD | ISLE OF SKYE
FRIDAY 23 & SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2012

CONCERTS | WORKSHOPS | SESSIONS
SPECIAL COLLABORATIONS

ROSANNE CASH
RAUL MALO (THE MAVERICKS)
THE CIVIL WARS
MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK BAND
AOIFE O'DONOVAN
DÀIMH (*SPECIAL GUEST KAREN MATHESON)
THE DEADLY GENTLEMEN
MÀNRRAN | NITWORKS | FEIS ROIS

BUSES TO/FROM THE EVENT COVERING THE LOCAL AREA PROVIDED BY STAGECOACH BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

EVENT & BUS TICKETS ON SALE NOW: 0141 353 8000
WWW.CELTICCONNECTIONS.COM/BIGTOP
INFORMATION HOTLINE: 0141 353 8072

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEYOND EventScotland Scotland's Islands

Spring Edition

FREE

Spring 2012

holiday
west highland

out now

Available throughout the west Highlands or online at www.holidaywesthighland.co.uk

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

Teenager calls for booze levy to boost youth services

A TEENAGE politician is putting forward a motion this week in the Scottish Youth Parliament, which would see a levy on alcohol sales in Argyll to pay for youth services.

Oban High School pupil Kenna Barrow MSYP will present her case to fellow members of the parliament this weekend.

Following a debate, the motion could be passed as a recommendation to the full Scottish Parliament for consideration.

The 17-year-old's motion states that an additional local levy of around 1.5 per cent should be applied on alcohol sales, with proceeds being ring-fenced for local services - particularly the provision of recreational facilities and services for young people.

Kenna said: 'There is not a lot of money for young people and there is so much you could do with the proceeds from this levy, such as more evening activities.'

'Alcohol misuse is also a huge issue in Scotland. The 1.5 per cent levy is not that much to individuals, but combined it could raise a lot of money for youth services.'

The idea came from the North Argyll Youth Forum, which discovered a similar levy on an exchange trip to Bochnia, Poland, where it funds a youth centre. The idea has also received the backing of Argyll and Bute's Local Licensing Forum.

Kenna is seeking public opinion as evidence for her presentation.

Readers of *The Oban Times* can have their say by voting on our website poll.



Kenna Barrow will present her case to fellow members of the youth parliament this weekend.



Gordon Kay, Tony Begley, Carol Evans and Dalmally Primary School pupils launch the Mary's Meals awareness week 16_111dalmally01

Dalmally primary helps launch charity campaign

PUPILS at a rural primary school launched an important charity campaign last week - to help their counterparts in poorer countries.

Children at Dalmally Primary School used a play, a presentation and a poem to explain how vital the work carried out by Mary's Meals is.

Tony Begley, the charity's education co-ordinator, said: 'We thought it would be good to give the children a chance to compare their opportunities - access to food and education - with poor children in developing countries who struggle to get these basic rights.'

The pupils also had the chance to

taste some porridge - a typical dinner in a Mary's Meals school. Head teacher Gordon Kay praised the children's efforts on the day. The charity's awareness week, running from March 26 to 30, will see school pupils across Argyll and Bute helping out.

And all they have to do is eat a school

lunch - 10p from every meal will go directly to the charity. For those who take packed lunches to school, boxes will be available for donations.

Mary's Meals supports around 600,000 children in 16 countries and has a vision for every child to receive a daily meal in a place of education.

Skye events explore crofting history

Industry prepares to enter new chapter

A SERIES of events exploring the history of crofting from the 1880s to the present day will be staged on Skye tomorrow as the industry prepares to turn a new chapter.

When the count for the Crofting Commission elections begins in Inverness at 11am, Portree primary and high school pupils will be leaving Braes Village Hall for a walk over famous ground.

Joined by land activist Andy Wightman, broadcaster Lesley Riddoch and Calthness playwright George Gunn, the children will recount the bloody incident of April 1882, when local crofting families fought Glasgow policemen trying to arrest Braes men for defying Lord MacDonald's eviction orders.

What subsequently became

known as 'Battle of the Braes' sparked a Highlands-wide revolt against landlords' land thefts and clearances.

The guided tour, 'Cuiart a' Bhràigh: Am fearann dha na daoine - 'The Braes Tramp About: The Land for the People' comes as the 57-year history of The Crofters' Commission draws to a close. From April 1, the Crofting Commission will take over as the industry's governing body.

'Tomorrow's A' Gabhail Ealla Tagradh Chroitearachd - Taking Stock: The Claim of Crofting' programme also features 300 pupils from Portree, Broadford, Elgol and Sleat at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) in the evening.

The 'Ri gualainn a chèile - United We Stand' kitchen ceilidh will see the children perform songs written for 'Oran

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Mor na Croitearachd - The Big Song of Crofting' together with seannachaidh, or tradition bearers.

An exhibition of the set from John McGrath's 'The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil' will also run at SMO until March 24.

Crofters Commission convenor Drew Ratter acknowledged it was the end of an era.

He said: 'Fifty-five years is a long time in the life of any organisation, and the fetish of modernisation has been used to strike down most of the Crofters Commission's historical peers - the HIBD, The Red Deer Commission, the Hydro Electric Board. The list is long.'

'However, the Crofters

Commission played its part. It never managed to please everybody. In fact often it failed to please anybody, but that was part of its function - best to be angry with the Commission than with your neighbours.'

'I would argue, nonetheless that it has achieved a lot, and that there is much to celebrate. How many barns here live in houses funded through crofting grants, and how many live on crofts developed by crofting grants, or at least have eaten tatties and mutton raised on land improved by crofting grants?'

'These grants came about through the 1955 Act, and have been administered by The Crofters Commission up until very nearly the end.'

'We are here to celebrate a history of which I am very happy to be a part.'

Council website gains four stars

ARGYLL and Bute Council's website has gained a coveted four stars from a national panel of experts.

The top rating was only given to 23 out of 433 local authority websites across the UK.

Each year the Society of IT Managers (SOCITM) reviews all UK council websites and gives them a rating of one to four stars. As well as the four-star rating, SOCITM lists Argyll and Bute Council as one of the top 20 best-developed websites, which provides a broad benchmark for other sites and suggests where they might look to for best practice.

Tobermory to get tourist info point

A PROPOSED tourist information stand in Tobermory was up for discussion at the latest meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee.

The proposed premises, in Ledaig car park, has been requested on a lease from the council.

A decision was taken to liaise with the applicant regarding a seasonal let for summer 2012 and to advertise the site for let for next year.

Lorn Lines

THE ORGANISERS of this year's Lorn Drama Festival are still inviting those who want to be involved to get in touch.

The event runs from March 26 to 30 at 7.30pm in the Corran Halls, Oban. Last year's winners were Lochglenhead Drama Club Team 'J' with its production Meat and Two Veg.

Those interested can get involved by entering or sponsoring a team, advertising in the programme or helping out on the nights. Contact details can be found on argyllcommunities.org/lornfestival.



Jack and Maureen Clyne with Katie Armstrong of Argyll RDA.

IT IS the end of an era for the Argyll Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Carriage Driving Group as it recently took delivery of the last carriage to be built by its dedicated craftsman.

Jack Clyne, from Glenurquhart has supported the RDA for years but has had to hang up his tools because of health problems.

Now the Argyll group has extended an open invitation to Mr Clyne and his wife Maureen to come see the carriages in action whenever they wish.

Elaine Trigg, Secretary of Argyll RDA, said: 'Our best wishes go to Jack and Maureen although I'm sure he will still be found tinkering in his workshop.'

The newest carriage is suitably painted red - a perfect match to the group's new pony who has been named Red.

The purchase was made possible with a grant from Argyll and Bute Council Third Sector Awards Scheme and the carriages can be tried out by the public when the group holds its annual 'Try A Drive Day' at Upper Soroba Farm, by Oban Livestock Centre, on Saturday March 31 11am to 2pm.

OBAN Photographic Club held its annual open evening in the Regent Hotel, Oban on Monday March 5.

The speaker, introduced by Alex Clark, was Leading Aircraftman Stuart Hill from the Royal Navy Photographic Division.

Stuart, who is at present based at Faslane, gave an entertaining presentation of his, and his fellow photographers', work. Stuart's job entails photographing groups, ships' crews, regiments, royalty on visits to ships and the launch of new vessels, including the nuclear submarine HMS Astute. He also takes images backing up action in Afghanistan and Iraq and in the Caribbean with the US Coastguard on drug smuggling patrol.

Stuart's photography was first class and included some amazing shots of helicopters, carrier-based jets and submarines on the surface.

Jim Kirkpatrick gave Stuart a well-deserved vote of thanks. Alex Clark thanked members for their kind donations of home baking.

A collection, amounting to £85, was taken for Stuart's favourite charity - CHAS.

The next meeting of the club is on March 19 when well-known photographer and international judge Sandy Cleland from Penicuik will give the results of the 'Open 2' competition.

THE ROYAL British Legion Scotland, Easdale Branch, held a book sale on Saturday March 3 in Seil Island Hall.

The sale raised £412.50. Branch secretary Jean Alexander said: 'We would like to thank all those who supported this event.'



Portree 'pirate' radio boat raises charity cash

Organisers of an event which saw a 'pirate' radio boat sail into Portree have handed over a cheque for £709.30 to Skye and Raasay lifeboat fundraisers. 'Bata Breagh', organised by Skye and Lochalsh group Atlas Arts, was held in and around the town last September and saw Celeste, a glittering yacht covered by mirrored tiles, sail into the bay to broadcast traditional songs and stories on the airwaves. A ceilidh was also held in the town and knitted fish sold in local shops. Lifeboat fundraisers chairperson Myra Urquhart and treasurer Audrey Ellis are pictured receiving the cheque from Emma Nicolson of Atlas.

Community council call to revive Caol link road plan

FORT William Community Council has called for plans for the long-proposed Caol link road to be revived by Highland Council.

Plans to create a connection from An Aird to the A830 Road to the Isles via Caol were first proposed more than 20 years ago, but have never progressed to the construction phase.

FWCC chairman Neil Clark wrote to TEC Services director Neil Gillies requesting to have the Caol link road 'included in the capital plan at the earliest opportunity'.

Mr Clark argued the new road would provide a closer link between the town's High Street and the new retail, office and leisure complex being constructed at Blar Mhor.

He wrote: 'There is no doubt that a new link road to Caol would also significantly alleviate A82 traffic bottlenecks from Belford Road to Lochy Bridge.'

Miller Developments, the company behind the Blar development, has included a potential arm to the link road in its design for a new roundabout on the A830.

A Highland Council spokesman told *The Oban Times* no decision about the link road could be taken until after the council elections are held in May.

He said: 'The Caol link road is something the people of Fort William have been demanding for many years.'

'It's something we'll be looking at fairly early on in the new council, but it won't be until after the election.'

Council U-turn on charges

ORGANISERS of community or fundraising events free to the public will not have to pay charges after all, Highland Council has announced.

Confusion reigned last week when a community group was told it needed a £153 public entertainments licence for an Easter egg hunt. Over-zealous officials believed new legislation coming into force on April 1 applied to all events. The Scottish Government insists councils still have discretion on which events to licence.

The council has now apologised for 'a lack of clarity' in previous guidance on the changes and has dropped the proposed charges. Explaining the U-turn, Highland

licensing committee chairman Peter Corbett said: 'The impact on local community groups would have been significant and the last thing in the world we would want is to see an end to all the good work that volunteers undertake in their local towns and villages.'

'We have looked at our rules governing public entertainments licensing and I am pleased to assure the public that the status quo will prevail from 1 April.'

'If a group did not need a licence in the past it will not need one after April 1. Equally, if a group required a licence in the past it will continue to require a licence after April 1. I hope this gives communities the reassurance they were looking for.'

Win* £250 to spend on your home!

For a chance to win call your local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre on 0800 512 012 today and quote "Spring" to enter our free prize draw.

Also call us for:

- Free impartial energy advice to save you energy and money
- Advice on how you can save up to £300 on your motoring costs
- Advice on renewable energy systems for your home.

*Open to Highlands and Islands residents only.



energy saving trust Keep up the good work

natural scotland SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Support your team on 25 March

Save the best seat in your flat for the next Rangers v Celtic match

We can get your flat ready for Sky

Thought you couldn't get Sky TV in your flat? Think again. We're C&K Digital - your local dedicated and trusted Sky Specialist Installers. We've been around for over 50 years and it's our job to get flats throughout Glasgow and beyond ready for Sky. Just join Sky TV with this great value sports package for £40 a month to be able to catch all 90 action-packed minutes from Ibrox - and all the other thrilling entertainment Sky has lined up.

Enjoy all this for £40 a month

Sky Line Rental payable

All of **sky SPORTS**

- ✓ All six Sky Sports channels - including the brand new dedicated Formula 1™ channel launching 9 March
- ✓ Support your team throughout the season - unrivalled Clydesdale Bank Premier League coverage
- ✓ Barclays Premier League, Heineken Cup and more

Sky TV

- ✓ The most popular TV entertainment channels from Sky
- ✓ Iconic shows on Sky Atlantic - only on Sky
- ✓ Plus all your Freeview favourites and more

Sky+ & Sky Go

- ✓ Never miss a moment of the action - record, pause and rewind live TV
- ✓ Watch Sky Go on your iPhone, iPad, laptop and now on selected Android™ smartphones
- ✓ Set your Sky+ box to record from selected smartphones

Broadband & calls

- ✓ Reliable broadband for everyday emailing and browsing
- ✓ Inclusive evening and weekend calls to UK# landlines

You're probably already paying for line rental but with Sky it's cheaper than BT's standard monthly price at just £12.25 a month.

Hurry - join Sky by 20 March to watch the big game

Call 08442 411 701 and quote OTCK

Subject to status. Upfront payment may be required. #UK calls of up to an hour to 01, 02, 03 & 0870 numbers only (excludes Channel Islands, indirect access & dial-up internet numbers). Acceptable Use Policy applies. Pricing: Sky TV £20-£53 per month (pm). Sky Broadband Everyday Lite £0 pm; Sky Talk £0 pm; Sky Line Rental £12.25 pm; Sky HD box £49 RRP only. Ask your Sky specialist installer for applicable box prices. Set-up: Standard set-up £30 for new Sky TV customers. Sky Broadband in Sky Network Area: Monthly usage cap: 2GB. Sky Broadband Outside Network Area: Connect at £17 per month. Monthly usage cap - 40GB & subject to Network Policy Management. Sky Broadband: See sky.com for more details and our Usage Policies. Sky Talk: Compatible line required otherwise connection charge from £39 may apply. Sky Go: UK/Ireland only. Available on two registered compatible devices (content may vary). Some live TV programmes will be unavailable to go to sky.com. Phone (3GS or above), iPad (iPod touch (4th generation or above) require iOS 4.3 or later and available on selected HTC and Samsung smartphones with OS 2.X OR 3.X. Live TV available in line with your Sky TV subscription. Shared Dish: The value of the subsidy given will depend on how many residents in your block register for a Shared Dish. Installation of Sky's Shared Dish is subject to survey and your Managing Agent's agreement. There will be a one-off cost for your Managing Agent for the earth bonding of the Shared Dish equipment by a qualified electrician of their choice. Remote Record: Use sky.com or a compatible device. Requests require up to 30 minutes' notice before start of programme. General: 12 month minimum subscriptions. Non-standard set-up may cost extra. Boxes must be connected to a fixed telephone line and prices may vary if you live in a flat. Sky+ functionality requires two satellite feeds. You must get any consents required (e.g. landlord's). Prices for Direct Debit payments only. Continuous debit/credit card mandate costs \$0.99 pm. UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man residential customers only. Further terms apply. Calls to Sky cost 51p per minute plus 13p connection fee for BT customers. Calls from other providers may vary. Correct at 23 February 2012. The F1 logo, F1, FORMULA 1, FIA FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, GRAND PRIX and related marks are trademarks of Formula One Licensing BV, a Formula One group company. All rights reserved.

Mallaig and Caol mourn as two killed in crash

PROVOST of Lochaber Allan Henderson this week spoke of two communities' grief following the deaths of two local men in a horrific road accident at Glencoe.

Ferguson Transport lorry driver Stewart McGifford and Ronnie MacPhee died when their vehicles collided a mile south of the Lochaber village last Thursday afternoon.

Mallaig man Mr MacPhee, a father of two, had been driving home when his Fiat Punto was in a collision with the articulated lorry driven by Mr McGifford.

The lorry was heading south with a delivery of planks from BSW's sawmill at Corpach.

Speaking through The Oban Times, Mr Henderson said: 'I would like to add my condolences to all concerned as Provost of Lochaber.'

'I was in Mallaig on Friday night where the sadness and sense of loss was palpable.'

'I am sure Caol was no different. Please express my sympathy in the strongest possible terms.'

Mr McGifford, 48, who lived with his wife Joan in Kilmallie Road, had been a driver for Ferguson Transport for five years.

Mr MacPhee, 45, lived in Dalburgh in South Uist before he moved to Mallaig. He was brought up on the family croft and has an extended family on the island.

He had worked for Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) for 27 years.

Ferguson Transport boss Ali Ferguson said Mr McGifford would be 'sorely missed'.

A CalMac spokesperson said staff had been 'shocked and saddened' by Mr MacPhee's death.

Mr MacPhee's funeral was held in St Patrick's Church in Mallaig yesterday at 1pm, followed by his burial at Morar.

Mr McGifford's funeral takes place at Inverness Crematorium tomorrow (Friday) at 10.30am.

Meanwhile, a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Fort William.

A fatal accident inquiry could follow.



Winner David Harvey is £1,750 better off



Seed to supper: Banavie Primary School pupils, from left, Gregory Woodward, Andrew Dingwall, Ciara Muir, Ena Wood and Jo Barr Moir planting their seeds.

Banavie pupils dig deep on seed project

GREEN-fingered youngsters from Banavie Primary School visited Lochaber Rural Education Centre on Tuesday to plant seeds which they will cultivate over the next few months.

The children have outdoor lessons as well as filling in worksheets and planning out their vegetable patches. When they finish the project later in the year, they plan to make a

tasty meal out of the fruits of their labour. Youngster Ciara Muir told The Oban Times: 'It's amazing! I like getting my fingers dirty.'

Centre trustee Isabel Campbell said: 'As well as gardening, they are learning science, maths and social interaction. And they all really enjoy it.'

Crofters' shock at news they cannot vote in elections

SOME crofters eligible to vote in elections to the new Crofting Commission have not received postal ballot papers from Highland Council, it has emerged.

Brac Lochaber couple Joy and Willie Munro, who live on a registered croft at 25 Inverroy, are among those disenfranchised.

Mrs Munro is disappointed she has been excluded from the first ever commission elections - and says she is not alone.

She told The Oban Times: 'We have only been here since 1969. A two-minute phone call to our township clerk would

have established our credentials. Famously enough the Forestry Commission can find us for croft rent, Highland Council can find us for Council Tax and the Department of Work and Pensions can find us for pension details. On further enquiries in our township of 15 crofters, at least two others did not receive ballot papers, although one did eventually receive them on making a complaint. If this was replicated throughout the other crofting counties there could be several hundred other crofters who have been disenfranchised.'

I was also told that it was too late to send out ballot papers.'

She added: 'Incompetence on this scale is what one would expect in a third world country.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'After Joy Munro contacted us to find out why they had not received a ballot paper we asked the Crofting Commission to check their Register of Crofts. Their records showed that in 2010 Royal Mail had returned mail as 'address unknown' therefore the address was removed from the register.'

David added: 'We normally go over to the Isle of Mull in the summer so perhaps we will put some of the money towards our trip.'

He added: 'Hopefully we can make across when the better weather comes in.'

David said: 'I play spot the shinty ball in The Oban Times almost every week and I have come close many times but I

have never won before. 'I'm pleased all of my efforts have paid off.'

'When I got the call from The Oban Times I thought 'what have I done now'; I wasn't expecting it at all.'

Tarbert's £1,750 Spot the Shinty Ball winner is thinking about a holiday

A KEEN player of The Oban Times Spot the Shinty Ball competition recently finally enjoying the fruits of his labour with a stunning £1,750 spot-on win.

David Harvey, from Tarbert, says he is delighted to have won the competition after years of trying to 'spot the shinty ball' in The Oban Times every week.

Surprised The surprised 40-year-old

force the organisation to close its doors for good.

Having leased mobility aids to 181 separate individuals in 2011, they say it is an essential feature for any vibrant town centre.

Shoptobility Oban's Fiona Morrison said: 'It costs around £6,000 a year to keep us going, but funding is very hard to come by now. If we can't get funding, we will have to close. Really, what we need is funding to secure our next three years.'

Oban Shoptobility saved by MacQueen's Charitable Trust

A LAST minute cheque for £1,000 from the MacQueen Community Charity Shop has saved Oban's Shoptobility from closure in its 10th year - but its future is still in doubt.

Volunteers running the not-for-profit facility, established by the Oban Disability Forum in 2002, had actually agreed to shut the doors before the charitable trust approved the grant.

Further grants of £250 from West Highland Housing Association and £1,800 from Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector's Grant Scheme have secured its future for the next six months. However, failure to obtain further funding will

force the organisation to close its doors for good.

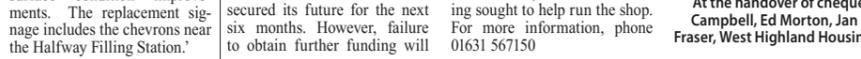
Having leased mobility aids to 181 separate individuals in 2011, they say it is an essential feature for any vibrant town centre.

Shoptobility Oban's Fiona Morrison said: 'It costs around £6,000 a year to keep us going, but funding is very hard to come by now. If we can't get funding, we will have to close. Really, what we need is funding to secure our next three years.'

Further applications for funding are pending approval.

Meanwhile, volunteers are being sought to help run the shop. For more information, phone 01631 567150

At the handover of cheques to save Shoptobility Oban were, from left, Kate Winton, Catrina Campbell, Ed Morton, Jan Morton, Judith Dougans, MacQueen Charitable Trust trustee Linda Fraser, West Highland Housing Association's Leslie McInnes, Fiona Morrison and Elaine Robertson.



At the handover of cheques to save Shoptobility Oban were, from left, Kate Winton, Catrina Campbell, Ed Morton, Jan Morton, Judith Dougans, MacQueen Charitable Trust trustee Linda Fraser, West Highland Housing Association's Leslie McInnes, Fiona Morrison and Elaine Robertson.

Glenelg leads the way with wave power cash talks

Tidal energy proceeds would be invested in other local green projects

THE SCOTTISH Government is actively considering radical proposals which would see Glenelg and surrounding communities taking a stake in a tidal energy scheme proposed for the Kylesha narrows, The Oban Times can reveal.

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

harder and stronger commitment this time.'

The move follows face-to-face talks in Edinburgh between First Minister Alex Salmond and Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust representatives, at which GADT proposed a Community Renewable Development Fund (CRDF) to finance community investment in local green energy projects.

Glenelg representatives met HIE and government marine renewables officials in Glasgow on February 26 to discuss possible funding options.

He added: 'There was a bit of resistance from the government initially, but they agreed to go away and look at potential sources of funding. We are looking for a positive response from them. They promised to get back to us as quickly as possible.'

The ambitious plan would start with Kylesha, where Marine Current Turbines propose a £44million scheme between Skye and the mainland.

MCT is currently seeking financial backers and has indicated community investment would be welcome.

A Scottish Government spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'The First Minister had a positive meeting with representatives from Glenelg late last year when he heard more about the tidal project being developed at Kylesha.'

The 8MW, four-turbine development could generate annual revenue of £5.5million - £135million over its expected 25-year lifespan.

Speaking to The Oban Times this week, GADT chairman Mike Francis said Kylesha must not become another example of communities being excluded from lucrative energy developments.

'We are working with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Glenelg to help ensure the community can benefit from the project.'

GADT envisage revenue generated by their stakeholding being ploughed back into the CRDF, then recycled to provide capital for other communities seeking to develop their own renewable energy schemes.

'Our idea is to set up a pilot scheme so other communities up and down the west coast could use it as a template in the longer term. In the past with the oil and hydro schemes, communities were promised things but nothing came of it. There have been massive amounts of money gone AWOL - and we don't want the same thing to happen again.'

MCT has set up Sea Generation (Kylesha) Ltd to progress its bid. Spokesperson Paul Taylor said an application would be lodged with Marine Scotland by December.

The narrows at Connel, Loch Leven and Corran are among locations already cited as having tidal energy potential.

'If we are not careful, we are going to end up with the big utility companies coming in and deciding how to divvy up the proceeds. We want a much

'MCT is very open to the idea of a community investment in the scheme. The process has started and there has been an encouraging level of interest. We are proceeding in taking forward the scheme through the planning and consultation process.'

He added: 'Talk of financing the tidal project is one thing but the scheme still requires planning permission and an important part of that process is community consultation and local support.'

Siemens energy recently acquired a 10 per cent stake in MCT.

Damaged Dunbeg road signs to be replaced say Transerv

BROKEN chevrons on the A85 near to Dunbeg will be replaced in the coming weeks as part of a programme to improve the road's safety.

weren't included as part of the work.

Scotland Transerv is in the process of replacing all the road signs between Oban and Connel after a safety survey identified the stretch as having a higher than average accident rate.

However, the company responsible for maintaining the west coast's trunk roads clarified they would be replaced.

There was concern from Connel Community Council's Les Stewart that the broken and tatty chevrons on the approaches to the Halfway Filling Station would remain untouched after Transerv staff told him they

A spokesperson said: 'The signage works, between Oban and Connel, were generated from a safety study as this section of road has a higher than average accident rate.'

'Additionally there have been visibility, drainage and road surface condition improvements. The replacement signage includes the chevrons near the Halfway Filling Station.'

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Mission completed, thanks to all our generous readers!

Worry over road-side rubbish

Councils save three centres

CONGRATULATIONS and thank you to the readers of The Oban Times who have given so generously to The Oban War Memorial Restoration Appeal which has reached a staggering £11,046.42.

A LOCHABER woman has expressed concern over increased rubbish tipping in countryside lay-bys in the district.

THREE outdoor centres in Argyll have been saved from closure thanks to agreement being reached between three local authorities.

This means that there is enough money in the kitty to repair and upgrade the monument, making it something the town can be proud of again.

Kirsty Macleod of Glen Gloy is calling on local councillors to develop a strategy to deter motorists from throwing litter from vehicles.

And in the present climate of cuts and increases in council tax the rescue package for the three centres has been welcomed as a positive move.

A special thank you goes to the North British Hotels Trust whose directors decided that it was such a worthy cause that they would make up the short fall of around £2,000 to help the appeal reach its target of £10,000.

At a recent Lochaber Area Committee question and answer session, Mrs Macleod said: 'A number of lay-by bins have been removed along the A82. At this time of year, when the vegetation is so low, you can see all the litter lying around.'

At a meeting last Wednesday, Argyll and Bute, East Renfrewshire and Glasgow City Councils formed the Castle Trust.

In giving the royal British Legion the cheque, chairman of the Trust, Norris Beith said: 'We must congratulate you and all those concerned with the fund-raising for the Restoration Fund set up by The Oban Times.'

'I blitz the roadside by my house.'

The trust will maintain and develop Ardentinny, Achnamara and Castle Toward outdoor education centres.

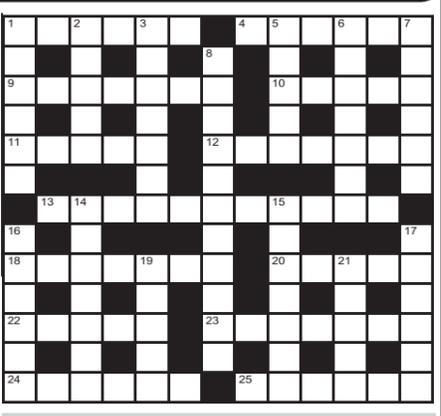
Cash boost for planned children's ward

Fears for the future of Appin Post Office

The future of one of Appin's most eye-catching landmarks hangs in the balance.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across
1 Deep red soup (6)
4 Nervy (2,4)
9 On which to write? (7)
10 Suit (5)
11 A feeling (5)
12 Hairstyle for men (4,3)
13 Document case (8,3)
18 Sweet potato instrument (7)
20 Elbow (5)
22 One with a cover story (5)
23 Catch (7)
24 Religious ministers... (6)
25 Regular (6)
Down
1 ...religious teacher (6)
2 Bow rub (5)
3 Make haste to keep in line with gossip? (5,2)
5 Chivalrous (5)
6 Actual (2,5)
7 Housing en masse (6)
8 Journeying outwith the Earth's atmosphere (5,6)
14 Picture (7)
15 This enables speech and hearing simultaneously (7)
16 Tile pattern (6)
17 Thus (6)
19 Topping sounds chilly! (5)
21 Excitement (5)



Last week's solution

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Water, water everywhere - but not a drop to 'link'

AT FIRST glance London's Mayor, Boris Johnson's suggestion that water could be exported from the wet lands of Scotland to drought struck south of England via a series of canals appears fanciful - or is it.

The water link idea is nothing new - Boris Johnson's logic is based on a plan first proposed in 1942 by J F Pownall.

Pownall suggested a canal could be built along a natural 'contour' down the spine of England, around the 300ft (100m) level, from the Scottish borders to the south east.

Today, much has been built along that route to restrict such a venture but there may yet be some mileage in Scottish Infrastructure Minister, Alex Neil's suggestion to harness the work to extend the proposed High Speed Rail system (HS2) over the border into Scotland and lay water pipes alongside the new line to carry surplus Scottish water south.

The Westminster government's plan for HS2 is to restrict the new rail link between London and Birmingham only and, while nobody can deny there are massive logistical problems in aligning the water pipe proposal, it would provide a sensible, logical and probably achievable solution to the south east's escalating water shortage problem.

While political will could prove a major, impassible blockage to the pipeline, the proposal remains, on face value, a win-win solution.

England's drought ravaged south gains a precious, renewable commodity that Scotland has in bucket loads, while Scotland receives the transport link that it deserves, and an opportunity to 'export' a natural resource.

Will Westminster risk denying the south-east available water?

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association

THE 'GG' Concert 2012, as in recent years, adopted a more informal style in Partick Burgh Hall.

Conducted by Kenneth Thomson, the concert had choral contributions from the full choir and both the ladies and male voice sections.

In addition, Joannie Morrison, Joy Dunlop, Gordon McKeeve and Robert Robertson had solo singing spots.

Robert also played accordion selections to open the concert and later during the evening.

Choir member Alasdair MacMillan chaired the proceedings and we hope his hip replacement operation, which was due to take place early the following day, was successful.

That leaves only the Govan Gaelic Choir, of the three Glasgow choirs, still to have its concert and it takes place in the Gaelic School on Wednesday March 21 at 7.30pm.

Young traditional concert

FROM time to time in this column I highlight the concerts provided by the students of the Scottish Music Course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland as they are a wonderful opportunity to hear the future musicians of our tradition showcase their skills.

The most recent of these, with each of the four year groups having a slot on the programme, lived up to all expectations with vocal and instrumental items of the highest standard.

Two of the year groups will be going on tour so watch out for them if they visit your area. This coming Monday, the second year students, Class 0'10, will stage the first concert of their tour in the National Piping Centre at 7.30pm, moving to Birnam Arts Centre on Tuesday and then Dobbie Hall, Larbert, on Wednesday.

New pipe tune

AS PART of its 150th anniversary celebrations,

Glasgow Islay Association is running a competition to compose a new pipe tune, a 6/8 March. All entries must be submitted to James MacLean, 1 Alwyn Avenue, Houston, Renfrewshire, PA6 7LH, on or before June 1 2012.

The tune will be premiered at the association's Islay celebrations on Saturday July 28.

Details of the composer should not be written on the manuscript but enclosed separately.

Diary dates

Thursday March 15: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Friel Sisters, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm, Mr McFall's Chamber.

Saturday March 17: Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, Susan McFadyen's Band. An Comunn, Stirling, Final Ceilidh of season, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm.

Monday March 19 to Wednesday March 21: Student concerts - see above.

Wednesday March 21: Govan Gaelic Choir Annual Concert, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu, 7.30pm. Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.

Thursday March 22: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Flossie Malavalle, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm, Salsa Celtica.

Friday March 23: Glasgow Skye Association, Cothorn na h-Oigridh, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu, 7pm. First Year Traditional Students Vocal Showcase, Royal Conservatoire for Scotland, 7.30pm. Perth Concert Hall, Peabog Fairies, 8pm.

Saturday March 24: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 7.45pm.

Pub scene

BLACK Velvet will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday this weekend with the Morgan Lee Band on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Friday, Rober Robertson and his Band on Saturday and Nicky McMichan on Sunday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

Correction

REGARDING last week's article on the new Queen's Diamond Jubilee forest to be created in Dalnally, we incorrectly stated the Forestry Commission had culled 237 deer within a 50-hectare area of Glen Orchy.

This figure should have been 237 deer in a 5,000-hectare area.

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them.

Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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.



Clan Maclean Gathering, Duart Castle, Isle of Mull, 1912

Four hundred members of the Clan Maclean gathered at Duart Castle in August 1912 to mark the return of the castle to Maclean ownership. Pictured are the committee who arranged the gathering. With the chief, Sir Fitzroy Maclean, 1835-1936, are: front row: Maclean of Ardgour, John MacLean, convenor of the clan, and Lieutenant Campbell MacLean, Royal Scots. Back row: Peter MacLean, Ibrox, Andrew Bruce MacLean, Springburn, William MacLean of Plantation and Professor Magnus MacLean. There is to be a Maclean Gathering on Saturday June 23 2012 at Duart to mark the centenary. Around 1,000 people are expected to attend. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Undermining the voluntary sector

Sir, Further to your article in last week's *Oban Times* regarding a publicly funded organisation seeking further assistance to operate in direct competition with existing furniture re-use provision, I would like to highlight several points.

The Community Charity Shop, operated by MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust SC041044, is run by 16 dedicated unpaid volunteers with unpaid volunteer manager Grace Scott. The powerful partnership of these volunteers, alongside the freely provided resources of MacQueen Bros Removals & Storage Ltd, allows the enterprise to operate virtually free of costs.

More than 95 per cent of the total sum raised goes back to the community which gives such tremendous support through donations of bric-a-brac and furniture.

In recognition of this excellent work on behalf of the community, Argyll and Bute Council give the use of the White Building free of charge.

The setting up of Lorn and Oban Re-use Initiative (LORI) with substantial public funding has and continues to undermine the voluntary sector and existing charity shops.

We would invite all past and potential funders to examine all of the facts before further damage is done. Linda Fraser, Trustee, MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust.

Ferry service frustration

Sir, With the ongoing fight for a re-introduction of the South Uist to Mallaig ferry, once again the ferry to South Uist from Oban has been cancelled because of weather conditions.

So from Sunday March 4, no ferry was near South Uist for a week.

Nearly every week between September and April at least three sailings are lost each month due to this. That is approximately 15 sailings or more that are never made, or do not happen as per timetable.

People can't plan or run their lives this way.

I can recall when the South Uist to Mallaig service operated previously. It very rarely missed a sailing because it is far more sheltered when crossing to South Uist, passing by Rhum and Canna. Happy sailing. A Campbell, Garrynamonie, South Uist.

Re-think needed on proposed route

Sir, As the retired operator of the 2004 to 2008 direct mini-bus service - the only one ever - it takes two-and-a-half-hours to drive from Mallaig to Oban. The proposed Lochboisdale

to Mallaig ferry would be take approximately four hours, making a total of six-and-a-half hours.

Passengers taking Shiel Buses from Mallaig to Fort William and West Coast Motors to Oban would be travelling for approximately two-and-a-half hours. But those who take the train to Oban from Mallaig will be taking five-and-a-half hours as a change at Crianlarich is essential. Ferry and train - nine-and-a-half hours!

The Lochboisdale to Oban ferry is a minimum of six hours which easily beats the total of nine-and-a-half hours from Lochboisdale/Mallaig/Oban - ferry/train.

A car driver needing to get to Oban, via the suggested Lochboisdale/Mallaig ferry, will be four hours to Mallaig then a two hour Mallaig/Oban car journey which will be no different to a direct ferry as at present to Oban.

The proposal for a direct ferry to Mallaig is of no use to people without cars/lorries for Oban; only for Mallaig and Fort William passengers.

The idea of a direct Lochboisdale/Mallaig service is a good idea on the surface but when looked at more closely the idea does not go deep enough into the failure for passengers to Oban.

It is only of half use and a new idea needs to help everyone 100 per cent. Michael Usher, Oban.

Leave Oban's old buildings alone

Sir, I should like to respond to Owen Hoey's letter, March 1, in which he argues that the old Rockfield Primary School should be demolished.

Oban desperately needs new beautiful buildings to make it a nicer place to live in and to attract more visitors.

But it's the town's modern architectural monstrosities that should be smashed up and replaced - not listed buildings like the Argyll Hotel, the old Rockfield school or the Oban Inn. Sophie Hamilton, Bowmore, Isle of Islay.

Better train service required

Sir, I was first taken to Oban by my parents in 1939 and have had many lovely holidays there since that date, the last being in 2006.

In the early days the train service was excellent and arriving at the 'old' station was very exciting as it was quite a hub of activity.

What has Oban got to offer tourists now? No longer any coaches along the front advertising wonderful trips and a train service which is a disaster for anyone endeavouring to travel from London and arrive at a reasonable time.

Sadly time is wasted waiting in Glasgow Queen Street station

whereas with one extra train during the afternoon, perhaps with an arrival time at Oban around 6pm, this would make a vast difference not only to those staying in Oban but also for ferry connections.

Oban is a great destination and needs a good train service and improved station facilities to welcome visitors to this beautiful area.

A J R Aked, London.

Disappointment as Tesco ditches path plan

Sir, After seeing a reader's letter in last week's *Oban Times* regarding Tesco, I was disappointed.

In this letter was the information that Tesco is not footing the bill to upgrade the footpath from the superstore to High Street.

What sort of supermarket is it that will not help its customers with what is surely one of the most cost effective ways possible?

At a time when Tesco is getting a bad press for 'employing young people for free, would this not be a good time to turn things around by creating proper jobs for people by building this much-needed footpath.

This would help add to the amenity value of the town, a situation that would please visitors and locals.

The alternative scenario is that someone will get hurt falling down on the presently unsafe path en route to Tesco.

Whilst said store may deny it is anything to do with them, the resulting story, such as Tesco being too mean to foot the bill for the footpath, will not help their public relations.

So come on Tesco, how about it? Sarah Swain-Nisbet, Oban.

Wind farm vote not representative of communities

Sir, I attended the meeting in Kilmelford, called by Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council, to discuss the proposed Clachan Wind Farm, *The Oban Times* March 1.

The report stated the 'communities' gave the proposal a 'resounding 'no' vote' and that 'by the end of the meeting it was clear the vast majority of residents objected to Mr Young's plan'.

The meeting was attended by a very small proportion of the total number of residents, many being unaware it was taking place. As such, the vote taken was not representative of the communities as a whole and reflected only the views of the people attending the meeting.

The decision to object on behalf of the communities was based on the votes taken at the meeting. Fiona Wyllie, Traighuaine Ard, Arduaine, Oban.

Steer clear of cormorants but not Oban hospital

Sir, Not everyone can say they were pecked in the face by a Cormorant.

I can, and I do not recommend the experience to anyone.

I can, however, recommend in the warmest terms the service and treatment I received from NHS24 and the accident and emergency staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

Gentle, efficient and sympathetic, I am very grateful and wish to acknowledge my appreciation of their dedication. K M Campbell.

Patients lucky to have such care

Sir, Last week I had to stay in Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

The staff, at all levels, were kind, considerate and extremely helpful. The food was excellent, the premises spotless. The whole atmosphere was relaxed, yet efficient.

We are extremely lucky to have such a superb hospital with such wonderful people caring for us. Nan Hopperton, Ganavan.

Save billions

Sir, There have been problems with keeping the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful open for as long as I can remember.

In the 1950s we were less bothered by incidents as mundane as a road closure; such occurrences were managed by a helpful man with a red flag who would wave you through when the rocks stopped crashing down.

Those were also the days when we relied rather more on the steamer. These days, life in Argyll is lived in a different dimension and we seem disconnected from our most obvious, natural and sustainable means of transport - the sea.

We read now that the A83 needs to have a great deal of money spent on it. If a return to sea borne transport is too leisurely or troublesome for modern businesses and life-styles, we need an alternative. For a start, we could drop completely the current obsession with devolution and its variants. What a huge waste of money and time that is proving to be - but I would go further. There are billions to be saved by scrapping the Scottish Parliament which has done little more than provide a stage for MSPs to pose and swagger at our expense. Following this, a selective cull of the civil service would leave us, hopefully, with the cream of the bureaucracy where it was needed most, and we would be directly rewarded with the freedom to get on with our lives in relative peace and prosperity. The huge sums of public money saved could then be spent on roads, housing, schools and health. Neil Duncan, Tarbert, Argyll.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA MI AIR BRUIDHINN ROIMHE air na tha an Rìghaltas a' cosnadh a' cisean connaidh agus fù 's VAT ga chur air uachdar nan cisean bunaiteach! Ge b' e dè cho an-ìochdmhor 's a dh'fhaodas sinne na cosgaisean sin fhaicinn, tha amharas agam gum bheil an tobar cosnadh seo tuilleadh is buannachdail dhan t-Seansalair is gun toir e faothachadh sam bith dhùinn.

Tha an suidheachadh sin annasach nuair a smaoinicheas sinn leis an Rìghaltas againn a sior mholadh poileasaidhean uaine agus cùram na h-àrainneachd. Tha sin a' dèanamh ciall gun teagamh agus tuigear gum bheil argamaidean a' leantainn gun còir dhan t-sluagh nas lugha connaidh a chosg air siubhal, am measg rudan eile.

Ach ciamar a tha còir againn an t-amas sin a choileanadh far nach eil seirbheisean siubhal poblach gan leasachadh gu ìre a fhrithealas feumalachdan na coimhearsnachd agus a cheadaicheas nas lugha feum a chur air càraichean. Airson caochladh adhbharan, cha robh seirbheisean còmhdaidh poblach soirbheachail fo smachd an Rìghaltas agus le call airgid a' dol am meud, staithean luchd-obrach agus luchd-cleachdaidh a sior chall earbsa, chaidh seirbheisean a ghluasad beag air bheag dhan roinn phrìobhaidh. Bha barrachd smachd gu bhith aig buidhnean prìobhaideach mas fhuir. Leis gum feumadh na buidhnean prìobhaideach buannachd a dhèanamh, bhiodh iad nas mothachaile air feumalachdan luchd-cleachdaidh nan seirbheisean aca agus nas dicheallaiche a thaobh nan iarrtasan sin a choimheadh.

Ach bliadhnaichean air adhart, tha luchd-cleachdaidh rèile na dùthcha a' pàigheadh nam prìsean as àirde san Roinn Eòrpa airson seirbheisean nach eil idir goireasach no earbsach. Agus mar leasachadh, tha an Rìghaltas ag iarraidh gun obraich na companaidhean nas dlùithe còmhla is gun cum idir feumalachdan luchd-cleachdaidh air chuimhne! Tha iad a' moladh sin dha buidhnean ann am farpais airson a h-uile sgìllinn a th' aig luchd-siubhal!

Aig an aon àm 's a tha an Rìghaltas a' fàsadh chisean a' conadh de gach seòrsa agus a' moladh dhùinn goireasan poblach a chleachdadh, tha dearbhadh a' nochdadh nach eil pòsadh nàdarra eadar amasan cosnadh companaidh prìobhaideach agus feumalachd luchd-siubhal. Mura cuir thu suidheachan air dòigh ro-làimh, tha fìor chunnart ann a-nise nach fhaigh thu air bus nuair a thig thu far aiseig! Agus ma tha am bus làn, dè tha romhad an uairsin? An còir dhut fuireach aig an taigh? Tha sinn gu bhith air peanasachadh na ghluaiseas sinn idir!

GOVERNMENT might present fuel taxation levels as part of its environmental policy and the promotion of public transport use and reduction in private car use.

Voters faced with steadily escalating energy and fuel costs are surely finding it is increasingly difficult to 'buy' the benefits of government's green philosophy. This is particularly true when travellers find service efficiency and quality diminishing rather than improving. West coast ferry passengers now risk being stranded at ferry-ports if they don't pre-book bus seats, and if the buses are already full should they just stay home? Irrespective of how we travel it seems we will be punished!

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

Times Diary

AN ARGYLL shinty player has earned the nickname Full Metal Jacket from his team-mates after finding out he played a full season with a shattered wrist.

Kyles Athletic's Sandy Macvicar, from Glendaruel, thought his debilitating injury sustained last year was 'just a niggle' as he helped the club win two cup competitions and finish runners-up in the premier league.

But on visiting his doctor during the summer, the full extent of the damage was revealed, ruling him out of playing for two years.

The hardy Argyll man will now undergo an operation next week to fuse his wrist, but is already looking forward to a return to his beloved game.

'I love shinty and I'd rather be playing than just standing about,' he added.

Perhaps some of our overpaid professional sports stars should take note?



WITH reports of drivers plunging into the sea when blindly following their satnav on the rise, it's a wonder tourists haven't come a cropper when following this upside-down Connel road sign in recent weeks.

Community councillors Sandy Dunlop, pictured, and Les Stewart, were visiting the Falls of Lora car park to discuss plans for the promontory there with community payback manager Richard Green when they discovered the tourist trail indicator next to the water's edge.

Les said: 'We just wondered if there are a lot of lost tourists in Argyll who don't know which road to take!'

OUR thanks to Donald McRae who tells us that he returned to his native Isle of Mull recently and introduced his Australian-born wife to the vagaries of Scottish west coast weather for the first time.

Exasperated by day after day of low grey cloud and heavy drizzling rain, she asked Donald's young nephew: 'Does this awful weather ever change here?'

The youngster shrugged his shoulders and replied: 'I don't know. I'm only nine!'

PRAYERS with a modern twist were heard last week at a church Sunday school in the west end of Glasgow.

The minister tells us that the children had slightly amended the Lord's Prayer to include: 'And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us our e-mails...'

Quote of the week: 'Better keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool, than open it and remove all doubt.' Denis Thatcher, 2002.

Share your humorous gems, comments on life or amusing tales with the *Diary*. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to *Diary*, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

JURA

ORGANISERS of the inaugural Tip of the Tongue (Bàrr mo Theanga) festival have confirmed this year's line-up.

The festival, which will be held over Easter weekend, April 8 and 9, will feature a mixture of artists and writers but will have Jura's oral traditions at its heart.

The artists celebrating oral culture in all its forms include: Anne Michaels, prize winning Canadian author of Fugitive Pieces; Aonghas Phádraig Caimbeul, South Uist raised poet and actor; Ian Stephen, storyteller, poet and mariner; Alasdair Roberts, renowned songwriter and folklorist; Katrice Horsley, UK Storytelling Laureate; James Attlee, travel writer; Clare Jordan, a Gaelic singer from Oban, now resident on Islay, who will be accompanied by Islay musicians; Louis, a rapper and wordsmith from Glasgow hip-hop outfit Hector Bizerk; and Ambrosia Rasputin, aka Ivor Kallin, improvising poet and musician.

The programme includes daytime and evening events, island tours and cinema. There will also be ceilidhs, workshops, song cycles, oral histories and a wonderful children's programme.

A book and DVD will be launched with an event from Gary Cordingley, Pete Shaw and Karen Scott. It documents 10 years of their storytelling work at the famous Jura Music Festival.

The full programme and tickets are available at www.tipofthetonguefestival.com.

The event has been made possible by a Quality Production award from Creative Scotland and support from Jura Development Trust's Argyll and the Islands Leader and HIE funded GATE Local Development Officer.

leased to PDG helicopters which pays £1,000 per year with Highland Council paying between £5,000-£6,000 insurance a year. With Highland Council closing Plockton toilets through lack of money for repairs, the council is not happy regarding the airstrip situation.

Achmore road closure - with the water pipe now laid this road will be opened soon.

Church of Scotland Plockton - with the church shortly going on the open market it is hoped Free Church may buy it, as if it is sold to a developer the village would have no church.

Toilets - Plockton Harbour CIC has taken over the toilets and should have them repaired in time for summer.

Annual village clean up - agreed for April 20.

National Trust matters - The trust is to remove the interpretative panel at Plockton carpark and replace it with a seat. The future of Plockton craft house, vacant for the past two years, is under discussion. The vandalised open air church sign will be removed and replaced with something stronger. Possible housing below the old tin church site will not be progressed because of site problems. The overgrown state of land round the war memorial was noted. It was hoped a work party would tidy this area.

Work will start in April on the trust forest management plan on the estate with community consultation. A schools work course to promote crofting was to be made available to Plockton High School.

Next meeting is on April 16. - CM MacRae.

PLOCKTON and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held a talk in Plockton hall on February 22.

It was given by Donald Green from Nairn and was entitled 'bedding plants'. His business supplies the wholesale market throughout Scotland.

The Tomlinson family from Achmore, who last year competed a 16,500 mile cycle journey from Arctic Canada to Tierra del Fuego, gave an illustrated talk in Achmore hall on March 1. Around 100 people attended and £460 was raised for Achmore hall funds.

A coffee morning in Plockton Primary School on February 25 raised £325 for school funds.

Plockton hall had a busy week starting on Monday February 27, which saw an art course all day. A yoga and a community council meeting followed on Tuesday; a morning playgroup and evening concert, presented by Lochan, featuring guitar and banjo duo Des Horsfall and Andy McKerie took place on Wednesday and Thursday saw a morning playgroup with keep fit in the evening. On Friday evening, Plockton Drama Club presented the two plays it performed at the recent local drama festival, while the following evening Plockton High School Music School presented exciting new Glasgow combo Dr Mango and

COLONSAY

MARINE Harvest, the company that wants to establish a fish farm 1.5 kms off the north-east shore of Colonsay, has said it will only proceed if a vote taken by residents goes in its favour.

An interesting debate has ensued on and off the island.

PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON and District Community Council met in Plockton hall on February 28.

Abridged notes:

Proposed play area - a sub committee was formed from the council and the local playgroup to progress the play area at Rhu Roads - Harbour Street, Station Road, Plockton, the Duirinish station road and the road to Barleyport all need attention. The unadopted station road is causing a major problem and with the ongoing Lochearnon bypass diversion the Plockton to Balmacara road also needs attention. **Plockton airstrip** - this is

NORTH BALLACHULISH



St Bride's Book Day fun raises £30

Pupils and staff at St Bride's Primary School raised £30 for Book Aid by paying £1 to come to school dressed as their favourite story character. Every child at the North Ballachulish school participated in the event, which celebrated World Book Day. Some of characters who came to school included Wally, Harry Potter, Katie Morag, the Gruffalo, Winnie the Witch, Carrie and Winnie The Poo. Local librarian Amy MacDougal and parent Frances Dent told stories to the youngsters and Jeanette Johnson brought her 100-year-old favourite book to share. Head teacher Susan Kemp told *The Oban Times*: 'The day was a great success. Everyone had fun and the event raised the profile of literacy in the school.'

the Chickpeas, whose line-up includes three former music school students.

Weather at Plockton - during February there was 22 days with some rain, totalling five inches, the same as 2011. It was the driest month since August last year. Highest temperature was 12°C and coldest -0.7°C.

ISLAY

BETWEEN February and March this year, Islay has experienced a remarkable series of 10 slight earth tremors.

The British Geological Survey reports the epicentre as having been in the area of a geological fault, where the land narrows and the Rhinns peninsula partially divides from the rest of the island.

The largest of the earthquakes had a magnitude of 2.8 while two others had magnitudes in excess of 2.0.

The tremors were felt by local residents as sudden quick shudders with a thunder-like rumbling sound, and were experienced in Port Charlotte, Portnahaven and further west to the Atlantic shore of the Rhinns, and also up the glen which runs towards Port Askaig. No damage has been reported as a result of these minor earthquakes.

A SMALL project management team from Scottish and

Southern Energy Renewables (SSER) was invited to a meeting of Islay Community Council (ICC) on Tuesday March 6 to discuss its current intentions towards Islay in relation to its proposed offshore windfarm of 138 turbines, seven miles from the southwest coast of Islay.

SSER's Kirstanne McDowall was introduced to the meeting as Islay's Community Liaison officer. The Islay Project Manager gave a short presentation to ICC committee members, to Councillor Anne Horn by video link and to several Islay residents who also attended.

Several local concerns were raised, relating to the windfarm's impact on local fishing grounds, also whether work opportunities and commercial openings would be made available to Islay individuals and businesses and whether the windfarm project's construction and maintenance operatives would depend on access to Islay's infrastructure and services such as GPs/hospital services.

The point was also made that while SSER-commissioned environmental surveys have been ongoing since December 2009, there has been little information about the activities of surveyors in Islay given to Islay residents or land managers. After the talk, there were questions and discussion with the SSER team about

the weather improves. - A letter was sent to the West Highland Museum when it was heard that the painting at Arisaig House might be moved to Fort William shortly. The reply said this would not be happening, as the space selected for it needs work done on it first.

- A830 upgrades - Transerv hopes to have the work done before the Easter holiday and say signs will very clearly show access will be available at all times for emergency vehicles and at clearly defined times for all other modes of transport.

- One co-opted place on the community council is still available and people can be invited to serve as associate members without voting rights. Anyone interested should contact community councillors.

KINLOCHELVEN

THE WEE Charity Shop in Kinlochleven is currently fundraising for local good causes from temporary premises in Unit 3 in Kinlochleven.

The shop had to move from the former Atlas Brewery premises last summer when a new tenant moved in.

Charity shop organiser Kay MacDuff managed to secure the unit for a 10-day period, which started last Thursday and ends on Saturday.

The charity shop is open from 10am-2pm. All proceeds go to the Leven Festival and various projects in the village.

Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Kay on 078999 77831.

CRAIGNISH

CRAIGNISH Community Company's annual Boat Jumble and Car Boot Sale will be held in Craignish Village Hall and car park, Ardfern, on Saturday March 24 between 10.15am and 2pm.

Over the years an amazing number of bargains have changed hands and there are boats sailing around fitted out with weird and wonderful gadgets which were found after much rummaging amongst the stalls.

PORTNAHAVEN SWRI held its AGM on March 6 in An Taigh Seinne.

After the business meeting, Susan Campbell gave a demonstration of handspinning, using a spindle and spinning wheel to make yarn from locally produced wool fleece. Members brought their current knitting projects to show and share and methods of casting on knitting were discussed and tried out.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG and District Community Council met recently in Astley Hall. Among the issues discussed were:

The original Arisaig Village map has been framed and is in place at the Astley Hall.

It was agreed that some sort of planning was needed to deal with circumstances like the storm in December. The community council will seek the best form this may take. It was noted that the follow up meeting of the services involved does not appear to have taken place. This will be followed up.

The community council was not happy with the comments from a Government reporter about litter on the coastal strip between Arisaig and Mallaig. The community council will raise the issue with him.

TEC Services work: It was agreed work needs to be done on the plinth of the war memorial. The path past St Mary's Church to the cemetery is in need of repair. The renewal of topsoil and reseeding in the cemetery will take place when

However the Craignish Boat Jumble is not just for those looking for nautical bargains with plenty to be found for landlubbers as well. Entry includes refreshments to revive flagging bargain hunters and with a raffle to add a bit of excitement this will be a day out to be enjoyed by the whole family.

SKYE

MEMBERS from the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club are looking to make the trip to Lochaber for a night of music and camaraderie next month.

The club's John Grundy explained: 'We're trying to get a minibus load of members together to go down to listen to the Iain MacPhail Scottish

Dance Band when they are 'guesting' at Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club on Tuesday April 3. 'It should be a great night. I might even have a wee dram that night as I won't be driving the bus!'

APPIN

APPIN Gàidhlig san Dachaigh classes have been awarded a grant from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The group runs a conversational class weekly and beginners and intermediate classes every two weeks with a qualified tutor.

Plenty of support for those considering Gaelic Medium Education (GME), or with children in GME. Adults from the wider community are welcome too. For more details contact Fiona on 07881525754.

CANNA



Kevin Rodgers leads the Ulpan class in Canna House.

Canna House echoes to the sound of Gaelic

GAELIC conversation has once again echoed round the walls of the principal building on the Island of Canna.

The imposing Canna House, once the home of eminent Gaelic scholars Dr John Lorne Campbell and his wife Margaret Fay Shaw hosted a week-long Ulpan course, through which learners are immersed in Gaelic to speed up their proficiency in the language.

Members of the Canna community and National Trust for Scotland staff took part, as

part of the Scottish Islands Year. Course tutor Kevin Rodgers from Oban thoroughly enjoyed his week on Canna with wife Kirsty, son Billy and daughter Katherine - who celebrated her fourth birthday on the island.

National Trust for Scotland Canna property manager Stewart Connor said:

'The Canna community is hoping to further strengthen the use of Gaelic language on the island by continuing with its learning programme and Feis events.'

ARDNAMURCHAN



Michael Russell MSP during his visit to the school in Strontian.

Rural concerns put to minister during Ardnamurchan school visit

ARDNAMURCHAN High School senior pupils spoke to Scottish Government minister Michael Russell about some of the problems facing the rural community during his visit to the school last week.

Mr Russell met with head girl Lucy MacMillan and head boy Craig Griggs, along with deputies Nicole MacIver and Jacob Green and Gaelic Medium pupils Duncan Foxley

and Charlie Flemming during his visit.

Lucy MacMillan said: 'We talked about the school and what we liked but also how expensive housing is here for everyone in the community.'

The Minister for Education and Life-long learning then enjoyed a tour of the community and school facilities, and met with head teacher Chris

Millar-Craig to discuss rural education. Mr Millar-Craig said afterwards: 'We had a very positive discussion on the value of rural education and on the positive support needed for the next steps in the development of the Curriculum for Excellence.'

Mr Russell said: 'It is a very impressive place, not just a lovely building but a purposeful and happy school at the heart of the community.'

LUING



The pupils in their books.

Pupils transform themselves into books

PUPILS at Luing Primary School celebrated World Book Day recently by turning themselves into their favourite books.

The children used part of their learning time in school to decorate boxes in the style of novels to create a library of walking books for the special day on March 1.

Bringing a new meaning to the phrase bookworm, the pupils chose a wide variety of fiction to create. Pre 5 decided on a group effort producing a copy of Elmer the Elephant by David McKee, while J K Rowling's Harry Potter made more

than one appearance along with creations from Enid Blyton, Lynley Dodd and Dame Jacqueline Wilson.

The children paraded their new library for the day, however, they realised that sitting, feeding themselves and playing the Ukulele were all very challenging when dressed as a book.

The day, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, is marked in more than 100 countries around the globe. It aims to encourage children to read by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own.

LUING playpark was given a cash boost of more than £200 at a recent meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles Area committee.

The councillors in attendance agreed that materials were needed to repair the broken suspension bridge play equipment in the children's park and that the picnic table required painting.

It was thought £363.30 would be needed to carry out all the work, including replacing worn out drive belts in the mowing machine. A grant of £231.65 was awarded.

FORT AUGUSTUS

NEW Fort Augustus and Glengarry Minister Tabea Baader was welcomed with a lunch at The Thistle Stop café last week.

Around 30 members of the congregation turned out to greet Rev Baader, who has joined from the Evangelical Church of Bavaria, Germany.

She will be coming for three years on an exchange scheme with the Church of Scotland. Her Service of Introduction will be held tomorrow (Friday).

ARDKINGLAS ESTATE WEDDING OPEN DAYS
Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March 11am - 3pm
For further information and directions please go to www.ardkinglas.com
If you can't make it that weekend please contact us to arrange your free, no obligation viewing of this stunning wedding venue
info@ardkinglas.com 01499 600261

Around the Rurals

Oban

CATHERINE Lamont from the Oban branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute enjoyed a relaxing facial as part of a 'Caring for Mature Skin' theme for the February meeting.

Dawn from Saint Saviour demonstrated a five-step facial and hand massage and answered skin care questions from the audience. Dawn advised everyone to moisturise daily to 'keep your skin cells more like grapes than raisins'.

Chocolate truffle competition results: Margaret Devine, gold; Anne Malloch, silver; Karen Mackie, red. Anne Malloch also earned a silver for the 'Alive and Kicking' photo competition.

Glenorchy

MEMBERS of Glenorchy SWRI met in the community centre on February 22.

They were welcomed by president Liz Gibson, who also welcomed and introduced the evening's speaker, Anne MacKenzie who told her audience all about Fair Trade on the eve of Fair Trade fortnight.

Fair Trade began around 20 years ago and was the inspiration of Harriet Lamb CBE. It has now spread throughout Britain and many other countries.

Aberfeldy was the first town in Scotland to support it.

Oban joined in 2006 with several stores and Park Primary School, Oban, joining in.

Mrs MacKenzie showed a video and many products and hand embroidered articles, stressing how much help was given to producers and cottage industries.

Competitions: Vegetable pate - 1 Helen Gibbon; 2 Liz Gibson. Dried fruit picture - 1 Sandra Boardman; 2 Jane Goodwin; 3 Liz Gibson.

Tea was served by the hostesses and the raffle drawn.

Liz Gibson closed the evening with thanks to the speaker and the hostesses Jinty Burke and Kathleen MacLennan.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD... NOW ON SALE

FORGED IN FIFE - Artist David Mach on his school of hard knocks READ... EGG'S LONE PIPER Why America loves our deerhounds THE TITANIC'S SCOTS SCAPEGOAT The year's best wildlife images

WIN A WEEK IN A HIGHLAND COTTAGE

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

Spotlight on fundraising initiatives

CHARITIES and community groups throughout Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to find out more about fundraising initiatives at a Lochgilphead event next Saturday (March 17). The event, which is focussing on non-grant methods of funding, will provide information on everything from valuing volunteers and donors, renewables, tax breaks and wills.

Councillor Rory Colville, Argyll and Bute's third sector spokesperson, said: 'The council has been involved with local community groups and charities for many years and we all benefit from the tremendous work these organisations carry out.'

The event will run between 11am and 4pm at Kilmory Castle. Video conferencing may be available on the islands - on Mull Sandy Brunton is presenting the workshop by video conference from Craignure. Bill Stewart, development manager at Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ABSEN), said Argyll and Bute had around 1,000 registered charities.

If you would like to participate, please register your interest with Eileen Bellshaw at eileen.bellshaw@argyll-bute.gov.uk or telephone her on 01546 604189.

Degree students arrive in Oban

SAMS and St Andrew's deliver new Masters course

MASTERS degree students have arrived in Oban as part of a new collaboration between the country's oldest marine institute and oldest university.

The students from the University of St Andrews have arrived at Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to start the second semester of a research degree on the management of marine systems.

Described as demanding and ambitious, the new masters degree by research (MRes) is designed to explore the interconnections between the physical environment, biodiversity and impacts of human activity and

resource use. Students will receive expert tuition in physics, geochemistry, biology and ecology marine systems. The course has a strong practical and research basis, with laboratory and field modules that include a cold-water field course while at SAMS, with the use of the association's research vessel *MV Calamus*.

After two taught semesters, students progress to an independent research project that can be completed either at SAMS or St Andrews, depending on the topic and supervisor chosen.

Professor Axel Miller, head of education and academic

development at SAMS, said: 'The arrival of this first cohort of masters students from our partner, the University of St Andrews is of great significance.

'Until now, there was an uncomfortable gap between undergraduate provision in marine science and PhD research.

'The realisation of this exciting course provides students with the opportunity to remain in the area throughout their education.

'This will provide generations of highly trained scientists with the understanding of local issues which is crucial for effective long-term sustainability of our coastal marine resources.'



Students from the University of St Andrews will study towards masters degrees by research at Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science as part of a new link between two of Scotland's oldest institutions. t15_t10samsstul

Portree police probe fish bin theft

PORTREE police are investigating the theft of four empty fish bins from next to the A87 three miles south of the Skye capital.

The four feet square boxes, skye blue in colour with 'Loch Duart' written on them in white, were stolen on Wednesday evening.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Motorcycle warning as spring approaches

HIGHLANDS and Islands drivers are being urged to be aware of more motorcycles on the road as spring approaches.

Northern Constabulary's road safety officer Laura Fisher said a 'disproportionate' number of motorcycles were involved in collisions, often with tragic consequences.

She said: 'Motorcyclists and their passengers are more vulnerable to injury than other vehicle users and I would urge all road users to be aware of motorcycles.'

'Motorcyclists need to appreciate and be aware of changing road conditions at all times, and the fact that their personal skill level may have deteriorated over the winter months.'

For up-to-date information on road conditions when motorcycling in Scotland, visit www.aroundthecorner.org.uk.

Managing money workshop

VOLUNTARY Action Lochaber and Voluntary Action Fund are hosting a free managing money workshop at An Drochaid in Claggan next Monday at 1.30pm.

The event is targeted at treasurers and committee members of small voluntary organisations or community groups. More information on 01397 706 044.

Newsdesk
01631 568000

Call to support Scottish salmon industry

UNNECESSARY burdens are being placed on Scotland's salmon industry by the government, according to the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI).

The SCDI has raised concerns over proposals by the Scottish Government, which they say will threaten the sustainable growth and international success of Scottish salmon.

Highlands and Islands Manager for SCDI, Fraser Grieve said: 'Scotland's salmon industry is one of our export success stories,

breaking into the Chinese market for the first time last year.

'The Scottish Government should ensure that its policies support the sustainable development of the salmon sector.'

A Scottish Government spokesman said: 'We have consulted on possible changes and legislation to ensure the sustainable development of both aquaculture and freshwater fisheries. All of the consultation responses will now be given careful consideration, as we seek the right way ahead to support both sectors.'

development at SAMS, said: 'The arrival of this first cohort of masters students from our partner, the University of St Andrews is of great significance.

'Until now, there was an uncomfortable gap between undergraduate provision in marine science and PhD research.

'The realisation of this exciting course provides students with the opportunity to remain in the area throughout their education.

'This will provide generations of highly trained scientists with the understanding of local issues which is crucial for effective long-term sustainability of our coastal marine resources.'

Loch Linnhe ferry terminus branded 'a disgrace'

A LOCH Linnhe ferry terminus has been branded 'a disgrace' by local residents as Lochaber gears up for the influx of Easter visitors.

The tiny slipway and parking area at Camusnagaul Bay across the loch from Fort William has arguably one of the best views over to the town and Ben Nevis.

Thousands of customers use the passenger-only ferry service to and from Fort William pier each year.

But the scenic 10-minute crossing journey begins and ends with the dilapidated facilities at Camusnagaul.

A stone cairn and interpretation panel at the viewpoint next to the slipway stands in stark contrast to the run-down scene nearby.

One local resident, who did not wish to be named, told *The Oban Times* that tourists arriving by car, coach and ferry 'would be in for a shock'.

He said: 'The view is stunning but the viewpoint is an embarrassment to Lochaber. A newly erected information point lies next to a derelict prefab garage, a perspex bus shelter, a broken phone box, a bottle refuse centre and for most of the summer a



Welcome to Lochaber: the bleak scene at the Camusnagaul Bay ferry terminus. 20_f11cam01

messy travellers site. There is not even a seat and bench for them to enjoy the view.

'What is the local council thinking about? Tourists to the area won't come back.'

He added: 'I live at Camusnagaul and feel very embarrassed by the state of the place. The car park and jetty could not look much worse. It is a very bad advertisement for an area which

Oban Speakers Club

AT THE Oban Speakers Club meeting last week, a number of late call-offs led to quite a few changes to the programme set out by the educational director.

Despite this, those members present enjoyed an excellent evening's entertainment.

Chairman Tom Clegg also made an interesting speech on The Mayflower and then introduced Willie Melville who spoke very well on James 'Paraffin' Young.

Their critics were Donnie Graham and Iain Fullarton.

In the second half topics chairman Frank Walton gave a series of taxing but also amusing topics to Eamonn Arthur, Guido Faccenda, Iain Fullarton, John Maclean, Bill Leech and Ian Crawford.

Timekeeper was Jim Fraser and a comprehensive and fair general evaluation was given by Roy Wood.

In closing the meeting, president John Maclean reminded members that part of the meeting on March 23 would be devoted to the AGM and expressed his wish for a good attendance at the last meeting of the session.

Mull voices fears over bank redundancy rumours

RECENT reports that the National Australian Bank (NAB) has hired a management consultancy firm to run the rule over the Clydesdale Bank has sparked rumours of mass sackings - that could hit rural communities hard.

American firm Boston Consulting has been employed by NAB in a move which could see people lose their jobs and branches close, according to some financial experts.

Clydesdale, which operates more than 300 branches with more than 4,200 employees in Scotland, announced 279 job cuts in December.

The Clydesdale Bank is the only permanently operating bank on Mull and the prospect of its closure has been branded disastrous by Steve Willis, vice chairman of Mull Community

Council. He said: 'Many people have dealings with the branch and it would be a nightmare if they had to go to Oban if closure is on the cards. How would they cope without a bank? It wouldn't be worth thinking about. It would be vigorously resisted.'

The Clydesdale Bank also provides the only outside cash point on the Isle of Mull. Its closure would leave locals and visitors having to travel to the Craignure Inn to get access to money outside of working hours.

A spokesman for the bank said: 'NAB has commenced a strategic review and will work with UK management to appropriately reposition its business mix and structure for the changed economic environment and improve returns.'

GAELIC matters



LEARNGAELIC.NET

Tha Cli, am buidheann nàiseanta a bhios a' coimhead às dèidh feumalachdan inbhich a tha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig, air leth toilichte innse dhuibh gu bheil an làrach-lìn ùr do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig www.learnGaelic.net a-nis beò!

Tha sgioba shònraichte le riochdachadh bhon BhBC, MG Alba, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Bòrd na Ceiltis (Alba) agus Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a' stiùireadh a' phròiseict agus tha Cli moiteil a bhith an sàs ann cuideachd.

Tha LearnGaelic ag amas air a bhith a' toirt ri chèile san aon àite taghadh de ghoidheasan do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig.

Am meas nan nithean a bhios rim faotainn bidh taghadh de phrògraman agus de stuthan eadar-obrachail a' BhBC do chloinn is inbhich, faclair is co-fhaclair ùr, agus combhairle a thaobh a bhith a' labhairt na Gàidhlig.

Tha Cli an dòchas gum fàs LearnGaelic gu bhith na phrìomh stòras do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig agus gum brosnach is gum misnich e daoine aig a h-uile ìre. Mealaibh i is caithibh i!

Cli, the national organisation that looks after the needs of the adult Gaelic learner, is delighted to inform you that the new website for Gaelic learners www.learnGaelic.net is now live! A dedicated

team from the BBC, MG Alba, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Board of Celtic Studies and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are directing the project and we are proud to play a part too.

LearnGaelic aims to pull a wealth of resources for Gaelic learners together in one place. Among the facilities available are a wide range of BBC programmes and interactive resources for both children and adults, a new dictionary and thesaurus, and advice for speakers. It is Cli's hope that LearnGaelic will become a key resource for Gaelic learners, encouraging and providing direction for people at all levels of fluency. Mealaibh i is caithibh i!

LearnGaelic.net is a one-stop shop for anyone and everyone interested in learning Scottish Gaelic. Whatever stage you are at, and whatever age you are, all the help you need is just a click away at LearnGaelic.net

BEGINNER INTERMEDIATE ADVANCED

UNDER FIVES PRIMARY SECONDARY

Learn Gaelic

A partnership of • Bòrd na Gàidhlig | MG ALBA | BBC | Board of Celtic Studies Scotland | Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
In cooperation with • Am Fàclair Beag | Ceann | Còr Gàidhlig | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | Education Scotland | Mòr Media | Open University | Seagair | SQA | Sòrkan | Opa

Dà Chànan = Iomadh Cothrom

English + Gaelic = a Brighter Scotland

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATOR

WWW.GAIDHLIG.ORG.UK

FACT: Children in Gaelic-medium education don't need to be from Gaelic speaking families.

LINGUISTIC THERAPIST

WWW.GAIDHLIG.ORG.UK

Gaelic Medium Education

Across Europe bilingualism is seen as something which is easily within the grasp of young children. It's normal and vibrant. In Scotland the opportunity to become bilingual is right on our doorstep.

It is proven that being bilingual has many advantages including: being better at multi-tasking, being able to acquire other languages with greater ease and also having a second language can open doors to many

career opportunities in multiple sectors. Learning Gaelic can not only help children have a better understanding of their own culture but it also helps them understand and appreciate other cultures.

Children in Gaelic-medium Education follow the same curriculum as children in English-medium education; only, they have the added bonus of having an additional language!

There are many misconceptions that children cannot access GME if their parents don't speak the language, this is not true and in fact the majority of parents who choose GME for

their children do not speak Gaelic themselves.

There is a wealth of support out there for parents: within the schools themselves, Comann nam Pàrant's Parental Advisory Scheme & websites such as www.gaelic4parents.com & www.gaidhlig.org.uk/fip.

If you would like any further information on Gaelic Medium Education & the benefits of bilingualism please contact Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 01463 225 454.

Language is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children - so why not give yours two.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

bonnie babies

competition 2012

in association with

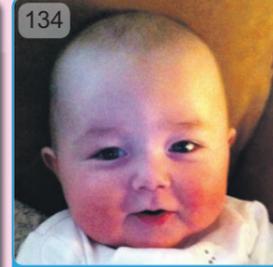
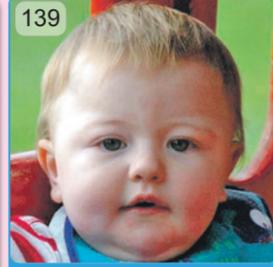
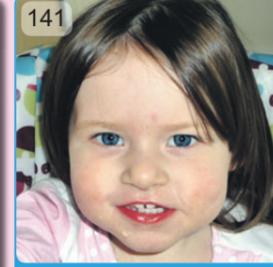
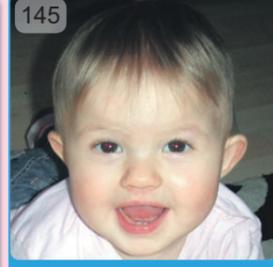
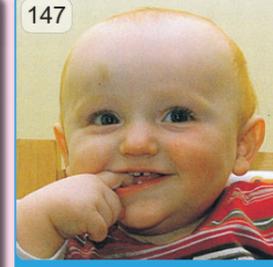
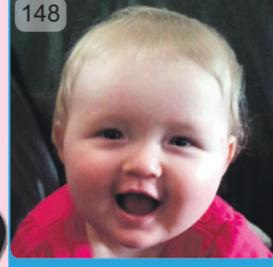
The **co-operative**
good for everyone

WIN
£500
of shopping vouchers

How the competition works

This year it is up to you, our readers, to vote for who you think should win the title of The Oban Times' 'Bonniest Baby' and £500 worth of shopping vouchers to spend at The Co-operative! We will publish a selection of Bonnie Babies each week of the competition until spring. At the end, the babies with the most votes from each week will qualify for our grand finale. All finalists will then feature in The Oban Times for one last time, again for public vote. The baby with the most votes will then be crowned The Oban Times' 2012's bonniest! For rules and terms and conditions, visit www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.

Time is running out to enter! The closing date will be announced in next week's Oban Times. See page 11 or enter online at www.obantimes.co.uk

 <p>124 Tilly MacFadyen 7 months Oban</p>	 <p>125 William Campbell 9 months Isle of Islay</p>	 <p>126 Jack Redmond 4 months Dublin</p>	 <p>127 Lacey Hampson 1 month Taynuilt</p>	 <p>128 Kayla Hampson 25 months Taynuilt</p>	 <p>129 Emma Joanne Ironmonger 13 months North Ballachulish</p>
 <p>130 Aidan Braid 7 months Isle of Mull</p>	 <p>131 Alexis Watson 14 months Caol</p>	 <p>132 Jamie Gea-MacPherson 12 months Inveraray</p>	 <p>133 Iain Alexander Macdonald 21 months Isle of Mull</p>	 <p>134 Grant MacRae 6 months Isle of Skye</p>	 <p>135 Maja Szkodzinska 10 months Oban</p>
 <p>136 Julia Szkodzinska 10 months Oban</p>	 <p>137 Megan Clark 26 months Oban</p>	 <p>138 Nico Victoire-Rose 15 months London</p>	 <p>139 Ryan Campbell 14 months Drumnadrochit</p>	 <p>140 Aimee Spreadbury 15 months Oban</p>	 <p>141 Alyssa Spreadbury 29 months Oban</p>
 <p>142 Caillan Fleming 16 months Taynuilt</p>	 <p>143 Ben Cooper 9 months Connel</p>	 <p>144 Kara MacGillivray 9 months Isle of Islay</p>	 <p>145 Holly MacKellaig 12 months Mallaig</p>	 <p>146 Ollie Spencer 3 months Lochgilphead</p>	 <p>147 Angus Carswell 11 months Connel</p>
 <p>148 Kenzi Campbell 9 months Lochgilphead</p>	 <p>149 Connor Stevenson 23 months Isle of Islay</p>	 <p>150 Ryan Kirsop 25 months North Connel</p>			

Vote for this week's finalist!

How to vote
Readers can vote for their favourite baby by text or by post, using the coupon provided on this page. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like until we announce the closing date to register your votes. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting.

By text (UK and Northern Ireland only):

To vote by text, text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the child's photograph to **88010**. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.

By coupon:

Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The voting deadline will be announced in a future issue.



Example text.
DON'T FORGET TO
PUT IN A SPACE.

Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The deadline to receive votes by will be announced in a future issue and on The Oban Times website. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk. Text votes from UK and Northern Ireland only. Text votes from overseas will not get through and will not be counted.

VOTING COUPON

I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:..... Baby's name:

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Or text the word **BABY** followed by a space then the baby's three digit number to 88010. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.



Music duo take to Glenuig Hall stage

LOCHAILORT musician Jim Hunter teams up with singer songwriter Graham Flett for a gig at Glenuig Hall on Saturday night.

The duo, who have just returned from a tour of Switzerland, will be joined by special guests 'The Quinine Cowboys'.

Bike ace Ben takes the honours in winter league race

DUROR cycling ace Ben Miller won West Highland Wheelers' winter league race at Wolfrax, Laggan, on Sunday.

Ben, 16, came in ahead of fellow Lochaber youngster Stephen Dent, who took a career best second place.

Roddy Wells was first male veteran home, while Marie Meldrum took the ladies race from Nix Forster.

With two events to go, titles are still up for grabs with a number of contenders for each trophy.

Glen Loy hosts the penultimate event on March 25.

Cancer charity's Ben Nevis climb appeal

CHILDREN'S cancer charity CLIC Sargent is appealing for supporters in the West Highlands to join a fundraising climb of Ben Nevis on Saturday June 23.

For more information call 0141 572 5700 or email nevis@clicsargent.org.uk



Siobhan MacInnes and Derek Macintosh from *Dè a-nis?* with Portree's Alannah Beaton, centre, who won best performance in the 12-17 age category.

National Gaelic film awards success

THE HEBRIDES scooped an array of honours at the FilmG awards at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow on Friday night.

Now in its fourth year, MG ALBA's annual national Gaelic film awards – the Oscars of the Gaelic film world – was another star-studded occasion.

Danny MacAskill from Dunvegan, the YouTube sensation and professional street trials rider, attended the event.

In the 12-17 age category, pupils from Back School in Lewis won the Gaelic award

for their short film 'Abair Sgaibh', Seachdain nan Sgoilearan at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat won best script for 'An Geall' and Alannah Beaton from Portree took best performance for her role as Margaret in 'Teid no Cha Teid'.

Director

In the adult category, Elly Welch from Stornoway scooped the FilmG Theme Award, best first-time director (Industry) and best factual short award for 'Oidhech Shàmhach'.

Also from Stornoway, new entrant Stephen MacLeod won best student film for 'Air Cùl na Gàire', while Uist Drama Group won best community short award for 'A' Phàrlamaid'. During the awards, Western Isles MSP Dr Alasdair Allan MSP announced a further £30,000 from the Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig for the FilmG project.

The 2012 competition received a record number of entries from home and abroad. All entries and winners can be viewed online at www.filmg.co.uk.

River boss cleared on gun charge

A LOCHABER river manager has been cleared of firing a shotgun over the heads of four poachers near the River Lochy.

John Ferguson, Christopher MacLeod and brothers Brian and Craig Tolmie told a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court they had been illegally fishing in the River Lochy on July 1 when a man on the other side of the 80 metre wide river fired a shotgun over their heads to scare them off.

Three of them identified River Lochy manager John Veitch, aged 45, as the culprit, but police constable Shaun Brooks said he had visited the scene and would not be able to recognise a person on the opposite bank as the distance was too large.

After questioning the four men and the officer, Procurator Fiscal

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Laura Ryan asked for a short adjournment and told Sheriff Mungo Bovey she was no longer seeking a conviction against Mr Veitch.

Craig Tolmie, aged 19, told the court he turned to run after seeing a man get out of a 4x4 vehicle on the opposite side of the river.

He said: 'I reeled in my hook and ran up a wee path. That's when he shot the gun at us. I looked back and saw him standing with a gun. I saw him pointing it towards the bushes where we were running to.'

All four of the witnesses described hearing the sounds of 'stones' or 'pebbles' hitting the

trees above their heads. Ms Ryan asked Mr Tolmie if Mr Veitch was the man he saw. 'Yes, I've seen him before. I know who he is,' he replied.

The police were not informed about the alleged incident until they received an anonymous phone call in September, two months after the event. All of the poachers denied making the call.

Mr Ferguson, aged 19, said: 'We knew that we would be in the bad for not getting permission from the landowner to fish. We weren't that fussed.'

Mr Veitch, of The Steading, Camisky Lodge, Tortundy, had pled not guilty to culpably and recklessly discharging the pump action shotgun over the heads of the men to their alarm and danger at Torcastle, near Banavie.

Club lotto jackpot jumps to £600

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw on Saturday. Numbers were 04-12-16.

The jackpot goes up to £600 this week.



Top class quiz winners

Portree Primary School were top of the class when they outscored 13 other teams to win the Skye and Lochalsh Primary Rotary Quiz. The Portree team of Dougal McKiggan, Johnathan Smith, Emily MacDonald and Lauren Gunn, pictured above with their trophy, answered 95 per cent of the questions correctly. The quiz quartet now goes forward to represent Skye and Lochalsh at the area finals in Ballintore on May 12.



An old bogie from the Lochaline sand mine: part of Morvern's industrial history.

Miners urged to share memories

FORMER miners who burrowed deep under Lochaline for silica sand are being urged to get involved in an oral history project as the village's mine prepares to re-open later this year.

As a first step, ex-miners and their relatives are being invited to Lochaline Social Club on Saturday evening at 7.30pm to share memories of working at the plant.

Their testimonies and stories will form part of a local exhibition tracing the mine's story since it opened in 1940.

It is hoped some oral contributions can be matched with old photographs to provide a unique interpretation of work above and below ground.

Lochaline played a significant

role in the war effort, providing high grade sand for the manufacture of submarine periscope lenses and sunsights.

The exhibition could form part of a bigger event, featuring street theatre performers and workshops.

However, planning is at a very early stage.

Fascinating

Project organiser, local woman Veronique Walraven, came up with the idea of marking the mine's re-opening by celebrating its fascinating history at the same time.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'To have this industrial site within this place of very great beauty stirred something within me. I felt we really have to do

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

something theatrical within that. We want to discover this history from the miners point of view.'

'We would like to record these oral reminiscences for future safe keeping and use some of the stories for an event at the mine opening later this year.'

'When it first opened there were many workers who came from the slate quarry at Ballachulish, so it's not impossible some of those men could still be alive.'

Stories
'If not, maybe their children or partners still have some stories and I would really like to hear from them.
'If people can't make it on

the Saturday evening, we have a storyteller and a filmmaker coming from Edinburgh who can visit them in their own homes.'

The mine's new owners, joint venture company Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd, a partnership between global glass manufacturer NSG Group and Italian mining company Gruppo Minerale Maffei, bought the mine from Tarmac last year.

Export
The firm plans to extract 100,000 tonnes of sand annually for export by sea to glass-making plants in England.

Around 12 jobs will be created at the Morvern port. Anyone wishing to assist Veronique with her history project can contact her on 01967 421774.

Nevis Radio in urgent cash crisis appeal

FORT William's community radio station Nevis Radio needs to raise £20,000 or risk going off the airwaves by the end of the year.

The volunteer-run station, which started broadcasting 15 years ago, faces a bill of at least £4,500 to repair a fault at a transmission aerial at Trestlaig which has caused sporadic breakdowns for several weeks. A new piece of equipment has been ordered but will not be ready for installation for another month.

Chairman Iain Ferguson said the

repairs, plus the need to upgrade all the station's transmitters across Lochaber and general upkeep means it faces huge bills between now and the end of the year.

He said: 'We raised £600 on the first day from anonymous donations, which was fantastic. But we need the public to continue giving. The message is simple, dig deep and help us right now, or we won't be there when you need us most.'

An engineer put in temporary equipment to get Nevis Radio back

on the airwaves last week, but service was only resumed in the greater Fort William area. Mr Ferguson said as soon as the new equipment is installed full service will resume. A number of fundraising events are being planned to help the radio station, including quiz nights, golf tournaments and a radio auction.

Donations can be made at the studios or through the website www.nevisradio.co.uk. For further information phone 01397 700007.

Race night helps fund application

LOCHABER Sports Association raised £1,306 at its race night in the Volunteer Arms on Saturday night.

The cash means the group now has enough match funding for an application for 75 per cent LEADER funding into a feasibility study on a possible multi-sport indoor training facility in the Greater Fort William area. The bid will be determined early next month.

Bridge work complete

WORK to upgrade four swing bridges on the A82 and A830 at Fort Augustus, Aberchalder, Laggan and Banavie is due to be completed today.

The bridges over the Caledonian Canal have been refurbished, repaired and repainted.

Local MSP Dave Thompson said the 1932 steelwork on the Aberchalder and Laggan structures had been 'severely corroded'.

Walker tumbles near Lealt Falls

A 35-year-old walker was taken to the Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford, Skye, on Tuesday after he fell near Lealt Falls, 12 miles north of Portree.

Police, ambulance paramedics and members of Skye Mountain Rescue Team were called to the scene around 12.30pm. The man sustained minor injuries.

Man caught driving more than four times drink limit

POLICE have seized a Caol man's car after he was caught driving in the village while nearly four times the legal alcohol limit.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Graeme Ellis' Peugeot 306 would likely be scrapped due to its low sell-on rate, after it was valued at £300-£600. Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan said the forfeiture of the car would act as a 'deterrent' to other drivers.

Ellis, of 7 Cameron Place, was also banned from driving for two years and fined £800 after pleading guilty to drink driving on Glenpane Street, Kilmallie Road and Glendessary Street.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Ellis had been drinking at home on March 11.

He said: 'For some reason, he decided to drive from his home in

Caol to a garage two miles from his house to purchase cigarettes.'

Ellis was spotted by a police patrol car a short distance from his house and immediately admitted he had been drinking. The 54-year-old spent the night in custody.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey said: 'This is an alarming amount of alcohol in the system of a person in charge of a vehicle.'

Race against time to save Lochaber's Steall Gorge path

ONE OF Lochaber's most scenic tourist trails is facing closure if essential repairs to combat worsening erosion are not carried out soon.

Wild Land conservation charity the John Muir Trust says Steall Gorge path in Glen Nevis is 'in desperate need of maintenance' if it is to stay open to the thousands of visitors who venture along it each year.

The rollercoaster path, cut into the side of the gorge, leads up to An Steall Bàn (the white spout), Scotland's second highest waterfall. But erosion from heavy use and

exposure to the elements is taking its toll. To help keep the path open, the trust has entered a European Outdoor Conservation Association competition, where a number of conservation projects from across Europe are put to a public vote. Getting the most votes will earn £25,000 towards the urgent work required on the path.

Fran Lockhart, the trust's Nevis manager, said: 'The path is under a lot of strain and is now starting to show its age. We'll use the funding to carry out appropriate repairs. This will ensure access through the gorge

so that people can continue to explore these amazing, rugged surroundings and enjoy one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Scotland for many more years to come. If we don't do anything, there's a serious risk that access will be lost completely.'

Broadcaster and author Cameron McNeish, who is backing the funding bid, urged everyone to vote for the John Muir Trust.

Voting is open at www.outdoorconservation.eu/project-voting-category.cfm?catid=1#facebook-like until March 27.

Man admits assaulting wife

A FORT William man has been ordered to be of good behaviour for one year after admitting assaulting his wife in their home.

David Ball, of 1 Mull Court, pled guilty to striking his wife on the head and body and seizing her on the arm all to her injury on February 5. The woman was left with red marks, scratches and swelling on her arms and chest, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Defending Ball, Hamish Melrose said the 38-year-old 'deeply regrets what happened'.

Search on for canine crimefighter

NORTHERN Constabulary has issued a public appeal to help it find a young spaniel or labrador capable of being trained as a police sniffer dog.

The potential canine crimefighter should be between 10 months and two-years-old, preferably of gundog breeding, and keen on playing with toys.

Anyone wishing to re-home their dog can contact PS Niall Maclean of the dog section in Inverness on 0845 600 5703.

ALIENERGY SAOS
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

The Argyll and Isles Agricultural Forum and ALIENERGY are holding an event at Torrisdale Estate, Carradale, by Tarbert - Mon 19th March 11am - 3pm

Producing Wood Fuel from Farm Woodlands

See practical demonstrations of firewood processors and splitters, extraction equipment and mobile milling equipment

Learn how to access funds from the Renewable Heat Incentive

Learn how collaboration can save you money

To book a place please contact: Fergus.Younger@saos.coop 01583421114 / 07771966649

NFU Scotland, green heat, Forestry Commission Scotland, EUROPE & SCOTLAND

The Oban Times is read by over 40,000 people every week making it the largest selling newspaper in the Highlands & Islands

The Oban Times
Tel: 01631 568000
email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
www.obantimes.co.uk

ALTERATIONS EXTENSIONS NEW BUILD

TOM MCCARDEL ASSOCIATES
A r c h i t e c t s
the smithy studio barbreck lochgilthead
argyll pa31 8qw tel 01852 500335
visit our website www.tommccardel.co.uk

Spring Gardening

Plant Hire Ltd
Unit 21D1 Ben Nevis Estate Fort William
Hire • Sales • Service • Ground Works • Contracting
24/7 call out

Plant and Tool Hire, Mechanical Servicing and Repair, New Equipment Sales, Spare parts
Mini excavators 0.8 – 13.0 tons • Site dumpers 0.3 – 9.0 tons • Woodchippers 2" – 8" capacity • Mixers, Generators, Pumps •

Contractors plant servicing and repair
Husqvarna and Oregon agents • New and used equipment sales • Oils, lubricants and spare parts •

Trade and DIY welcome
Delivery/collection service available

Tel: 01397 701677
www.planthirefortwilliam.co.uk

Opening Times Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm. Saturday - 8am - 12:30pm

ALTHOUGH there us still a chill in the air, it has been a remarkably mild, if wet, winter. Early flowers such as snowdrops are already well in bloom and the daffodil's are taking advantage of early sunshine to add a burst of colour to the more sheltered parts of the

garden. However, the end of March often has a sting in the tail for the west coast and it is a time to gather the tools and get ready for when the soil warms up and is ready for action. Soon the garden centres will offer a host of bedding plants, shrubs, trees and growth promoters, plus all

the accessories that gardeners find desirable. Don't buy simply on price as often the 'cheap and cheerful' fail to last. Buy as good quality plants as you can afford and they will reward you for your prudence.

However, there are some simple handy tips that may help to save a few pennies and keep your garden blooming through summer and into the autumn.

The first may be too late for this year but help for next year if your spring bulbs have failed to show. Prevent animals from digging up and eating your

bulbs by wrapping them in a little layer of steel wool. It does no harm to the bulbs, as shoots will push right through it.

Washing liquid makes a great insecticidal soap when you mix it with warm water. Take 1 to 3 tablespoons of washing up liquid and mix it with 3 litres of water, add a tablespoon of vinegar too, put it in a spray bottle and mist spray the entire plant. Remember to let it cool before applying to your plants. Soapy dish or bath water can also be collected and used effectively.

If you are cutting daf-

foldils or other flowers, cut the stems at an angle, as it creates a larger surface area for the flowers to draw up more water and remember to put your flowers into water immediately. If you don't, air pockets will form in the stems and cause the flowers to droop. Never use water straight from the tap for your vases. Tap water is very cold and causes the little air bubbles to form. Allow the water to rise to room temperature, or add a little warm from the hot tap. To make them last longer in the vase, drop an aspirin in with the water, your flowers will love you for it and repay you by staying fresh looking for longer. A small piece of Alka-Seltzer tablet or a part spoon of liver salts, once the fizzing has stopped are good alternatives to aspirin.

Trees and shrubs late can be planted out now or as soon as they become avail-

able at garden centres and nurseries. Always choose the ones with the freshest or plump buds, as these are raring to get growing. A good handful of bone meal or other general-purpose plant food, even the pellet form of chicken manure dug well in the bottom of the hole will help feed your new addition to your garden. Large trees will benefit from the addition of a length of garden hose being buried alongside their roots to help watering in long dry spells.

Old bubble wrap is a great liner for your pots and containers, it will help warm the compost and prevent late frosts from damaging delicate new roots.

If planting fresh spring hanging baskets why not use your old knitwear or newspapers for a no-cost basket liner, and the money saved can go towards better quality compost and plants. Don't throw away the

remnants of last summer's baskets; either dig it into your garden or at the very least put it in your compost bin.

Give your hedges a good spring prune, get nice neat level edges and flat tops by fastening a length of rope to two points across it. Or push broom handles into the hedge at each end and tie your line to them. An old washing line or strong garden twine are ideal, remember not to cut through your line. Although not 100 per cent accurate it will certainly help achieve a better-looking hedge.

Don't forget the garden path - over the winter, mosses, lichen's and weeds have taken over. Salted boiling water and a good stiff brush will do the trick. It may need to be repeated, but will not damage surrounding soil like commercial products can, and is the safest where pets are concerned.

On the subject of pets - dogs, and especially cats, in the garden can be very destructive. Dogs are fairly easy to deter, their acute sense of smell allows you to use old perfume or aftershave, or the cheap and nasty ones given to you for Christmas. Dogs won't like them any more than you did. Cayenne, white or black pepper powders can also help but are easily washed away by rain. Cats, on the other hand, take a lot more work. Enjoy your garden!

NEISH CONTRACTS
CITB Registered & Fully Insured
Tel: 01866 822652
Mobile: 07821 582742
email: RuryNeish@aol.com
www.neish-contracts.co.uk

- Garden Design
- Landscaping
- Garden Maintenance
- Supplies & Services
- Plant Hire
- Groundworks Throughout Argyll

AFAM
Argyll forestry, windblown trees cleared, standing timber bought, fully insured.
Contact:- Michael Swailes
07887608082
afamservices@tiscali.co.uk

KEIL ENGINE SERVICES
All types of garden machinery and equipment available
Spares servicing and repairs
Tel: 01631 720380 ask for Lachie or Liam
email: keilengines@gmail.com

The Garden Machinery Specialists
New Machinery now in stock
Lawnmowers, Tractors, Strimmers & Chainsaws Etc
Book now for Spring Servicing & Repair.
Tractor Collection Service available
Tel: 01631 571777
Unit 3 Mill Lane, Oban PA34 4HA
Email: bladesandco@aol.com

Blades & Co.

Tree Services
all aspects of tree work and windblow
Roni/Chris Macdonald
01631 770206
Chainsaw Art
unique creations interior/exterior rustic furniture

COE CONTRACTS LTD
Fencing, Dyking, Landscaping and General Contracting
Thirty Years' experience in...
Fencing, from garden to security.
Dry stone walling and all types of masonry
Landscaping and groundworks.
Operated excavator plant hire. 1.5 ton to 15 ton
NO JOB TO BIG OR SMALL
For a competitive quote call the office on
01855 811408 07979 867870

WEST COAST BUILDERS
Maintenance & Repair
STORM DAMAGE - ALSO INSURANCE QUOTES
Brickwork • Plastering • Slating • Guttering • Roofwork • Extensions
Renovations • Landscaping / Patios • UPVC Doors
24 Hour Call
Tel: 01631 710334 or 01631 710851
Mob: 07796390411 or 07730654693

Cakebreads Home & Garden
Selection now available at The Pantry, Argyll Square, Oban
Cakebreads Home & Garden Tel: 01631 565141

Spring Bedding Now In

3 x Shrubs 1LTR pots - 3 for £10.00	Multi Compost 50LTR - 3 bags for £10.00	Seed Potatoes - 40 Varieties Available
---	---	--

Cakebreads Garden Centre Tel: 01631 565141
Old Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban
www.cakebreadsgardencentre.co.uk

WEST COAST TOOL & PLANT
NEW RANGE OF GARDEN EQUIPMENT COMING SOON
Offering a full range of domestic and commercial tools, equipment and machinery for hire
Oban
01631 566 401 oban@westcoastplanthire.co.uk
Old Crofters Yard Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HU
Lochgilthead
01546 602 992 gilp@westcoastplanthire.co.uk
Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8EU
www.westcoastplanthire.co.uk

See in store for great offers on Stihl Gardening equipment
Open Monday - Saturday
Stihl and Viking Dealership

Beaver Timber LTD
Barcaldine, by Oban
Telephone: 01631 720 353 • Mobile: 07861 247 237
www.beavertimber.co.uk • email: info@beavertimber.co.uk
Established over 30 years

NEW lightweight Metal Roofing System

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

BROCHURE & FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST
All our buildings are made from 19mm boards and come complete with 18mm flooring.
GARAGE BASES PREPARED

SHOWSITES NOW OPEN - Beaver Timber, Barcaldine; Corachie Clematis, Loch Awe and MGM Timber, Oban

Corotile
Lightweight Metal Roofing System

G.H. GROUNDWORKS CONTRACTOR
GH Ground Works and Landscape Contractor
Transform your property add value and style to your home

BEFORE

AFTER

- Driveways • Patios and paths • Walls • Decking
- Fencing • Turfing • Ramps and steps
- Concrete and foundation work
- Pavements lowered for vehicle access • Tarring
- Drainage • General labour • Site work • Garden clearances

All ground work and landscaping considered
No job too big or small
Fully insured. Guaranteed work
Contact Graham 07730682128 / 01631 562651
Email: graham387@btinternet.com

C. Hodge Fencing

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realise we cannot eat money"
- Cree Indian Proverb

Our timber for raised beds is sustainably grown and fully treated.
We also do posts, wires, rylocks, gates, decking, large timbers, livetsock handling,

cattlegrids and woodfuels. Nothing fancy, just the best quality materials available delivered to you at wholesale prices, with some free advice thrown in if you need it.

C. Hodge Fencing
Wood fuels also available
(Lerags, By Oban) Telephone: 01631 563271
TRADE AND RETAIL

Netherlorn pipers host last night

THE FINAL recital of the season at the Netherlorn Piping Society next Wednesday is going to be a bit different and highly enjoyable.

The guest players are three very talented female pipers from the Inveraray and District Grade 1 Pipe Band.

They will be supported by some of Angus MacColl's young chanter players and pipers.

As usual it starts at 7.30pm and the venue is the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Music for All at Kilmallie Hall

LOCHABER'S fourth Music For All concert will be held in Kilmallie Hall next Friday.

Headling the show will be soprano Alice Woodbridge pianist Susanna Stranders, who came up to Lochaber last year on a song cycling tour from the south of England to Fort William, raising money through concerts as they went.

"They were so brilliant I was keen to have them come back and perform for Music For All," event organiser Clare Reynolds told *The Oban Times*. The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets can be bought at the door.

Craigard Hostel reunion in Oban

GIRLS who stayed in Craigard Hostel in Oban anytime during the years 1962-1965 will be made welcome at a reunion dinner in the Royal Hotel, Argyll Square, Oban on Saturday April 21.

Fifty former hostel girls have already been contacted but there are still a few who have not been traced.

Anyone interested can contact Eleanor Nicolson (nee Kerr) 01259 750040 or e-mail eleanornicolson@yahoo.co.uk

Oban pipers race night raises cash

OBAN Pipe Band held its first ever race night on Friday evening in the Masonic Lodge and the band members are grateful to the social committee for the use of their premises.

While there was not a huge crowd on the night, the band, nevertheless, is now better off to the tune of £850 after expenses.

This fundraiser was a success due to Harry and Jenni McMaster, Sonny Galbraith, John Mackenzie and Sandy Rokitta who ran the event on the night.

The pipe band members thank them and the businesses who sponsored races and donated raffle prizes and the people who contributed by placing bets prior to and on the night. The money raised will be used by the band to help pay for transport costs to this season's competitions.

First Fèis Skye Book Festival

THE FIRST Fèis Skye Book Festival in July will feature a special guest appearance from veteran politician Tam Dalyell.

Mr Dalyell, who famously described Scottish devolution as 'a motorway to independence with no u-turns and no exits', will discuss his autobiography and tumultuous career.

The pipe band members thank them and the businesses who sponsored races and donated raffle prizes and the people who contributed by placing bets prior to and on the night. The money raised will be used by the band to help pay for transport costs to this season's competitions.

Festival steering group Donald MacDonald said: "Many of us have thought for some time that Skye could and should have its own book festival. We will be featuring a number of eminent Highland authors, Highland books and Highland subjects"

The event at Aros in Portree on July 26-28 follows a successful small pilot event held in Skye last summer.



Catherine Pringle, centre, won the euphonium intermediate solo, with runners-up Antony Hook and Rory Bell. 10_f11festival02



Youngsters help golf club grow

JUNIORS at Glencruitten Golf Club have been helping shape the new sixth hole. The youngsters were busy planting trees with Club Captain Declan Curran last Wednesday.

Declan said the project was part of a greater effort to improve the course: "The sixth hole is this winter's project. We have finished the green and are about to start

work on the tee. "Next winter we are going to tackle the seventh hole which will include water to make it more challenging. We are improving the course bit by bit."

The club will be encouraging new members to take up golf and join Glencruitten at the end of the month. Information will be available in Tesco on March 31.



Lochaber history Saturday Club proves popular

A West Highland Museum initiative is proving popular with local schoolchildren. Bannockburn to learn more about Lochaber's local history.

The monthly 'Saturday Club' regularly draws pupils from across Lochaber and beyond.

The latest hour-long session last weekend saw children from Ardnarmurchan

High School and Arisaig, Lochyside, Sleat, Inverlochty, Upper Achintore, Bannockburn primary schools enjoy a 'who, what where' quiz on the museum's exhibits in the revamped Fort William centre.

Education officer and trustee Betty Bruce said: "The general knowledge quiz around the museum was just a way of looking at our new lay-out."

"Geographically, the Oban Times encompasses a 400sq mile radius. This provides the most extensive coverage of Argyll, the West Highlands, and Islands - an area usually very difficult to reach."

The Oban Times Tel: 01631 568000 email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk

Five days of festival music in Lochaber

THE 38th Lochaber Music Festival gets underway tomorrow (Friday) with hundreds of local participants singing, playing, reciting or dancing in 142 different classes over five days.

Tomorrow's piping and chanter competitions will be followed on Saturday by piping, fiddle, accordion, clarsach and Scots piano, culminating in the Premier Traditional Instrumental Award competition at 2.15pm at Lochaber High School.

The festival continues on Monday with speech classes (poetry), strings and singing, and an evening of string playing and singing in the evening at Lochside RC Primary School.

Tuesday will see singing, brass instrumental and piano classes during the day, while the evening features Scottish country dancing in Kilmallie Hall.

The Young Musician of the Year competitions and the premiere Vocal and Instrumental Award competitions are also being held on Tuesday evening in Lochside RC Primary School. Like the Traditional award on Saturday, the exciting competition will feature the best solo performers from the festival.

Next Wednesday's programme has choirs, action drama, group music making and woodwind classes until mid-afternoon.

The festival rounds off with the Grand Festival Concert next Thursday at 7pm in Kilmallie Hall, featuring a varied selection of the best performances from the whole week, along with the presentation of trophies.

Festival chairperson Lilian MacDonald said: "We are delighted to have so many young people taking part again this year."

"Preparations are well in hand, we have an excellent team of adjudicators and it promises to be a busy but enjoyable week. Please come along and support the performers during the daytime or in the evenings - you will certainly be entertained!"

Organisers report that entries are well up on last year, with healthy numbers in vocal, instrumental and speech classes. The encouraging trend has also been boosted by a jump in adult entries.

The festival 'help desk' will be at the Alexandra Hotel during the day from Monday to Wednesday. For more information visit www.lochabermusicfestival.co.uk.

what's on oban

Thursday 15th March > Highland Ceilidh Night Skipinnish Ceilidh House and late Disco from 9pm
 Saturday 17th March > Club Night 11pm - 2am Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJ's Mark and Stuart
 Friday 16th March > Disco Markie Dans with DJ stevo
 Saturday 17th March > St Paddy's Markie Dans Cuan an Aire
 Friday 23rd March > Tim O'Connor Markie Dans

what's on lochaber

Friday 16th March > Nightclub with DJ Irish Al. Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Clock
 Saturday 10th March > Nightclub 10pm till 2am Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Beats
 Saturday 17th March > Jim Hunter & Graham Flett Glenuig Hall 8pm, www.glenug.org.uk
 Saturday 24th March > Peatbog Faeries Glenuig Hall 8pm, www.glenug.org.uk
 Wednesday 28th March > Scottish Dance Theatre Sunart Centre, Strontian 8pm, www.sunartcentre.org

Sponsored by SKIPINNISH CEILIDH HOUSE FORT WILLIAM www.skipinnish.com Middle Street, Fort William



Ian Bruce And Victor Besch Above Wild Water
 A real mixture of styles. Anything from modern Scottish bagpipe tunes by Vic to reggae tinges. A couple of songs from Ian Bruce/Charlie Milne and some songs written by Ian and a couple of batches of Dumfries and Galloway schoolkids during the height of the Rivers And Burns project.

The Duplets - Leverage
 The Duplets are Gillian Fleetwood and Fraya Thomsen, two of Scotland's finest exponents of the Scottish harp, with a vision for the future. Some of the tunes were written by the girls, some for them and some are old favourites. Fraya wrote the music for the first track, A Man's A Man For A That, and with the warmth and intimacy of Gillian's voice, this song is still as vividly important today as it was in 1795 when Robert Burns wrote the words.

Rura - Break It Up
 Debut album from this young band who have created a buzz throughout the traditional music scene with their powerful music. The band features three "BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician Of The Year" finalists and an "All Ireland Bodhran Champion." Winners of "The MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards 2011 - Best Up And Coming Artist." Rura combines the passions and influence of some of Scotland's most exciting young musicians and the album is a fine balance of tunes, including a Pibroch, and songs. Tight instrumentals and stunning vocals.

sponsored by musicscotland.com

Over 4000 Scottish, Irish, Roots, World, Folk and Celtic music CDs, DVDs, books and sheet music titles, with mp3 music samples. Worldwide despatch next working day of in-stock titles

www.musicscotland.com or Tel: 01631 719 001 Email: info@musicscotland.com 20 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT musicscotland.com is part of Oban Music

Italia 'n' Caledonia Argyll tour 2012

Tickets £7/£5 concessions
 For ticket information phone 01688 302673
MARCH
 Thu 22 Tarbert Village Hall, 7.30pm
 Fri 23 Victoria Hall Campbeltown, 7.45pm
 Sat 24 Victory Hall, Benderloch, 8pm
 Sun 25 Strachur Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
 Mon 26 Dunoon Burgh Hall, 7.30pm
 Tue 27 Isle of Bute Discovery Centre, 7.30pm
 Wed 28 Gibson Hall Garelochhead, 7.30pm

Local Producers Market
 Thursday 15th March
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road
 10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
 Every First / Third Thursday
 Interested Producers contact 01631 720223
 Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk

The Oyster Inn
 Treat your Mum to a Special meal on that Special Day
Mother's Day!
 Exciting Mother's Day Menu available between 12 and 4pm in the restaurant with beautiful views and served all day in the Ferryman's Bar
 Call now for a reservation 01631 710666

Mother's Day @ THE clubhouse AT GLENCRUITTEN
 Delicious 3 Course Buffet Lunch served from 12noon until 5pm Please call to book
 Live Music from Duncan Forgiveve with singing from Tracy 2pm until 4pm
 £15.50 for 3 courses, Children under 12 £7.50 - under 3s Free
 Find us on Facebook & Twitter
 GLENCRUITTEN GOLF CLUB Clubhouse Restaurant & Bar Ample parking
 01631 562868 www.obangolf.com Available for functions

Corran Halls Upcoming events

Puppet Animation Festival OSCAR & THE QUEST FOR THE UNDERGROUND PRINCESS
 Friday 6th April Doors 10.30am Age 4+ Tickets £6, Family £20

Puppet Animation Festival THE ELF OF FERN GLEN
 Thursday 12th April Doors 10.30am Age 3+ Tickets £6, Family £20

PASSING PLACES
 Comedy Play by NLP Theatre
 Friday 11th May Doors 7pm Tickets £12 RESERVED SEATING

THE SINGING KETTLE
 Wednesday 16th May Doors 4.30pm Tickets from £11

BILL BAILEY
 Tuesday 22nd May Doors 7.30pm Tickets £17.50 RESERVED SEATING

HAIRY MACLARY
 The loveable dog from Donaldsons dairy
 Thursday 27th June Doors 4pm Tickets Adult £8 Conc £6 RESERVED SEATING

Corran Halls, Oban Box Office: 01631 567333

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Art Society Demonstration With Polly Hamilton Poster Art with a Difference An Illustrative Style Friday 16th March 2012 The Lorn Resource Centre Soroba Road, Oban 7.30pm to 9.30pm Visitors Welcome

Annual Boat Jumble & Car Boot Sale
 Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
 Saturday March 24th from 10.15am - 2pm
 Nautical & non-nautical bargains, new and nearly new items. Bring all the family for a great day out! Entry - £2 (includes refreshments). Details - 01852 500689

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain
Local Interest Night Shinty Reminiscences by Iain MacIntyre (in English)
 Free Church Hall Friday, 16th March at 7.30 p.m. Tea and biscuits Admission £ 3

Craft Fair at Crianlarich Hotel Saturday 24 March 11.30am - 4.00pm £5 per table To book a table contact M. Anderson, 01838 300253 Proceeds to Strathfillan Craft Class

Energy Healing Free Taster Day
 An Roth Centre, Craignure
 Alternative therapy for emotional and physical problems
Thursday 29 March
 To book your space tel: 07837184068

An Comunn Gàidhealach MEUR CHRUACHAIN (Cruachan Branch)
CEILIDH
 in TAYNUILT VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY, 17th March 2012 at 7.45 p.m.
 Stuart Liddell - Piper, Atomic Piseag Ladies Choir, Sileas Sinclair - Accordion, Esther Smith - Harp, Eilidh MacInnes - Dancer, Bean an Taighe: Joy Dunlop
 Admission £4.00, Members £3.00, Children £2.00 Tea and Raffle
 Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture.

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROVISIONING THE JACOBITES:
 Ian MacKenzie Saturday 17 March 2.30pm Port Appin Village Hall ALL WELCOME!
 www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

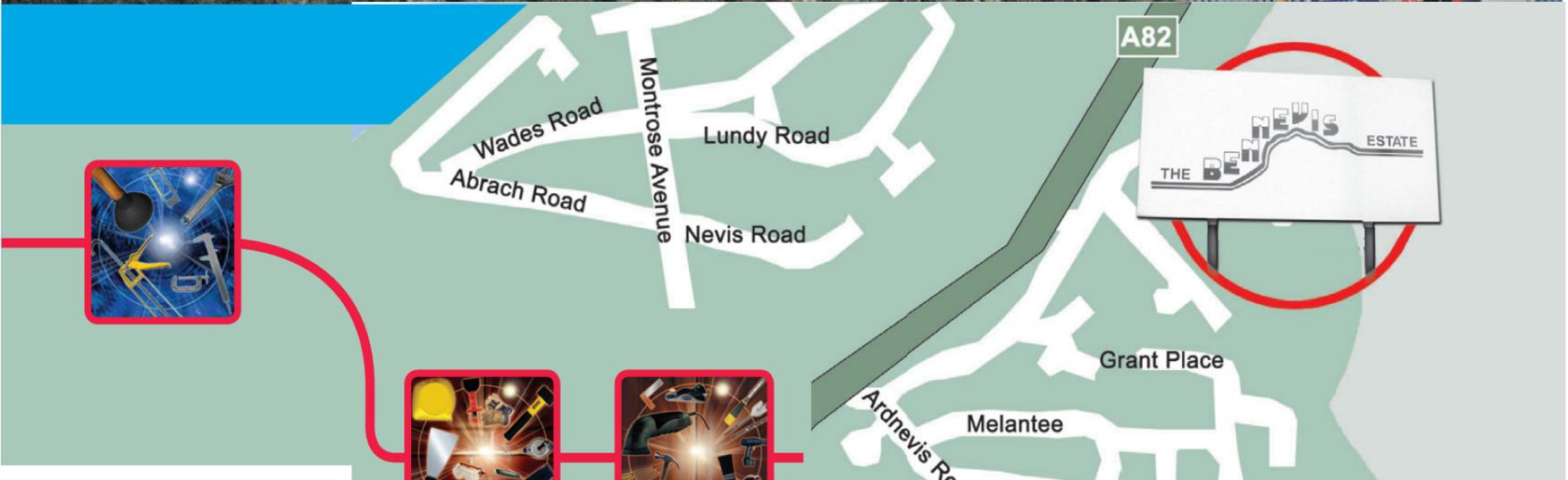
Lorn Agricultural Society
Family Ceilidh With The Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band
 Saturday 24th march North Connel Hall 8pm
 Licenced, Buffet
 Tickets £10 available at door Under 16's free of charge and must be accompanied by an adult

North Argyll House
Daffodil Tea
 Glencruitten Church Centre
Thursday 22nd March
 2pm till 4pm Admission by Donation Baking Stall

Netherlorn Piping Society Present Sarah Muir Laura McMillan Hayley MacInnes (From Inveraray & District Grade 1 Pipe Band)
 Wednesday 21st March 2012 Argyllshire Gathering Halls At 7.30pm Entry: Adults £3, Children Free



Focus On BEN NEVIS ESTATE



HIS
Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd.
"...you're in the right place!"
Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd, Unit 2,
Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William
Tel. 01397 705159

- Powertools & Small Plant
- Civil Engineering
- Fencing
- Horticulture & Gardening
- Heaters & Stoves
- Clothing & Footwear
- Agricultural
- Scaffolding & Ladders
- Equestrian
- General Handtools
- Field sports & Shooting
- Ironmongery
- Kitchenware
- Storage

www.histd.co.uk

Express WINDSCREEN Services
Phone us direct! No need to call your own insurance company - we contact them for you! (And we'll deal with all the paperwork on your behalf!!)

Admiral INSURANCE RECOMMENDED

Expert Windscreen repairers - direct billing to most major insurance companies
Oban - 01631 565565 Fort William - 01397 701558
Unit 7 Glenshellach Business Park, Glengallan Road Oban
5A Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William
www.expresswindcreenservices.co.uk

DUNCAN GILLIES DÉCOR LTD. & LOCHABER DÉCOR CENTRE

Tel: 01397 704944 / 705399 Fax: 01397 706050
Email: duncan_gilliesdecor_6@msn.com

Unit 13-14 BenNevis Ind. Estate, Claggan, Fort William PH33 6PR

Everything you need under one roof!

FARMSTEAD FAYRE
Quality Scottish Baking & Catering

TANYA M WARNER
Unit 15
Ben Nevis Ind. Est.
Fort William, PH33 6PR
01397 708747
07881437310
farmsteadfayre@gmail.com

BEN NEVIS Industrial Estate in Fort William offers something for everyone - accessibility, convenience, affordability and quality of service.

Ideally positioned just off the A82 and in the heart of the town, the busy, bustling estate offers a wide range of outlets, from car garages to plumbers, from carpet fitters to picture framing.

Well laid out with excellent signage, the estate attracts business from Inverness to Oban, its range of companies ensuring you can pop in for everything, with customers being attracted from all over the West Highlands and beyond.

Over 50 local firms operate from the business park, and with easy access and ample parking it presents the

people of Lochaber with a first class shopping experience. Not only that, the estate boasts businesses with skilled and professional staff ready to come to you - to renovate your home, keep it safe from fire or fit your new doors and windows.

In contrast to the economic recession currently affecting much of the country, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate is flourishing and growing, with Knox Flooring's recent expansion into curtain ordering one example of the kind of commerce providing Lochaber's business sector with a vote of confidence.

Among the extensive variety of goods and services available in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate are: painter and decorator Duncan Gillies, a range of fridges and washing machines at Lochaber White Goods; Highland Industrial Supplies' wide range of clothing, footwear and waterproofs alongside ironmongery and power tools and Hegarty's car body repairs.

You will also find fresh home baking from Farmstead Fayre, the long established GCF Joinery, picture and photograph framing at Framing Place, A&I Fire Services, glaziers Express Windows and West Highland Gas Ltd.

'The Framing Place'
Fort William
01397 705517

Happy Mothers Day
Baby's 1st Birthday
Stencils

LASER Cut
Acrylic & Wood Craft Shapes

Introducing the new state of the art
curtain express
ORDERING SYSTEM

CURTAINS:

- Pick your fabric
- Width and Drop
- Lining and Header
- Complete the look
- Order

KNOX FLOORING & HOME ESSENTIALS
Unit 36b Ben Nevis Estate, Fort William
Tel: 01397 706283

ARGYLL & HIGHLAND FIRE SERVICES
Helping you with your Fire Safety needs

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS
FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**

CONTACT
IAN: 07919991389
STAN: 07825597323
Don't worry about the cost of the call, as we'll call you right back!
Unit 6, Ben Nevis Ind Est, Fort William

G|C|F

JOINERS & CONTRACTORS

Specialists in G.R.P Roofing System Covered by Full 25 Year Guarantee
EXPERTS IN ALL TYPES OF CARPENTRY & JOINERY WORK
DOMESTIC, INDUSTRIAL & CONTRACT WORK UNDERTAKEN
New houses, Extensions, Renovation works, Damp proofing, Woodworm treatment

Tel: **01397 703547**
Unit 18A, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, Inverness-shire PH33 6PR

Lochaber
White Goods
Ltd

For all your household appliance needs

20a Ben Nevis Industrial Estate,
Fort William PH33 6PR
Tel: 01397 700344 Email:
lochabergoods@btconnect.com

HEGARTY'S
ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE
Keeping your wheels in the race!

'GOLD SELECT' APPROVED ACCIDENT REPAIRERS

Panel Beating & Spray Painting
Vehicle & Light Commercial Repairs
Courtesy Cars Available
Call for your estimate today
01397 705566

West Highland Gas
Fuel to your door!

As well as...Calor Gas, LPG Cookers, Portable Heaters and Welding Equipment...

We now deliver Coal, Logs, Wood Briquettes, Wood Pellets and Horse Bedding Pellets.

Also available: De-icing salt, peat and kindling.

STOCKISTS OF
VERDO
QUALITY WOOD PELLETS & BRIQUETTES

ORDER NOW - CALL
01397 701414
33 Ben Nevis Ind Est, PH33 6PR
Part of the Argyll Resources Group
www.argyllresources.co.uk

Argyll Resources Group

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

Heavy horses to line-up at Lorn ploughing match

THREE pairs of heavy horses will be amongst the competitors for the annual Lorn Ploughing Competition to be held this year at Shenavallie Farm, Benderloch, by kind permission of Mr Duncan Buchanan.

The popular event, which will take place on Saturday, March 24 has already attracted 32 entries who will compete for a wide variety of awards and trophies.

The fun day will also act as a fundraiser for the local heart charity Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) and ample parking and refreshments will be available.

Heifers sell to 291.5p per kilo at Dingwall store sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 592 store cattle and 39 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when all classes continued to sell at extreme rates.

Bullocks averaged 238.9p and sold to 285.7p per kg for a pair of 378kg Limousin crosses from Kennachy, Thurso, and £1,390 twice for a pair of 680kg Limousin crosses from Briach Mills Farm, Kiltarity, and a 680kg Charolais cross from Docharty Farm, Dingwall.

Heifers averaged 223.3p and sold to 291.5p per kg for a pair of 397kg Simmental crosses from Guisachan Farm, Tomich, and £1,160 on four occasions for a 485kg Saler cross, and a pen of 480kg Saler crosses from Fornighty Farm, Nairn, a pair of 398kg Simmental crosses from Guisachan Farm, and a pen of 552kg Simmental crosses from Glenaldie, Tain.

Young bulls averaged 220.2p and sold to 229.4p per kg and £585 gross for a 255kg Limousin from Foxhole, Kiltarity.

OTM feeding cows averaged 147.9p and sold to 185.8p per kg and £1,310 for a 705kg British Blue from 199 Lednabirichen, Dornoch. OTM heifers sold to 165.4p per kg and £885 for a Simmental cross from Ach-scrabster, Thurso. OTM bulls sold to 137.1p per kg and £1,275 for an Aberdeen Angus from Crask Farm, Culbokie.

IACS deadline fast approaching

THE TIME is fast approaching for farmers to complete their IACS claim forms and lodge them with the Scottish Government.

While the news at the moment is about rich bankers who claim subsidies but do no farming in return, for working crofters and farmers the deadline to claim their essential payments is May 15.

Many struggle at this time of year and penalties for mistakes made with the detailed and complex forms can be severe.

Faced with the danger of reduced income many turn to consultants for help. "The surgeries we hold at this time of year can be pretty intense," said Oban based SAC consultant Niall Campbell.

"Last year, between us, we handled 570 applications and it was important we get each one right. There are strict rules about what can be claimed and what conditions apply.

"Inspectors and even EU auditors make spot checks and farmers can have their single

farm payments docked if they are found to be making false declarations.

Niall added: "Living this far from the market and in the climate we have, the support payments make the difference between a viable unit and one making a loss."

SAC Consultants will be holding surgeries in various part of the region. Farmers and Crofters are urged to contact their local FRBS office for details. Oban on 01631 563093 or Campbeltown 01586 552502.

Ardbeg Limousins sell to 301p per kilo in Islay

UNITED Auctions held their annual March sale of 791 cattle at Islay Auction Mart last Saturday.

The 497 bullocks sold to average at £884.93 per head and 236.11 pence per kilo and to a top of £1,255 per head for Charolais crosses from Eorabbus and 301pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Ardbeg.

The 294 heifers sold to average £749.04 per head or 223.32 pence per kilo and to a top of £1,155 for Limousin crosses from Eorabbus and 273 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Ardbeg.

An excellent show of quality cattle sold at keen rates and to a good following of mainland buyers.

Breeding cattle from Starchmill sold to £1,350 for in-calf cows.

Oban sale meets rising trade for cattle

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 106 store cattle, 21 30 Month cattle, four breeding cows, plus 819 hogs and feeding ewes at Oban Livestock Centre last Tuesday.

Bullocks averaged 242p and sold to 296p per kg for two 250kg Limousins from Turnault, Ardfern and to £850 twice for a 395kg Simmental from Achnacone, Appin and a Limousin cross from Lurginish, Appin.

Heifers averaged 226p per kg and sold to 263p per kg for four 270kg Limousins from Upper Largie, Kilmartin and to £710 for another Limousin from Upper Largie.

Over 30 Month cattle averaged 126.8p per kilo and sold to 169p per kilo for a 450kg Limousin from Knockvoulagan, Mull and to £1,010 for a 660kg Limousin from Tyree, Benderloch.

Breeding cattle averaged £1086.67 and sold to £1,480 for a Simmental cow with bull calf at foot from Invernahyle, Appin.

Blackface hogs from 20 Glencruttien Road sold to £75 and to £72 Glenshellach, with Mules from Glenshellach and Chevits from Lagganulla selling at £70.

Feeding ewes averaged £54.21 and sold to £98 for a Texel from Inion, North Connel and to £86 for Texels from Dunach.

Kintyre Limousins tops Stirling sale

UNITED Auctions sold 2,610 store cattle at their March show and sale, 128 cast cows and 364 store and breeding sheep at Stirling last Thursday when bullocks sold to 311.5p per kilo for a Limousin cross from Kintyre.

Bullocks averaged 234.36p (+17.10p) and sold to 311.5p per kg for a 366kg Limousin cross from Rodney Lines, Killochrae and £1,370 for a 627kg Limousin cross from Carmichael Est.

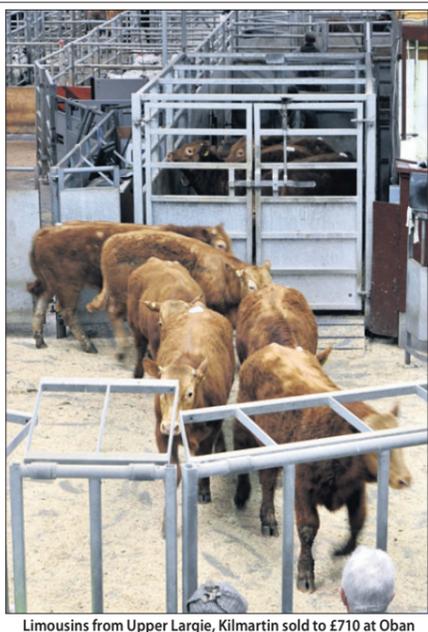
Heifers averaged 222.15p (+9.97p) and sold to 322.6p per kg and £1,800 for a 558kg British Blue cross from Midfield.

Cast cows averaged 146.54p and sold to 205.5p for a Limousin cross from Drumalbin and £1,615 for a Charolais from Mid Cambushinnie.

Mule grit ewes from Whitfield, scanned as carrying twins, sold to £150, three times.

Texel cross hogs from Balminnoch sold to £78.50 and to £75.50 Ballochgar, while Garvaigh sold Suffolk crosses to £74 and Mules to £66.

Blackface hogs from Hillhead fetched £56.



Limousins from Upper Largie, Kilmartin sold to £710 at Oban

SFP could be boosted by rural development cash

FARMERS in the Highlands and Islands could receive an unexpected bumper boost to their payments next year.

The Single Farm Payments (SFP) scheme will be increased by £25 million in 2013 after the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) is cut by the same amount.

George Lyon, MEP for Scotland, who revealed the change in payments said: "The Commission's

plans for a transition year until the new Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) comes into force in 2014 contains no powers for the Scottish Government to use voluntary modulation to top up their rural development programme for next year.

"The Commission has not made any changes to their plans so far as it is only the four administrations in the UK that use them."

The move comes as the current European Union CAP financing ends in December 2012 and new legislation allowing the CAP to continue for an extra year does not allow the Scottish Government to transfer money from direct payments into rural development funding.

This means unless the Commission's proposals are amended on the regulation of the application of direct payments for the year 2013, the SRDP will be cut and instead

Scottish farmers will enjoy a huge boost to their SFP.

Mr Lyon added: "I have heard nothing from the Scottish Government about whether they want these powers or not. I hope it has not escaped their attention that they are about to lose them."

"It would certainly be very unusual for the Cabinet Secretary to want to give up powers that he

West Coast property service
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

TO LET

FLAT FOR RENT - GLASGOW
Spacious, light 2 bedroom fully furnished 2nd floor flat, 2/7, 31 Quarrybrae Street, G31 5AS. Attractive sandstone building in a vibrant area. First class local amenities and frequent commuter links to City Centre. Video entry system. Secure, gated parking. Gas central heating, double glazing. 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Large lounge with dining area. Modern fitted kitchen. White 3 piece bathroom suite with electric shower. £475 pcm, excluding council tax and bills. No smoking, no pets. Deposit and references required.
For further details contact Dianne Harte 0141 548 1858

DOUBLE ROOM/FLAT SHARE, OBAN TOWN CENTRE
All facilities including internet, £250 dep, £360 pcm, references required, sorry no DSS/no pets.
Telephone 07546 086270.

AUCTION

250 residential properties vacant and let
to include (unless previously sold or withdrawn)

VACANT
77 Sound of Kintyre, Machrihanish, Campbeltown
Lot 192: Heritable 3 bed terrace house. To view: Kintyre Property Company: 0158 655 2345. Ref EM
Thursday 29th March 2012
The Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1J 7BX
Lots for sale on behalf of receivers, mortgages and others unless previously sold or withdrawn
Online catalogue available
www.allstop.co.uk
Catalogue request: 0906 515 1510
Calls charged at £1.50 per min.

allstop

TO LET MID ARGYLL
Traditional but newly appointed one-bedroom cottage in courtyard setting on private estate, unfurnished, no pets, no DSS, rent £350 monthly, deposit £350. Apply to Box No 78 The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

HOUSE FOR RENT
4 bedroom detached house in country location 5 miles south of Oban. Available for long term let. References required, no DSS, rent £675 pcm + council tax etc.
Contact 07795972665.

COMMERCIAL

Retail unit to let adjacent to Hazelbank Motors, Lynn Road, Oban.
Telephone 07795972665

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

FOR LEASE
SNACK BAR SITE
GANAVAN SANDS CAR PARK, GANAVAN, OBAN
Offers are invited for the lease of a mobile snack bar site at Ganavan Sands Car Park, Ganavan, Oban, over the summer 2012 period. Offer over £125 per week are invited for the site. Closing date for offers is Friday 30th March 2012. For further details: Estates Office, Blairnadar, Helensburgh, G84 8ND. Tel: 01436-658957

WANTED
Want to let your holiday property? We'll give you more bookings, less hassle
Achieve as many as 47 bookings a year
FREE property inspection & letting consultation
EXPERT photos & advertising
Call today for your FREE owners pack
0800 915 4750
www.SykesOwners.co.uk
SYKES cottages

APARTMENT IN CONNELL VILLAGE
2 large bedrooms
1 ensuite
Separate dining room, lounge and fully fitted kitchen.
Fully furnished
£695 plus council tax and bills.
Contact 07776 257321

TO LET
2 Industrial Units/ Workshop/ Sales Counter
1. Gallan Industrial Estate, Oban - 574 sq ft
2. Unit at McLeod Buildings, Oban - 1610 sq ft
AVAILABLE NOW
Call West Lettings: 01631 569 466 westlettings.co.uk

THE KEY TO SELLING YOUR HOME TODAY

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

0800 081 8989

ADRIAN FLUX

HOPKINS UNIQUE QUICK FIT CATTLE GRID
British Patent No 2155526

- installed within hours - not days
- set in ground on hardcore bases then drive over
- no blackwork pit required
- exceedingly cost-effective
- load-tested to 50 tonnes
- maintenance-free
- complete with hedgehog ramp
- galvanised or painted - your choice
- available from 9ft wide in-cementing by 1ft to a maximum of 2ft wide as required - jump - width 8ft 6ins, Deer Grids also Available, Ring for a Quotation

HOPKINS GRID SALES
(Contact Jane) Roxburgh Mill, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 8NF
Tel/Fax: (01573) 450655 e-mail: hopkinsgrids@googlemail.com

Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions
Wednesday 28th March from 10.30am
Errol Airfield, Perth PH2 7TB

FURTHER ENTRIES INVITED
until 23/3/12 at 12 Noon.
*All items must be onsite by 12 Noon.

ALL TYPES OF PLANT, MACHINERY, VEHICLES AND AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT WELCOME.

Don't miss this month - large selection of plant and tools direct from Plant and Tool Hire business. Usual lots direct from Councils, PLCs, Contractors and private individuals also included. See website for more info. Updates made daily.

Tel 01821 642940. www.morrisleslie.com

COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES

TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

C. Hodge Fencing

Warning - lambing may seriously damage your health.
Be Prepared - Patch your fences now.
Telephone: 01631 563271

SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Market reports

ISLAY United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £975(3)
Craigfad £970(6) and £955(12)
Aoradh £945 Brybruch and Craignags(9) £925 Octofad and Scarrabus (2) £915(6) and £910(6)
Craignags £905 Aoradh £875 Ardfarnal £855 Aoradh(4) and Sunderland
British Blue X: £1045(3) Ardbeg £895 Eorabbus.
Charolais X: £1255 and £1245 Aoradh £1175(4) and £1155(3)
Craigfad £1145(13) Eorabbus £1095 Aoradh £1075(2) Craigfad £1070(5) and £1055 Aoradh £1035(3) Eorabbus £1015 Aoradh(7) and Ballinabry (2) £995(8)
Brybruch £985(7) Craignags £975 Aoradh(4) and Eorabbus(5) £950 Eorabbus £945(4) Aoradh £935(4) Craignags £915(5)
Aoradh £905 Tallant £850(4)
Ballinabry.
Limousin X: £1255 Eorabbus and Lossit £1235 and £1195 Lossit £1185(2) and £1175(2) Octofad £1145 Ardbeg(2), Kilchiaran and Lossit (4) £1135 and £1125 Eorabbus £1085(8) and £1075(5) Ardbeg £1075(3) Blackrock £1045(6) Octofad £1035 Eorabbus £1025 Brybruch £1015(2) Ardbeg £995 Brybruch £990 and £985(4) Tallant £985 Kilchiaran and Sunderland(3) £975 Ardbeg(2) and Sunderland £965 Kilchiaran £960 Ardbeg £955 Eorabbus(4) and Lossit £950(4) Eorabbus £940(9) Sunderland £935 Blackrock £925(5) and £905(5) Octofad £905 Aoradh(3) and Ardbeg(4) £895 Eorabbus(3) and Blackrock(2) £875 Aoradh(2) and Tallant(6) £860(5) Blackrock £855(2) Aoradh.
Luing X: £885(3) Duich.
Simmental X: £905(2) Ballinabry.
Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: £835 Brybruch
Charolais X: £1055(3) Craigfad

Breeding cattle
In-calf heifers - £1320, £1300 and £1280 Starchmill.
In-calf cows - £1350, £1210, £1100(2), £1080(2) and £1040 Starchmill.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: 271p(2) and 266p Calumkill 255p(2)
Scarrabus 251p(12) and 250p(9) Aoradh.
British Blue X: 279p(3) Ardbeg Charolais X: 274p Aoradh 266p(2) Calumkill 265p(5), 264p(7) and 261p(5) Aoradh 254p(4) Carrabus 253p(4) and 252p(5) and 250p(4) Aoradh 250p(8) Brybruch.
Limousin X: 301p(8), 289p(4) and 288p(2) Ardbeg 285p(2) Starchmill 284p(5) Ardbeg 282p(2) Duich 281p(6) Knockclearach 280p(5) Ardbeg 279p(5), 274p(3) and 273p Blackrock 269p Grulibeg(2) and Lossit(4) 267p(2) Ardbeg 264p Knockclearach(4) and Smaladh(2) 262p(4) Tallant 261p(2) and 260p(2) Ardbeg 258p(3) Knockclearach 256p Lossit 254p(6) and 252p(7) Tallant 250p(2) Brybruch.
Simmental X: 266p(5) and 245p(2) Calumkill.
Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: 231p(4) Octofad British Blue X: 248p Knockclearach.
Charolais X: 246p(2) Tallant 244p and 240p(4) Aoradh.
Limousin X: 273p(2) Ardbeg 270p Brybruch 267p(6) Starchmill 263p(9) Ardbeg 262p(6) Knockclearach 261p Aoradh 255p Starchmill(2) and Blackrock(6) 253p(5) Blackrock 250p(4) and 248p(4) Knockclearach 246p Grulibeg 245p(14) Octofad 241p Ardbeg(8) and Grulibeg(2).
Simmental X: 241p(4) Calumkill.

OBAN Caledonian Marts

Bullocks: £850 Lurginish and Achnacone; £800 Upper Largie; £790 Strongorm; £750 Stroneskar and Turnault; £740 Ardnacloch and Achnacone; £620 Seor; £560 Knockvoulagan.
Heifers: £660 Lurginish; £650 Turnault; £645 Homestead; £590 Strongorm; £570 Upper Largie; £565 Homestead.
OTM cattle: £790 Strongorm; £760 Knockvoulagan; £720 Glencruttien Est; £670 Dunach.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks: £75p Upper Largie; 270p Seor; 269p Ardnacloch; 265p Achnacone; 263p Strongorm, Stroneskar & Turnault.
Heifers: 260p Upper Largie; 246p Strongorm; 244p Seor; 242p Turnault.
OTM: 152p Tyree; 139p Strongorm; 133p Strongorm; 132p Ardfnaga; 127p Dunach.
Sheep
Hoggs:
Blackface: £75 20 Glencruttien; £72 Glenshellach, Cheviot; £70 Lagganulla; £70 Glenshellach.
Mule: £70 Glenshellach.
Texel: £68 Acharn.
Continental: £65 Barguilean.
Feeding ewes
Texel: £98 Inion; £86 Dunach; Cheviot: £82 Strongorm.
Cross: £78 Plochaig and Glenshellach.
Mule: £73 Ardachy.
Blackface: £68 Lagganulla.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 200kg - Easter Urry, Muir of Ord, £420, 62 Strath East, Thurso, 232.6p; 201-250kg - 128 Totiegan, Strath Point, £665, 257.5p; 251-300kg - Kennachy, £800, 274p; 301-350kg - Kennachy, £920, 265.1p; 351-400kg - Kennachy, £1,080, 282.9p; 401-450kg - Druid Temple Farm, Inverness, £1,180, 273.2p; 451-500kg - Druid Temple Farm, £1,190, Pitman Farm, Kingussie, £299.4p; 501-550kg - Druid Temple Farm, £1,200, 220.2p; 551-600kg - Invertonnie, Kingussie, £1,310, 220.2p; Over 600kg - Docharty Farm, £1,360, 204.4p; Heifers - 201-250kg - Achany Farm, Lairg, £590, 256.5p; 251-300kg - 1 Eyre, Snizort, £750, 238.6p; 301-350kg - Kennachy, £910, 269.2p; 351-400kg - Kennachy, £1,080, 273.4p; 401-450kg - Fornighty Farm, £1,130, 288p; 451-500kg - Easter Strath of Auchterlow, Killen, £1,120, Fornighty Farm, 242.4p; 501-550kg - Newlands of Clans, Gollanfield, and Kinchyle Farm, Seaport, £1,140, The Cloy, Fortrose, 217.3p; 551-600kg - Raitcastle Farm, Nairn, £1,140, Glenaldie, 210.1p; OTM cows: Calrossie Mains, Niagg Station, (Lim X), £1,250, (Rom X), £1,130; Mains of Croy, Croy, (Sim X), £1,050; OTM cows: Calrossie Mains, (Lim X), 163.4p; Slartadale, Lochmuree, (BBX), 162.4p; Balmacann, Drumadrochit, (Sim X), 155.3p.

GRAZING REQUIRED FOR CATTLE,
June onwards either Heifers or Cows.
Black & White Bull Calves required
Tel: 07902655249

Oban Times FARMING
Oban Times

MCLAREN TRACTORS
THE AFFORDABLE MACHINERY DEALER

NEW

Valtra A93H 101hp 4wd power-shuttle with loader.....£POA
Zetor Proxima 100 4wd tractor with front linkage.....£27,632 + VAT
Zetor Proxima 100 4wd tractor with weights.....£26,499 + VAT
Zetor 68hp 4wd tractor with loader & fork.....£26,799 + VAT
Kioti DK551 55hp 4wd c/w loader.....£22,189 + VAT
Kioti 30hp 4wd tractor with loader & backhoe.....£18,975 + VAT
Polaris Sportsman 550XP 4x4 ATV.....£5,799 + VAT
Polaris Ranger 400 2 seat 4x4 ATV from.....£6,699 + VAT
Polaris Ranger Diesel, 3 seats and full cab with heater.....£13,998 + VAT

USED

John Deere 6510 Premium 115hp 4wd 4300hrs 1999 model.....£20,495 + VAT
Zetor 6340 75hp 4wd 5200hrs c/w loader 1994 model.....£9,998 + VAT
Lamborghini 115 36x36 synchro shuttle 1992 model.....£9,995 + VAT
Foster D750 silage feeder wagon, reconditioned.....£3,995 + VAT

Please check out our website for used machinery offers:
www.mclaretractors.co.uk
Strathpeffer Road, Dingwall, IV15 9QF
Tel: 01349 867521 • Fax: 01349 866738 • Parts 01349 867210 • Sales Mob: 07775 584565
Email: sales@mclaretractors.co.uk

VOLVO 940 CELEBRATION ESTATE 1998

7 seats, Dark Blue, Mot Dec 2012, 149000 miles, new front brakes, Very good, clean, reliable car.

Telephone: 07500 716262

£575

Vauxhall Corsa SXI



3 door, black, 2002, MOT May 2012, taxed June 2012, 70,000 miles, excellent condition.

Telephone: 07770 892793 (after 5pm)

£1900 o.n.o.

PEUGEOT EXPERT



2002, 1.9TD, taxed till June and MOT'd, 108k miles.

Telephone: 01880 740636

£1100+VAT

VW POLO P REG 1996

1390cc, MOT May 31st, Taxed April, runs well, needs TLC.

Telephone: 01546 605381

£400 no offers

AUDI TT 51 PLATE, MORRO BLUE



61,500 miles, Full Audi service history, heated leather seats, climate control, RS4 alloys, Bose sound system, 225hp, Quattro. MOT till December (no advisories), Tax August, No dings or dents, lovely car.

Tel: 01546 600083 or 07796994228

£5750 o.n.o.

Vauxhall Vectra 2007



MOT'd till March 2013, recently serviced, 46,000 miles, immaculate condition.

Tel: 07887 866190

£4400

2007 50CC SUZUKI KATANA SCOOTER



12 months MOT. Telephone: 01631 565857

£750

Volkswagen Polo 1.2



5 dr, very good condition, 56 plate, only 26,000 miles, MOT till Nov 2012, tax till May 2012, just serviced.

Tel: 07799 330046

£3800

TOYOTA COROLLA GS 1600



HATCHBACK 1998 Good Condition for year 74000mils T&T.

Telephone: 07876 128747

£595

VW CADDY VAN



56 reg, 37,500k miles, MOT and taxed till end year, red, roof rack and ply lined, exceptional condition.

Telephone: 01852 316204 or mobile 07909817294

£5250 o.n.o.

WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4

All types of commercial vehicles, all types of plant and machinery.

Telephone Fort William 07789428535.

Vauxhall Astra SXI 1.6 PETROL (57 PLATE)



48,000 miles, taxed till Oct. 2012, M.O.T till Oct. 2012. Very good condition

Tel: 07765815982

£5100 o.n.o.

1999 (T-PLATE) BMW 530D SE TOURING



Metallic dark blue, auto, tax May 2012, MoT July 2012, 92k miles, full grey leather. Clean and straight vehicle.

Telephone: 01631 567085

£2700 o.n.o.

LANDROVER, FREELANDER FREE STYLE 2LTR TD4 07 PLATE



Mot March, Tax end August 42,000 miles, Excellent condition

Tel: 01496 850673

Must sell £7750 o.v.n.o.

ADRIA MOTORHOME 2.7D



54 plate, 4 berth, fixed bed, f/size fridge, freezer, microwave, separate shower cubicle, hot air central heating, new canopy and brand new free standing awning. 18,000 miles.

Tel: 01546 600132

£24,500 o.n.o.

WANTED FOR EXPORT

Landcruisers, Hilux, also 2 w/d Vauxhall Bravos, any 4 x4 considered old or new, running or not, immediate payment on collection.

Telephone: 07703 490572

PHOENIX HONDA



09 09	Honda CB 600 FA-8 White, 6000mils	£4,995
09 09	Honda CBR 600 RR-9 White, 5691mils	£5,995
05 05	Honda GL 1800 A-4 Red, 10000mils	£11,995
04 04	Honda ST 1300 A-4 Silver, 39000mils	£5,495
03 03	Honda XL650V-2 Blue, 7453mils	£2,995
08 57	Honda SH 125-7 Silver, 8000mils	£1,595
08 08	Honda CBR 600 RR-7 Blue, 3500mils	£5,495
09 09	Honda CBF 1000 A-9 White, 6620mils	£4,995
11 60	Honda WW 125 EX2-A Silver, 2400mils	£1,995
03 03	Honda NT 650 V-3 Blue, 18476mils	£2,995
06 56	Honda XL 650 V-6 Blue, 10000mils	£3,495
11 11	Honda VFR 1200 F-A Silver, 800mils	£9,995
10 59	Honda VFR 1200 F-A White, 2700mils	£8,495
11 11	Honda CB 1000 RA-A Red, 200mils	£6,495
11 11	Honda XL 700 VA-B Black, 7500mils	£6,195
03 03	BMW R 1150 RT Blue, 46000mils	£4,295
08 08	Ducati M696 + White, 5000mils	£4,995
10 10	Harley-Davidson XR 1200 Orange, 2140mils	£5,495
06 06	Harley-Davidson XL 1200 Low Sportster White And Black, 3000mils	£5,995
07 57	Moto Guzzi V12 Sport Black, 4000mils	£5,495
09 09	Piaggio XEVO 250 Grey, 7000mils	£2,895
10 60	Suzuki GSXR 1000 L0 White, 2040mils	£7,995
10 10	Suzuki GSF 650 SA K9 Black, 6300mils	£4,395
05 05	Suzuki GSXR 1000 K5 Grey, 5000mils	£4,995
09 09	Suzuki GSF650 SA K8 Black, 13000mils	£3,495
10 60	Triumph Sprint GT 1050 ABS Blue, 4000mils	£7,895
03 03	Yamaha XJ 600 S Diversion Silver, 7000mils	£2,195
05 05	Yamaha XJR 1300 Blue, 9800mils	£4,495
09 09	Yamaha YZF R6 R 07 Blue, 9000mils	£5,995

Phoenix Honda Motorcycles
Glensburgh Rd Grangemouth FK3 8XJ
phoenixmotorcycle.co.uk
01324 888 280

ISUZU 4SPORT PICKUP



2003 (03), 63,000 Miles, MOT June, Aero hardtop, load liner, alloys, good tyres, PAS, A/C, E/W, Immobiliser, towbar, private use.

Tel: 07979925435

£3250

BLACK 2010 PLATE VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4SRi



40,000 miles, excellent condition, full service history

Tel: 07500962665 or 01631 730413 (after 6pm)

£6500 o.n.o.

WANTED

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc or any 4 x 4 pickup, any condition or MOT failure, will travel.

Telephone: 07864035750

TOYOTA AVENSIS VERSO 2004, 5 DOOR



MOT end March 2013 110,000 miles, 7 seats, FSH, One owner, good condition.

Tel: 07837 908479 or 01546 603528

£3150 o.n.o.

SILVER 2006 MERCEDES BENZ C180 KOMP. CLASSIC SE A 1796CC AUTOMATIC



Petrol, first reg. 1/09/06, purchased 30/05/07, mileage 32,600, average annual mileage 5,288, MOT due in June 2012, taxed until 31st October. For health reasons I must part with my pride and joy, in immaculate condition. Service records available.

Tel: 07940 497851 (8am to 8pm).

A realistic offer of £10,000 secures

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.

Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

PEUGEOT PARTNER VAN



WHITE, NEW SEPTEMBER 2010, REMAINDER OF MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY, SERVICE HISTORY RECENT TYRES, REVERSING SENSORS, NOKIA BLUETOOTH CAR KIT, PERFECT CONDITION, 37,000 miles, MUST SELL AS EMIGRATING

Tel: 01397 712659 or 07780 922522

£6300 o.n.o.

WANTED

Motor Homes or Caravanettes, any age or condition. We also buy damaged or damp ones. Instant Cash.

Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

WANTED CARAVAN, CAMPERVAN OR MOTORHOME

Any make, model or condition, instant decision and payment.

Telephone: Billy Stewart on 07783638067

VOLVO S40 1.6 (RED)



2003 03 reg, alloy wheels, grey cloth seats, cruise control, tax and MOT October 2012, mileage 56,000 (genuine miles), excellent condition, fully maintained and very reliable.

Telephone: 01631 710450

£2150 o.n.o.

NISSAN PRIMERA 2.2 DIESEL SALOON



4 DOOR 2002-2003 MOT SEPTEMBER 2012 TAXED MAY 2012, MILEAGE 70,000

Tel: 01770 601279 Mob: 07874 614793

£1875 o.n.o.

WANTED

CARAVANS, CAMPERVANS, MOTORHOMES, ANY YEAR, SIZE OR CONDITION CONSIDERED.

TELEPHONE 07900 882331

SUBARU CAR OF THE WEEK



Subaru Outback 05 (55) £6,500 3litre SE 68,000 miles, Grey

AIRD MOTORS HIGH STREET, BEAULY, HIGHLAND, IV4 7BP TEL: 01463 782266 WWW.AIRDMOTORS.CO.UK

Oban Times MOTING MOTING MOTING Oban Times MOTING MOTING MOTING Oban Times MOTING MOTING MOTING

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

All cars fully serviced and MOT'd by ourselves

2004 Toyota Yaris 1.3ltr 73,000 miles 3dr blue..... £2,975
2003 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8ls 79,000 miles silver £2,490
2004 Ford Fiesta 1.25 ltr 72,400 miles 3dr blue £2,495
2003 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8ls 64,500 miles blue £2,195
2003 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6ltr 76,000 miles 5 dr blue..... £1,995
2001 Vauxhall Astra 1.4ltr 5dr silver £1,750
2000 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 club 5dr 63,000 miles green £1,490
2005 Kawasaki KXF 250 motocross bike..... £1,650

MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

FOR EVERYTHING BMW.

BMW 116i Sport 5-door

£289 **£289**
deposit per month

- 17" light alloy wheels
- Bluetooth hands-free facility
- Start/Stop button with keyless engine start
- Drive Performance Control
- iDrive controller



BMW 116i Sport 5-door - representative example

£289 Customer deposit	£289 Monthly payment x47	£1124^{.58} Dealer deposit contribution	48 Months	£21,305 On the road cash price*	£1413^{.58} Total deposit	£19,891^{.42} Total amount of credit
£10 Option to purchase fee [^]	£9090 Optional final payment	£22,962 Total amount payable by customer	£24,086^{.58} Total amount payable	4.9% Rate of interest (fixed)	4.9% APR Representative	



BMW Z4 sDrive20i M Sport

£329 **£329**
deposit per month

- 18" M Alloys • Kansas leather upholstery
- M aerodynamic bodystyling
- M Sport suspension
- Bluetooth hands-free facility



BMW X1 sDrive18d M Sport

£359 **£359**
deposit per month

- 17" M Double-spoke light alloy wheels
- M aerodynamic pack • Sport seats, front
- M leather multifunction steering wheel
- Exterior trim, High-gloss Shadowline



BMW 318i Sport Plus Coupé

£399 **£399**
deposit per month

- Dakota Leather Interior • Xenon Headlights
- 19" M Sport Alloy Wheels
- Business Navigation System
- Bluetooth hands-free facility

COMPLIMENTARY 5 YEAR/60,000 MILE SERVICE PLAN on any new BMW purchased and delivered between 16/3/12 and 31/3/12

07 57 318i M Sport Touring



- Le Mans blue • Black cloth/alcantara
- 18" Alloy wheels • Rain sensor
- PDC • Cruise control

£11,495

10 10 120i M Sport Coupé



- Black sapphire • Black cloth/sensatec
- 7,415 miles • 18" Alloys • PDC
- Auto air-con • MF controls

£17,495

11 11 X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport



- Carbon black • Nevada leather • 20" Alloys
- Media pack • PDC • Cruise
- Front seat heating • Air-Con

£39,995

Choose from over 120 BMW Approved Used Cars Here's just a small selection...

- 1 Series**
- 11 11 116 Diesel Sport 3dr, Jet black, black cloth, 3,056 miles, 17" alloys, sport seats & steering wheel. Front fogs, air con.....£14,995
 - 06 06 116i SE 5dr, Quartz blue, grey cloth seats, 50,162 miles, 16" alloys, PDC, auto air con, CD, MF steering wheel.....£6,995
 - 10 60 118 Diesel M Sport Coupé, Titanium silver, coral red leather, 7,392 miles, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, comfort package.....£19,995
 - 09 09 120 Diesel M Sport Coupé, Titanium silver, black half leather seats, 17" alloys, PDC, auto air con, MF steering wheel.....£15,995
 - 10 10 120i M Sport Coupé Auto, Black sapphire, black cloth/sensatec, 7,415 miles, 18" alloys, PDC rear, auto air con.....£17,495
- 3 Series**
- 11 61 318 Diesel Exclusive Edition, Space grey, black leather, MOA, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC rear, servotronic steering.....£22,995
 - 09 59 318 Diesel M Sport Auto, Titanium silver, alcantara/cloth, 14,186 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con.....£17,995
 - 08 58 318i M Sport, Black sapphire, black leather, 44,467 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....£14,995
 - 07 57 318i M Sport Touring, Le Mans blue, black cloth/alcantara, 18" alloys, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, PDC.....£11,495
 - 11 61 318i Performance Edition, Titanium silver, black cloth, 10 miles, 18" alloys, sport pack, PDC rear, auto air con.....£19,995
 - 11 61 318i Performance Edition, Black sapphire, black cloth, 10 miles, 18" alloys, sport pack, PDC rear, auto air con.....£19,995
 - 11 61 318i Performance Edition, Bluewater, black cloth, 10 miles, 18" alloys, sport pack, PDC rear, auto air con.....£19,995
 - 10 60 318i SE Touring, Deep sea blue, black cloth, 14,315 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con, MF controls.....£16,995
 - 11 61 320 Diesel SE Convertible Auto, Alpine white, coral red leather, 4,500, 18" alloys, bluetooth, PDC front & rear.....£29,995
 - 08 08 320 Diesel SE Coupé Auto, Crimson red, black cloth, 41,500 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, front foglamps, xenons.....£14,995
 - 07 07 320i M Sport Coupé, Sparkling graphite, cloth/alcantara, 45,777 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....£13,995
 - 07 57 320i SE, Montego blue, black cloth, 46,387 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, cruise, MF controls, auto air con.....£9,995
 - 09 09 320i SE Coupé Auto, Space grey, grey cloth, 23,228 miles, 17" alloys, electric glass sunroof, PDC, xenons, cruise.....£15,995
 - 11 11 325i M Sport Convertible Auto, Titanium silver, coral red leather, 7,000 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth.....£33,995
 - 10 60 330i M Sport Coupé Auto, Mineral white, black leather, 5,302 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth, BMW assist.....£28,995
- 5 Series**
- 08 58 520 Diesel M Sport, Le Mans blue, beige leather, 57,431 miles, 18" alloys, navigation, CD changer, cruise, PDC.....£15,995
 - 11 61 520 Diesel M Sport, Titanium silver, oyster/black leather, MAO, 18" alloys, media package, BMW assist.....£31,995
 - 11 11 520 Diesel SE, Deep sea blue, oyster leather, 9,798 miles, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, USB, electric folding exterior mirrors.....£25,995
 - 11 11 520 Diesel SE, Imperial Blue Xir, oyster leather, 5,107 miles, 18" alloys, media package, heated seats, PDC front & rear.....£26,995
 - 11 11 530 Diesel SE Touring Auto, Space Grey, black leather, 7,921 miles, 19" alloys, media package, dynamic package.....£36,995
 - 11 11 530 Diesel Sport Touring Auto, Titanium silver, black leather, 7,817 miles, 19" alloys, media package, reverse camera.....£37,995
- M3**
- 11 11 M3 Coupé Auto, Interlagos blue, black leather, 8,206 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth, BMW assist, PDC.....£49,995
- X1**
- 11 11 X1 sDrive18 Diesel SE, Titanium Silver, black cloth, 8,647 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto air con, MF controls, CD.....£19,995
- X5**
- 11 11 X5 xDrive 30 Diesel M Sport, Black sapphire, oyster nevada leather, 8,671 miles, 20" alloys, media pack, seat heating front, PDC front & rear, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, electric folding exterior mirrors.....£39,995
 - 11 61 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 20" alloys, media package, BMW assist, loudspeaker system, reverse assist camera, PDC front & rear, electric folding exterior mirrors, panoramic glass sunroof, seat heating front.....£48,995
 - 10 60 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 18,873 miles, 20" alloys, media pack, reverse assist camera with top view, PDC front & rear, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, electric front seats & driver memory.....£42,995
 - 11 11 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Carbon black, oyster leather, 6,697 miles, 20" alloys, media package, loudspeaker system, seat heating front, third row seating, comfort access, comfort seats front, rain sensor.....£45,995
- X6**
- 09 09 X6 xDrive30 Diesel, Vermilion red, beige nevada leather, 19,320 miles, 20" alloys, media package, heated seats.....£31,995
- Z4**
- 11 11 Z4 30i M Sport Roadster Auto, Melbourne red metallic, black leather, 3,769 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, BMW assist.....£32,995

08 58 520 Diesel M Sport Saloon



- Le Mans blue • Beige leather • 18" Alloys
- Navigation • CD changer • PDC
- Cruise • Auto air-con

£15,995

11 11 520 Diesel SE Saloon



- Deep sea blue • Oyster leather • Bluetooth
- 9,798 miles • 17" Alloys
- Front seat heating • USB

£25,995

10 60 X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport



- Alpine white • Black leather • 18,873 miles
- 20" Alloys • Media pack • PDC
- Power boot • Rain sensor

£42,995

Douglas Park

Hillington (Used cars only)
Hillington Road G52 4BL
0141 891 4783 (H)

Glasgow
Kyle Street G4 0HP
0141 333 0088 (G)

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less emissions. More driving pleasure.

www.douglasparkglasgowbmw.co.uk

Douglas Park



The Ultimate Driving Machine

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW range: Extra Urban 26.2-78.5mpg (10.8-3.6l/100km).
Urban 14.6-56.5mpg (19.3-5.0l/100km). Combined 20.3-68.9mpg (13.9-4.1l/100km). CO2 emissions 325-109g/km

Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door, Z4, X1 sDrive, and 3 Series Coupé models ordered between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012, subject to availability. Representative finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the models pictured, a 116i Sport 5-door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile; a Z4 sDrive20i M Sport, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile; a X1 sDrive18d M Sport, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6.0p per mile; and a 318i Sport Plus Coupé, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6.6p per mile. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. BMW Service Inclusive covers servicing costs for 5 years or 60,000 miles (whichever occurs sooner). Covers routine manufacturer servicing only. Service must be undertaken by Douglas Park Ltd Glasgow in accordance with manufacturer's servicing schedule. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.



**Seawater Operations Manager
Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt**

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Seawater Operations Manager for our five seawater farms on Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt.

Our farms in Etive have a combined annual production of 2,000t sea-grown rainbow trout @ 4.5kg. This tonnage is expected to double within the next 2-3 years with the development of existing sites within Etive and the opening of new production in a separate geographic region.

As Operations Manager you will be responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of the five farms. Reporting to and working closely with the Seawater Manager, the successful candidate will ideally already be a Site Manager within the aquaculture industry, or an experienced Assistant Manager that is keen to progress into management, with proven ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice. Essential skills will include the ability to manage and motivate personnel, first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake travel as required.

Depending on experience, we offer a salary package in the range £33k-£39k, along with the opportunity to develop your management career within aquaculture at the forefront of UK trout farming. Assistance with housing may be available.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Thursday 29th March 2012, to:

Lindsay Elder, HR Assistant, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: lindsay.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk

Informal enquires can be made to Sean Lydon, Seawater Manager, Office 01866 822549, E-mail sean.lydon@dawnfresh.co.uk

Dispensary Assistant / Pharmacy Technician

Connel Pharmacy

Full time, permanent, 37.5 hours per week Mon-Fri. £ negotiable depending on experience.

General pharmacy duties including dispensing medication, stock management and dealing with customer enquiries. Excellent customer service skills required and previous experience in community pharmacy preferable. Minimum 5 Standard Grades at level 1-4 or equivalent.

Call 01631 710905 or email neil.robinson2@nhs.net to request an application pack.

Closing date 5pm, 30 March 2012, interviews will be held w/c 9 April 2012.

Craobh Marina

Has a full time vacancy for an Administration Assistant.

The duties include

- Reception - dealing with vessels owners, handling telephone and email enquiries, receiving and recording payments
- Chandlery - assisting clients with purchases
- Administration - control of cash & banking
- Maintenance of ledgers & credit control

Applications with suitable clerical experience would be preferred however this is not essential as full training will be available.

Also full time vacancy for a Boatyard Marina Assistant

Knowledge of boats preferred.

Training available to suitable applicant

Please forward your C.V to:
Jim Berry, Craobh Marina, Carobh Haven Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UA



Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

MONEY ADVICE / OUTREACH WORKER

Salary: AP3 £20520 - £22515 pro rata + 6% pension
Hours: 30 per week
Based: Lochgilphead

You will have the skills & experience to provide in-depth money advice and support to volunteers. Driving licence essential

MONEY ADVISER

To deliver the face to face element of the Money Advice Service in Argyll & Bute

Salary: AP3 £20520 - £22515 pro rata + 6% pension
Hours: 8 per week
Driving licence essential

Further info and application packs:
Tel. 08456 123808
Email info@abcab.casonline.org.uk

Closing date: 4th April 2012
Scottish Charity No: SC030477




Required for our busy Museum Café

Cook / Manager

Experienced individuals should email jobs@kilmartin.org for more details

Remuneration negotiable according to experience



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Primary Teacher (Gaelic)

Tollcross Primary School, EH3

Salary: £21,438 - £34,200, Hours: 35 per week, Ref: EDN003333

Closing Date: 30 March 2012

To find out more and apply go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs

YOUR COUNCIL - YOUR FUTURE

COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.
In association with myjobscotland

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs



campbeltown courier

Advertising Sales Executive

HAVE YOU...

- a lively, outgoing personality?
- enthusiasm and eagerness to succeed?
- a good, organised work ethic?
- confident communication skills?
- commitment to customer satisfaction?

If so - **you** are the person we are seeking to join our sales team in Oban and Campbeltown as an Advertising Sales Executive. Working across various publications and products you will receive ongoing in-house training as required.

A full driving licence is essential as there will be the opportunity to travel within our circulation areas using a company pool car.

We offer:

- an excellent salary with the opportunity to earn bonus
- generous holiday entitlement
- company pension scheme
- life assurance and private medical insurance

Please apply by email with C.V. and covering letter to: ali@obantimes.co.uk




The Scottish Salmon Company

Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for a Marine Operative for our Marine Site on the Isle of Gigha located within our South Production Region in Argyll:

MARINE OPERATIVE
(1 POST) (REF: SRGHA/MO)

(SALARY £16,284 TO £19,961 PER ANNUM DEPENDANT ON EXPERIENCE)

The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic, self-motivated, have good communication skills and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within a small, focused team. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

Working hours are normally 40 hours per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis; overtime is paid at an enhanced rate.

In return, the company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for this position.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Suzanne Mawer, HR Assistant Tel. No. 01499 600 435
Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 23 March, 2012
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

SKYLINE WINCH CREW WANTED

Winch operator, chokerman and feller wanted

Experience preferred, own transport essential

good rates of pay

Phone Ross 07771 761136



WIND TOWERS LTD

In line with production plans, we are looking to recruit personnel for the following departments:

- Tower Production
- Surface Treatment
- Internal Fitting

Key skills required;

- Good work ethic
- Adaptability
- Self-motivated
- Flexibility for shift work

Please send CV and covering letter to:
Head of Production, Wind Towers Ltd
PO Box 9263, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6WA
Or email to: wtl.info@marshcompanies.com

Waiting/kitchen staff required for restaurant in Benderloch, various hours available, call 07887946414

The Hawthorn Restaurant

VAN DRIVER REQUIRED

Working out of Lochgilphead area, Night work

Tel 01546 605273

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

2012 Calendars

1/2 PRICE SALE!



Loch Duart Ltd
The Sustainable Salmon Company

Loch Duart Ltd has built a reputation based on welfare and environmentally orientated production of high quality salmon.

We are currently advertising for a **Fish Biologist** for our sites in the Hebridean Isles of North and South Uist, Scotland. The position is full time and covers our fish, in sites both at sea and in freshwater. The role may also include having responsibility for the management of our various environmental and quality standards. The successful candidate must have a degree in a Marine Science or other relevant discipline or at least 1 years experience working in aquaculture. They will be a dynamic, motivated, practical individual with a strong interest in aquaculture and food production, with the ability to work independently and in harmony with existing farm staff.

The closing date for applications is 2nd April 2012

If you are interested in this very exciting and challenging position, please send your CV and application to:
Alan.Anderson@lochduart.com
01870 602303



The Oban Times - £5.40

£2.70*



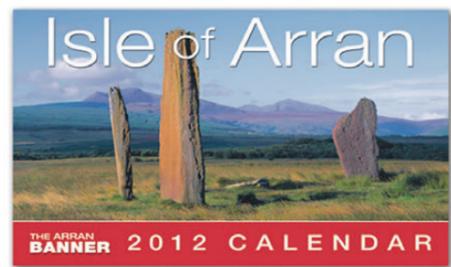
Scottish Field Mini - £5.40

£2.70*



Scottish Field - £7.85

£3.92*



Isle of Arran - £5.40

£2.70*



ACHA
Argyll community housing association

Senior Building Surveyor/Architect
Lochgilphead, Argyll

£29,554 - £33,610 per annum
35 hours per week

Senior Quantity Surveyor
Lochgilphead, Argyll

£29,554 - £33,610 per annum
35 hours per week

Closing Date:
12 noon on Friday 30th March 2012

Interviews for these posts will be held in early April 2012

To apply:
Visit our website at www.acha.co.uk ;
Tel 01546 605859;
Email recruitment@acha.co.uk

“ The Oban Times is purchased by 84% of all households in Oban making it the 7th largest selling weekly, paid for, newspaper in Scotland.

Our Lochaber Edition outsells any other newspaper in rural Lochaber with a circulation of 14,745 giving a readership each week of 112,896 ”



Tel: 01631 568000
email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
www.obantimes.co.uk

ORDER TODAY!

By phone: 01631 568000 Online: www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

or from our office at The Oban Times,
Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll

*All prices exclude worldwide postage and packaging.

Argyll marine biotechnology firm in deal with top Australian research institute

DUNBEG marine biotechnology firm, Aquapharm, has joined forces with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in a bid to develop innovative and lucrative products from micro-organisms.

Aquapharm's vice-president of commercial activities, Jon Williams, believes the deal will lead to the discovery of active ingredients for use in pharmaceutical, nutritional and personal care products.

from Australia's unique marine territory. 'Aquapharm has signed an agreement with AIMS that grants us exclusive commercial access to a select range of these organisms for testing and development, with the option to conclude an exclusive licence agreement for commercialisation if they are found to be suitable.'

could be used to develop a host of products, from nutritional food and drink to toiletries and advanced medicines. In return, Aquapharm will invest its specialist expertise to culture and screen a range of these microbes. If it finds an extract amongst these which it believes can be used in commercial products, it may negotiate a royalty fee to AIMS in exchange for commercialisation rights.

Jon added: 'The signing of this agreement is recognition not only of Aquapharm's research and development capabilities, but also the immense opportunity presented by Australian marine microbial biodiversity. 'Our ability to commercialise suitable compounds within the right markets is a win-win situation that will allow us to tap into AIMS' superb resources, whilst helping AIMS to further realise the potential of its Bioresources Library.'

Libby Evans-Illidge, manager of AIMS bioresources library, said: 'We welcome the partnership with Aquapharm and look forward to the discovery and development of new and commercially viable products.'

It is the second time in recent months Aquapharm has entered into a collaborative agreement with a like-minded cutting-edge research organisation. The company, which also has a base in Edinburgh, recently announced a partnership with the Centre for Agriculture Bio-science International (CABI). The deal allows both companies to gain access to one other's microbe collections as well as sharing their know-how on the production and cultivation of select extracts.

Land lease deals may allow cycle path completion

Funding boost could see path hit original build deadline

LEASE options are being considered by the charity hoping to fill the gaps in its cycle path between Oban and Fort William by 2014.

Community Planning Group (LACPG), Mr Lauder said: 'The plan was always to finish Fort William-Oban by 2014. It is still my hope we can get there and the terrific news on our funding means we are still able to do that.'

for our funding bid quite a few businesses along the path said they were getting business because of it. 'That positive response is part of the reason we secured our funding.'

Plans for the coming financial year, starting April 1, include connecting Duror Primary School to the path, while Transport Scotland will work on extending the path at North Ballachulish at the Corran Ferry.

Construction costs for the remaining sections of the path will, depending on the location of the sections, be matched by the Scottish Government and the relevant local authority. Long-term maintenance agreements are also in place to ensure the path's standards remain high, Mr Lauder added.

While not all of that money will be spent on the Oban-Fort William path, he is confident it will lead to a network of paths that can be proud of. It is then hoped the larger, Campbeltown-Inverness cycle-path will be completed by 2015. Speaking ahead of this week's presentation to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Local Area

Positive response 'We are not in a position to 'force' the project through though and what we want to do is talk to local landowners on those sections we haven't been able to do and see what we can work out. 'We don't have fixed views on what route those sections yet to be completed will take.'

SusTrans' national director, John Lauder, says all options are being discussed with land-lords as it aims to complete the path by its original deadline, but adds he is confident of doing so after the organisation received a further £24.5million in funding from the Scottish Government.

While not all of that money will be spent on the Oban-Fort William path, he is confident it will lead to a network of paths that can be proud of. It is then hoped the larger, Campbeltown-Inverness cycle-path will be completed by 2015. Speaking ahead of this week's presentation to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Local Area

Positive response 'We are not in a position to 'force' the project through though and what we want to do is talk to local landowners on those sections we haven't been able to do and see what we can work out. 'We don't have fixed views on what route those sections yet to be completed will take.'

While not all of that money will be spent on the Oban-Fort William path, he is confident it will lead to a network of paths that can be proud of. It is then hoped the larger, Campbeltown-Inverness cycle-path will be completed by 2015. Speaking ahead of this week's presentation to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Local Area



Pictured, right, at the cheque presentation is, from left, Minette Struthers, club trustee George Houston, Jan Whitehead, Michael and Juliet Hawke and, front, Barbara Houston.

PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/00167/PPP	Site for erection of dwellinghouse	Land At 19 Reef Crossapol Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6JP	Tiree Area Office
12/00360/PP	Erection of 11kilowatt wind turbine (24.8 metres high to blade tip)	Land North East of Hill House Arduaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
12/00424/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank.	Land East of Fasgadh Port Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/00484/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse including improvement of existing access and installation of sewage treatment tank	Site North of Blarghour Farm Port Boidheach Portsonachan Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1BW	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/00503/PP	Erection of single storey side and rear extension.	Fasgadh Kilmaluig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XB	Tiree Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardaraigh PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
12/00478/PP	Alterations and change of use of byre to form ancillary residential accommodation (amendment to planning permission 10/02089/PP)	Blackbrae 94 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7Y	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
12/00479/LIB	Alterations and change of use of byre to form ancillary residential accommodation (amendment to listed building consent 10/02091/LIB)	Blackbrae 94 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7Y	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

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.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 302083 or on her mobile 07912 949 073. She can also be contacted by email on mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Time period for comments
12/00744/FUL	Mandally Invergarry	Construction of 2 sections of new path and replacement of existing bridge	(14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS OF KINLOCHLEVEN HIGH SCHOOL AND LOCHABER HIGH SCHOOL

Date of Meeting	Time	Venue
Tuesday 27th March 2012	7.00 pm	St Bride's Primary School, Onich

The Highland Council has issued a Consultative Paper in terms of the Education Authority's agreed procedure to meet the requirements of the Schools consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 for a proposal to change the catchment areas of Kinlochleven High School and Lochaber High School.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss with parents of children and members of the community who may in the future be affected by the above.

Copies of the paper may be obtained from Ian Jackson, Education Officer, Highland Council ECS, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NE to whom written observations must be submitted no later than Friday 11 May 2012.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL NOTICE OF ELECTION

Councillors are to be elected for each of the 11 Wards of Argyll and Bute Council. The number of Councillors to be elected for a ward is as follows:-

Name of Ward	Number of Councillors to be elected
1 South Kintyre	3
2 Kintyre and the Islands	3
3 Mid Argyll	3
4 Oban South and the Isles	4
5 Oban North and Lorn	4
6 Cowal	3
7 Dunoon	3
8 Isle of Bute	3
9 Lamond North	3
10 Helensburgh Central	4
11 Helensburgh and Lamond South	3

Nomination forms can be obtained from The Election Office, Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT after the date of this Notice. This office is open for the issue and delivery of nomination papers on weekdays from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Completed nomination papers MUST be delivered to the Election Office at the above address by 4.00pm on Thursday 29 March 2012.

If the election is contested, the poll will take place between the hours of 7.00am and 10.00pm on Thursday, 3 May 2012.

POSTAL OR PROXY VOTING

Applications to cancel or alter existing postal and proxy votes, or to change from postal to proxy voting MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Kilmory House, Bolgam Street, Campbeltown PA28 6TZ by 5.00pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012.

New applications to vote by post MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the above address by 5.00pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012.

New applications to vote by proxy MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the above address by 5.00pm on Wednesday 25 April 2012.

If as the result of a disability an elector becomes incapacitated after 5.00pm on Wednesday 25 April 2012 an application to vote by proxy due to that disability MUST reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the above address by 5.00pm on the day of the poll.

For advice on postal or proxy voting contact the Electoral Registration Office 0800 980 0470.

Sally Loudon, Returning Officer, Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT
 13 March 2012
 Tel: 01546 603264, Fax: 01546 606874, E-mail: elections@argyll-bute.gov.uk
 Web: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections

NOTES

- Nomination Packs : Nomination packs may also be downloaded from www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections. The website gives a list of local offices where nomination papers may be obtained (but not lodged) and other election information.
- Electoral Register : The deadline for applications to be included in the Register of Electors to be used at the election is Wednesday 18 April 2012.
- Issue and Delivery of Postal Ballot Papers : Postal ballot papers will be delivered during the week beginning 22 April 2012. Please consider this when deciding whether to vote in person, by post or by proxy. In the event of any delay in the receipt of a postal ballot paper please note that the earliest date an application can be made for the replacement of a lost postal ballot paper is Friday 27 April 2012.

For advice about registering to vote or applying for a postal or proxy vote contact the Electoral Registration Office on 0800 980 0470. For all other enquiries about the election contact the election office on 01546 603264 or email elections@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Carnoch Common Grazings Committee Meeting

A meeting of the shareholders of Carnoch Common Grazings Committee will be held at 7.30pm, Thursday 22 March 2012 in Glencoe Church Hall for the purpose of selecting a new Grazings Committee.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent/ Purpose, Case number
*Mr & Mrs W MacDonald 22 Anahellit, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart 0.046 ha - Amenity ground 4.86.37572 Mrs J Traynor 28 Anahellit, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart 0.18 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.37597

Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

Planning for Integration

From 1 April 2012, NHS Highland and The Highland Council are bringing staff together into integrated teams to work with children and families and with people who use community care services.

HOW WILL THIS HELP PEOPLE WHO USE SERVICES?
 Integrated teams can make decisions more quickly, allowing a more flexible and therefore responsive service. You will have one person responsible for arranging and coordinating the services you use. The service will adapt to meet changing needs.

FIND OUT MORE
 An update on the development of planning for integration will be given at a public meeting in:

**Ben Nevis Hotel, North Road, Fort William
 20 March, 2012 at 7pm - All Welcome**

The Highland Council
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
 Tel: 01463 706751
 Email: p4i@highlandlife.net
www.highlandlife.net/p4i

69%

of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbelltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

FRITH BRONZE SCULPTURE Benjamin the Dog, 10 inches tall, £350 Telephone 01631 562133.

GLASS SET 1950s American Art Glass cups, saucers, plates and bowls, orange lustre, 23 pieces in total, £249 Telephone 01631 564578.

RONNIE FORD TEXTURESCAPE on wrapped canvas. "Petits Tournevis". 20cm x 20cm, £350 o.n.o. Telephone 01631 562133.

TEASMADE Goblin, 1970s, bedside unit, unused and still in original packaging, excellent Timewarp condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564578.

BABY EQUIPMENT

COSATTO PINE COTBED converts from a cot to a junior bed by removing the sides and lowering the foot board, inc mattress, v good clean condition, £49 Telephone 01546 810262.

MAXI COSI CAR SEAT 5 point, for baby 0-9 months approximately, will also fit to Quinny Speedi buggy frame with adaptors (not included), purple, £49 Telephone 01546 810262.

MOSES BASKET + BABY BOUNCER Chair, Moses basket with stand, good condition plus baby bouncer chair. For collection in Oban, £20 Telephone 07828 434169.

QUINNY DREAMI CARRYCOT black, will fit on quinny speedi buggy with adaptors, excellent condition, buggy and car seat listed separately, £49 Telephone 01546 810262.

QUINNY SPEEDI SX purple all terrain 3 wheeler buggy, 5 point harness, aluminium frame, adj recline/handle height, carrycot & car seat sold separately, £49 Telephone 01546 810262.

STAR GATE Lindham, adjustable, £10 Telephone 01631 710009.

BICYCLES

GENTS MOUNTAIN BIKE Halfords Trax suspension mountain bike red, only used 3 times excellent condition fits medium to large gent. Saddle adjustable, £49.99 Telephone 01866 822734.

BOOKS

FOOTBALL ANNUALS Shoot, Scorchers, Rangers, Scottish Football, News of the World, Brian Clough, Match, £12 for the lot Telephone 07748 378114.

HARDBACK BOOKS approx 40, £15 Telephone 01586 553684.

OLD ANNUALS Beano, Dandy, Beazer, Topper, Sparky, £10 for the lot Telephone 07748 378114.

BUILDING / DIY

CELOTEX RIGID INSULATION BOARD 3 sheets of foil backed insulation. 2.4m x 1.2m x 70mm thickness. New and unused, cheap to clear, £30 Telephone 01852 500365.

INDIRECT HOT WATER CYLINDER 750x450, 95litre capacity with immersion heater. As new, £49.99 Telephone 01880 740635.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

DOUBLE GAS STOVE AND GRILL new hardly used cost £50 has two gas burners and grill ideal for caravan or camping, £30 Telephone 07864 853247.

LEISURE BATTERY

new, 75ah rating ideal for caravan or boat, in wood case with lid, £49.50 Telephone 07864 853247.

CATERING EQUIPMENT

RESTAURANT DINING TABLES 11, solid, very good condition, suitable for small country house or B & B, 4ft x 2ft, £30 each. Oak corner dining unit, seats 6, vg cond, £250 ono. Telephone 07557 399806.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

GEORGE FOREMAN GRILL as new, £10 Telephone 01586 553684.

HENRY CYLINDER VACUUM CLEANER brand new condition - only 6 months old. Has 2 year guarantee, all usual attachments included. Cost £110 originally, £49.99 Telephone 01631 730070.

VACUUM CLEANER Russell Hobbs, power clean 1800, black, easy to use, very light. plus new Hoover bags for free, £25 Telephone 07858 348134.

DOMESTIC PETS

GERMAN SHORT HAIR POINTER PUPS beautiful home reared, 9 weeks old, both parents working KC reg, full pedigree, liver and white, 5 dogs, 2 bitches, £500 Telephone 01387 740575.

EQUESTRIAN

HALF CHAPS Dublin, Size children's medium, purple, brand new, £20 Telephone 01397 700577.

JUNIOR RIDING HELMETS Champion Jockey Plus, Size 1 (54-55cm), Size 2 (56-57cm) both as new, £25 each Telephone 01397 700577.

RIDING ANKLE BOOTS Toggi, black, size 4, used, but in great condition, £18 Telephone 01397 700577.

FURNITURE

2 SINGLE DIVAN BEDS in good clean condition, with/without velour padded headboards. Proceeds will be donated to ARCAS. £15 each or £25 for both, £25 Telephone 700736.

BED SETTEE green bed settee, good condition, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

BEDROOM FURNITURE FOR SALE prices negotiable. Also luxury 4'6" divan bed with two drawers and mattress, immaculate, £200. Three piece suite, pale green patterned, including pouffe, £100. House clearance, other items available, call for details. Telephone 01586 553684.

BOOK SHELVES free-standing three-shelf bookcase, light wood. Good condition, £10 Telephone 07833 164846.

BRASS EFFECT HEADBOARD 4'6", as new, £45 Telephone 01586 553684.

CONSERVATORY FURNITURE two chairs and a sofa, floral print, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01583 431294.

CORNER UNIT Light wood open-shelf corner unit with drawer £15. Also matching low unit £10. Good condition. Telephone 07833 164846.

DINING ROOM TABLE glass top with 6 silver metal framed seats, £45 Telephone 07736 905900.

DINING TABLE big table with 3 chairs. Cheap in very good condition, £200 Telephone 07858348134.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED, £20 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

HEADBOARD dark green velour double headboard. As new (Mathesons), £20 Telephone 01631 562380.

LEATHER COUCH & ARMCHAIR

light tan 3 seater leather couch and matching armchair. Very comfy, three years old, reasonable condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562380.

LOUNGE SUITE comfortable green lounge suite in good order, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

NEW BEECH BOOKCASE/DISPLAY Unit, new with 3 shelves and 2 doors. Unused and unopened, £49.99 Telephone 01631 566896.

RECLINER electric recliner chair, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE DIVAN pine framed, £12 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SMALL KITCHEN FOLDING TABLE and two chairs, £30 Telephone 01586 553684.

SOFA three seater and two seater in red fabric, £45 Telephone 07736 905900.

SOFAS 2 seater and 3 seater sofas red fabric in reasonable condition, £45 Telephone 07736 905900.

STEP-SHELVES wall mounting step-shelves unit, 4 shelves, light wood vgc, £15 Telephone 07833 164846.

TABLE could be used as dressing table or office table, 3 drawers dark burgundy wood, £20 Telephone 07858 348134.

TELEVISION STAND black glass and stainless steel television stand, 3 shelf unit, fits in a corner. Large size purchased from Tesco very heavy, £35 Telephone 01866 822734.

WARDROBES matching pair of white wardrobes, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

WICKER ARMCHAIR light wicker armchair, very attractive, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GARDEN

FLYMO STRIMMER Flymo multi trim Revolution electric trimmer in good working order. Needs new spool/line. Collection from Ardishaig, £10 Telephone 01546 602769.

GARDEN VACUUM leaf vacuum on wheels adjustable with large bag electric nice and light easy to manoeuvre, £30 Telephone 07879 685771.

LAWNMOWER Qualcast Cobra 32 electric lawnmower in good working order. Grassbox and 7 cutting heights. Collection from Ardishaig, £25 Telephone 01546 602769.

ROTOVATOR garden soil lightweight electric rotovator only used twice, £30 Telephone 07879 685771.

GARDEN MACHINERY

QUALCAST ELECTRIC LAWMOWER £40 Telephone 01586 553684.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

AIR PURIFIER Electric Bionaire Hepa filter air purifier/ ioniser. Model BAP541 £15 Telephone 07833164846.

BACK MASSAGER electric (over the chair). Black colour, hardly used, £10 Telephone 07833 164846.

DUAL ACTION AIR CROSS TRAINER has electric console displays time, speed, distance, energy consumptions. Great condition, collection from Tayvallich, £20 Telephone 07789 884779.

GYM BENCH sit up Pro-Power gym bench. Hardly used, £12 Telephone 07833 164846.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

CALOR GAS FIRE portable full-size green calor gas fire. For sale without gas cylinder, £10 Telephone 07833 164846.

OIL FILLED RADIATOR free standing as new, £10 Telephone 01586 553684.

VALOR GAS FIRE Heartbeat OxySafe 2 gas fire, Seattle Doug smooth stone and marble hearth and back plate fire place, worth £1800, £700ono Telephone 07769 738479.

HOME FURNISHINGS

BRAND NEW GALA BERBER BEIGE Carpet hard wearing, never laid, 12 feet x 9 feet, £49.99 Telephone 01880 740635.

DAVID SHEPHERD Nine Elms Engine Shed print, 40" X 20", framed, £25 Telephone 01546 602189.

FREE STANDING LAMP dark wood with cream shade, £30.00 Telephone 01586 553684.

GALA BERBER CARPET brand new, never laid, 11feet x 8feet Gins, hard wearing, £49.99 Telephone 01880 740635.

MATTRESS- MEMORY-FOAM/ Coil/Spring, Heat sensitive and body responsive. Never used and still in original packaging. Can deliver. Cost over £400 must sell, £150 Telephone 07799 367962.

RUG beige and browns, size 160 x 230cm, excellent condition, £30 Telephone 01586 553684.

TABLE LAMP beige, £5 Telephone 01586 553684.

HOME OFFICE

5 GENUINE BLACK HP74A TONER Cartridges Cheapest price on web £22 each, £49 Telephone 01546 605433.

COMPUTER DESK/CABINET dark wood, £30 Telephone 01586 553684.

DESK large modern office desk, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DESK small pine effect desk with drawers, £6 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DESK teal coloured wooden desk, h71cms, d76cms, w132cms. Buyer collects, Taynult area, £45ono Telephone 01866 822071.

JEWELLERY AND WATCHES

ETERNITY RING heavy 9ct gold 9 diamond eternity ring, hallmark, £49.90 Telephone 07864 853247.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BATHROOM SHELVES free standing, chrome/glass, £20 Telephone 01586 553684.

ELECTRIC KETTLE silver, quick water boiling, bought in Argos, £5 Telephone 07858 348134.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

AIR BED PUMP electric pump for inflating airbeds etc, £5 Telephone 07833 164846.

MOBILITY

ELAP ROTATING CAR SEAT replaces passenger seat completely, suit person with poor mobility, fits most cars, cost new £700, can deliver to Fort William or Oban area, £250ono Telephone 01967 421635.

WHEELCHAIR Push type, £6 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BASS GUITAR 1978 Fender USA Precision, finished in sunburst, excellent condition, complete with original hard Fender case, £1,350 Telephone 01866 833332.

BORSINI PIANO ACCORDION 120 Bass, 4 voice, double cassotto, midi bass, one owner from new in 1989, good condition, with case, £2,750 Telephone 01631 563987.

CLASSICAL GUITAR 1980 Admira Solista, as new condition, complete with soft case, £200 Telephone 01866 833332.

ELECTRIC GUITAR electric guitar dark red, in good condition barely used, plus cube £49.99 Telephone 07858 348134.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

BOW SCORPION RECURVE 40lb draw weight, breakdown, right handed, new condition light blue colour with 10 arrows. VGC only selling for new purchase, £45 Telephone 01866 822734.

VANGO 350 4 man Tunnel Tent, £49.99 Telephone 01880 770267.

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.

WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

WANTED Copper, Brass, Lead, Zinc, Stainless Steel, All Alloys. All types of Cable, Household and Armoured. Best prices paid. Telephone 07770 724851 or 0800 959 6483.

XL DOG CAGE wanted - to purchase or hire. Dog cage suitable for a Labrador dog. Telephone 01007 600260.

Wanted - Second Hand Rear wheels to fit MF135, 120 4 x 28in or rims and centre's. Isle of Mull. Telephone 01681 704010.

window blinds

Chris Craft window blinds. ORAN 01852 300174. FORT WILLIAM 01855 831480. FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES. FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND. ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE. FREephone 0800 371250. Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

removals & storage

MACQUEEN BROS LTD. Removals/Storage & Self Storage. Full range of packing materials. Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG. Tel: (01631) 564848. www.macqueenbros.com

cleaning

1ST CHOICE CLEANING SPECIALISTS. Carpets and upholstery cleaning at its best! All work guaranteed. Telephone: 07815 036684 or 01631 720322 01631 720297 Evenings.

funeral directors

D&A MUNN LTD. FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST. 1880. JOINERS AND BUILDERS. BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN. 24 hour Family run business. Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son. TELEPHONE: 01631 562562. WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

PERSONALS

Bunty McPhail wishes to thank family and friends for all the cards, gifts and donations on the occasion of her 90th Birthday. Knock Cottage, Aros, Mull. Lots of Love xxx.

caravans

CARAVANS FOR SALE. ON SITE CARAVANS from £8,950. OFF SITE CARAVANS from £1,095. Loch Awe Holiday Park. 14 miles from Oban. Contact us on 01866 822 666. www.argyllholidays.com

dog grooming

Claws 'n' Paws. Offering Professional Dog Grooming Services in the Oban area. Salon or Mobile • Fully Trained & Insured. Tel: 077 031 27956. Web: www.doggroomingoban.com

plumbing services

We install and maintain plumbing systems. We install and maintain all types of central heating. We maintain all types of boilers. We install underfloor heating systems. J M Gillies Ltd Plumbing & Heating Contractors. Unit 6 Tweedmill Soroba Road Oban, Argyll. Tel: 01631 565636. Fax: 01631 564724. Email: information@jmgillies.co.uk

plumbing services

STEVE K Plumbing. Plumbing, installation and repairs. Bathroom fitting including floor and wall tiling. Distance no object • Tel: 07910 852421

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 Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 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 relevant part 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. Advertis 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 raise 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.

The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES. Private Classifieds: Lineage Rates. Minimum charge £13.85 + VAT (up to 25 words) thereafter £2.70 per line. Box Number Fee £5.50 (+VAT). Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgements: Minimum charge £12.80 (+VAT) thereafter £2.50 per line (+VAT). In Memoriam: Minimum charge £9.45 (+VAT) thereafter £2.00 per line (+VAT). Trade Classifieds: See Trade Classified Page for Rates. Trade Display: £9.63 per single column centimetre. Recruitment: £16.55 per single column centimetre. Public Notices: £10.90 per single column centimetre. Properties: £10.50 per single column centimetre. Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted: £10.50 per single column centimeter (all rates exclusive of VAT). Personals: £7.42 per single column centimetre. Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements less than £50 (excluding death notices). Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. www.obantimes.co.uk

A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK! The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES (one year). U.K. £58.00. Rest of World £100.00. The Oban Times Ltd. P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Scotland, UK. www.obantimes.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT

Have you made up your own "God"? Have we formed our own opinions about who God is; what He is like, what type of lifestyles He approves of and whom He will forgive? Are we making up our own "God"? Have we turned things upside down? "You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay." Isaiah 29:16. Some have turned God into a loving Santa Claus who showers us with good things when we are nice. When we are naughty, however, He isn't quite as generous. Perish the thought that He would ever punish us! He is a loving God. They think that in the end He will forgive everyone...except the Hitlers and the Stalins. Others have made God into a family doctor. He is there when we need Him. Most of the time we can get on quite well without Him. In fact, we rarely even think about Him unless we have a problem. But when misfortune strikes, they want God to hear their call for help and come to their rescue. Still others have formed God into a watchmaker. He created the universe, set it in motion and then they think He sat back to watch it tick away on its own. He is far removed and doesn't get involved in our affairs. So they believe they are free to form their own laws, their own standards of right and wrong, even their own religion. If we really want to know what God is like and what He thinks and expects of us, we must be willing to set aside our opinions and listen to what He has to say about Himself. We must turn to God's Word, the Bible. What does the Bible say about God - the God with whom we have to do? God is Holy and He demands something from us. He wants us to put our faith in

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus 1 Timothy 2:4-6

BIRTHS

CLYDESDALE - Stephen and Eilidh (née MacIntyre), are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Anna Belle, born February 21, 2012 at Raigmore Hospital. First grand-daughter for the late Mrs Isabel Clydesdale and Peter and Geraldine MacIntyre, Ballachulish and welcome niece for Julie MacIntyre.



FERGUSON - DICKINSON

John and Saffron are delighted to announce the arrival of Donald Torin Ferguson, on 23 February, 2012 at the Southern General Hospital. First grandchild for Barbara and Malcolm, Glasgow and Ann and the late Donnie, Kilmore.

MACMILLAN - Ian and Anne are delighted to announce the birth of their fourth grandchild, Una Violet at Dr Grays Hospital, Elgin, on March 9, 2012. A sister for Fraser and Isla and a cousin for Cameron.

PHILIPS - Robert and Alison, nee MacNicol, are delighted to announce the birth of Alasdair Derek, born on February 3, 2012 at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. First grandchild for Alasdair and Fiona MacNicol, Tumnalt, and the late Derek and Isla Philips, Ardrishaig. Many thanks to the midwives in Lochgilphead and Paisley and the staff at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.



SHELLEY

To Matt and Caireen (née Mitchell) on March 4, 2012 in London a precious baby boy, Cameron John Ross. A grandson for Brian and Janice Mitchell, Clachan Seil and Roger and the late Carol Shelley, Lincolshire.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

MGLASHAN - SMITH - On March 17, 1962 at the MacKintosh Memorial Church, Fort William by the Rev JW Moore, Kilmonaivag, Ronald to Rosemarie. Now residing at Bonnyrigg, Midlothian.



WEIR-KIDD

At St Modan's Church, Benderloch on 9th March 1962 by the Late Rev Norman MacDonald and the Late Rev Kenneth MacMillan, Ian to Sheila Elizabeth.

DEATHS

CLEMENT - Archibald George (Archie) died March 12, 2012 at Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish, dearly loved husband of Margaret, father of Tom and Ann and grandfather of the girls. Funeral service to be held at Duror Parish Church on Friday, March 16 at 1pm thereafter to Duror Cemetery. No flowers please, donations if desired to Belford Hospital and Abbeyfield House.

FERGUSON - Peacefully at home, after a long illness, on Thursday March 8, 2012, in his 81st year, Alexander, much loved husband of Jean and a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. He will be very sadly missed and lovingly remembered.

KENNEDY - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban with her family by her side on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, aged 74 years, Iona Margaret dearly loved wife of the late Alexander, loving mother to David, Kevin and Kenneth MacPhee, much loved mother-in-law, nana, friend and neighbour, sadly missed by all. Funeral Service was held at Corran Esplanade Church on Tuesday March 13, 2012.

MACINNES - On Monday March 5, 2012 at her home in Ruaig, Threeafter a short illness, bravely borne, Margaret, aged 78 years, beloved wife of the late Duncan, passed away peacefully surrounded by all her loving family. She will be sorely missed.

MCGIFFORD - Tragically taken from us on March 8 2012, Stewart, aged 48, loving partner & best friend to Joan, devoted papa to Archie and Finlay, and loving stepdad to Carly, Daniel and Gemma. Stewart will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Funeral to take place at Inverness Crematorium on Friday, March 16 2012 at 10:30am. Family flowers only please.

NICOLSON - Suddenly but peacefully, on March 13, 2012, at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, Margaret, 19 McKelvie Road, Oban, dear daughter of Joan and the late John, and a loved sister and aunt. Will be sorely missed. Funeral service will take place from the Free High Church, Oban, on Friday March 16, 2012 at 1.00 p.m., thereafter to Pennyfur Cemetery. Family flowers only. Retrial collection/donations will be taken in lieu, for the Renal Unit at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHISHOLM - Derina, Natalie and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for all their fantastic support, cards, telephone calls and flowers received following the very sad loss of Stewart (Chubby). Thanks to the Belford Hospital staff for their care and banter. To the Rev Moira Herkes for her uplifting service and to Mike McFall Funeral Directors for their help and advice with the funeral arrangements. Also thank you to all who paid their last respects at St Mundas Church and donated so generously the sum of £1200 to be divided between St John's Graveyard Fund and The Great Dane Trust.

DONN - The family of the late Ina Donn would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the sympathy and support shown over the last few weeks. Thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron for a lovely service, D and A Munn for their caring arrangements, The Royal Hotel for refreshments, all carers and district nurses and a special mention to the staff of Wards B and I for all their special care of Ina in her last few days. Thank you all. A sum of £273 was raised on behalf of the Macmillan Cancer Support.

FERGUSON - The family of the late Georgina (Ina) Ferguson would like to thank all who gave their support and kind expressions of sympathy at our sad loss. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all the staff of Ward I, Lorn and Isles Hospital and the doctors and nurses of Taynult Medical Practice for their compassion and care. Special thanks to Rev Brooks for his guidance and support and to D. A. Munn for their funeral services. £427 was raised for North Argyll Carers Centre in the retiring collection.

FRASER - Ellen and Annie's family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their support, expressions of sympathy cards, mass cards and floral tributes following the very sad loss of Annie. Our special thanks to Mgr Donald MacKinnon and Fr Roddy McAuley for all their visits to Annie at home and in hospital. Most sincere thanks to Fr Roddy for the beautiful Requiem mass and all those who attended her funeral mass. Our special thanks to doctors and nurses at the Belford Hospital and Raigmore Hospital, all the doctors and nurses at the Glen Mor Practice who were so attentive to Annie during her illness. Thanks to Ian and his staff at the Corpach Hotel for looking after us all so well. Finally, thanks to Ewen and Kevin for all the funeral arrangements done so well. The sum of £370 was donated for the High Dependency Unit of the Belford Hospital.

MACLENNAN - Neil MacLennan and son, Neil, wish to thank all family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support during their recent bereavement. Special thank you to Rev Murray, Trinity Church, Inverness, for conducting such a lovely service. Finally, thank you to John Fraser and Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, for their sensitivity and support with the funeral arrangements.

MATTHEWS - The family of the late William James would like to thank the relatives, friends, neighbours for all the kindness, cards, flowers and phone calls following Bill's passing. Grateful thanks to all who attended the church and graveside. Sincere thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and kind words, organist, Ian McInnes of D and A Munn for his caring and efficient funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Doctors and Nurses at Lorn and Isles Hospital who cared for Bill. Many thanks to all the people who gave Pearl a lift to hospital to visit Bill. The sum of £297.89 was raised for ABCD.

ROBERTSON - The family of the late Agnes Robertson would like to thank all family and friends for cards, telephone calls and flowers received following their recent loss. Thanks also to all who attended the service and graveside, to all who travelled from far and near. Sincere thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and D and A Munn for their efficient, caring and professional way. Also the Royal Hotel for a lovely buffet. A very special thanks to all the staff at Eader Glinn Care Home for all their exceptional care and kindness. Donations of £395 were raised for Eader Glinn Benevolent Fund.

IN MEMORIAM
BLACK - 16/5/90 - 13/3/09. Treasured and loving memories of my precious son Fraser. 3 long years without you in our lives. Miss everything about you Fraser. No words to express what a void you have left in our lives. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal. Lots of love to you always Fraser.
- Mum xxx

BLACK - Can't believe it's been 3 years when it just feels like yesterday that we were sitting having a few beers together. Hope to see you again at some point Fraser. Until then you better keep a pint waiting for us.
- Love Ruaridh and Gregory xx

BLACK - 16/5/90 - 13/3/09. Treasured memories of our grandson Fraser. In life you made us laugh. Now each day we shed a tear. - Love and miss you Fraser. May, Gagae and Grumpy xxx

BLACK - Hi Fraser. You're always in our thoughts. Miss you so much. Words can't explain the emptiness we all feel not having you around.

BLOOR - In loving memory of my dear sister and sister in law Margaret, who died Friday, March 12, 1999. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered everyday.
- Jimmy and Catherine.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear mother Mary, who passed away March 16, 2007, also our dear father Jimmy, who passed away January 21, 1999. Loved and remembered every day.
- Gordon and Hazel.

CLARK - In precious memory of our much loved daughter, sister, mum and aunt, Margaret Macdonald, who was taken from us on March 9, 1997. Your presence we miss. Your memory we treasure. Loving you always. Forgetting you never.
- Love Mum, Dad, Aileen, Marilyn, Matthew, Natalie, Carrie-Anne, Caroline, Robert, Craig, Sharree and Darren.

HAY - In loving memory of our Dad, John Joseph who passed away March 15, 1989. Always in our thoughts.
- Joan, Donald, Anthea, Iain and families.

HOGG - CAMERON - Remembering our dear brother and uncle Alistair, who died March 17, 2008. Time passes, memories stay. Loved and remembered every day.
- Sister Grace, Colin, Shiona, Colin, David and Serena.

LAFFERTY - In loving memory of our Da, John Joseph who passed away March 15, 1989. Always remembered.
Denise and Kerry xx

MACDONALD - Treasured, cherished memories of my darling husband, Andrew, died March 12, 2010. Sorely and sadly missed
- your loving wife Margaret xxx

MCCGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of Hector, a much loved husband and father who died March 18, 2007. Always in our thoughts - Mora and Joy.

MACLEAN - Jennifer, died March 17, 2008. What the heart has once known, it shall never forget.
- John, Lindsay, Finlay and Dexter xx

MACPHAIL - Precious memories of John who died on March 15, 1995. Always loved and never forgotten.
- x Dad and Mary x.

MACPHAIL - In memory of Allan who passed away on March 11, 2004. Lovingly remembered - Jennifer x

MACRAE - Treasured memories of Anne (née Macleod), Ullapool and formerly Tiree, who died on March 10, 2011. Also remembering her husband Ken, her brother Neil and sister Effie.

OMAND - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious nana Cathie, Isle of Tiree, who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008. There is always a face before us
A voice we would love to hear
A smile we will always remember
Of a mother we loved so dear.
- Rosemary, Ina, John, Murray, Norma and families, Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.

REFFIN - In loving memory of my wife Annie who passed away on March 16, 2011. My love I feel your presence still. And now I know I always will. Until we meet and join again. Your nearness salves my inner pain.
- Peter.

REFFIN - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny Annie Reffin who passed away on March 16, 2011. Always in our thoughts. You are just around the corner.
- Margaret, Iain, Peter, Brian, Charlotte, Ailsa, Laura and Joshua.

REFFIN - In loving memory of Annie, a dear sister and auntie, who died on March 16, 2011. With tearful eyes I see you getting tired. A cure was not to be. God put his arms around you and whispered come with me. Loved and remembered always.

RENNIE - Mary Elizabeth (née Robertson). In loving memory of dearest mum, one time of Oban, passed on March 15, 2005. Always with us in our hearts.
- Inserted by her loving daughter Angela and son-in-law David.

ROWAN - Loving memories of my darling wife Christine who died March 15th, 2009. To be together in the same old way. Would be my greatest wish today.
With all my love
- Robert

CHARITY DONATIONS

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 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

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 Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Mrs Lillian Kermode
Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban
01631 571009

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy.
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, R.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 18 March 2012
Lent 4
Mothering Sunday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Sunday School and Crèche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Stokes Memorials
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 45 years
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor
• New and traditional memorials. • Work carried out in any cemetery.
• Additional setting. • Free estimates and advice.
• Cleaning and renovations. • House signs.
• Pet memorials.
312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01369 701162 • Email: info@stokesmemorials.co.uk



NO MATTER what life throws at you, losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things to deal with. At times like this, it's good to know you're never alone. Like any emotional trauma, grief can manifest itself in a number of different ways and there is no wrong or right method to come to terms with events. Some may feel confusion or disbelief, while others can be angry or even feel guilt at something they could do nothing to prevent. Loneliness, anxiety, fatigue or even a sense of numbness are also common emotions and nothing to be alarmed about. It is not unusual either to experience physical symptoms; with headaches, lethargy, muscle tremors and even dizziness common experiences. The truth is there is no hard and fast rule on how to deal with a loss and what you will feel in doing so. There are, however, a number of different ways in which you can help yourself through these tough times, allowing you to get on with life while preserving those treasured memories

in a way that lets you look back with fondness and a smile. Something many people find beneficial is talking to friends and family, recounting memories and sharing stories that summed up the character of the person no longer with them. Such discussions remind everyone why the bereaved was so loved in the first place and why they enriched your life and that of those around you. In a similar vein, some may consider making a tribute of some kind to help pay their respects in a physical or symbolic way. With that in mind, the funeral can be one of the most important parts of the grieving process. Funeral directors will take care of the practical arrangements and guide you through the selection of flowers, music and order of events, helping make the poignant occasion reflect your wishes. But most of all, the funeral offers a chance to say goodbye while sharing memories, experiences and anecdotes with friends and family - a true celebration of a person so important to so many.

John McLellan & Co Ltd
— Fort William —
Funeral Directors
Dudley Road, Fort William PH33 6JB
Telephone Ewen MacLennan
01397 702128 (24hrs)
Email: funeral.ftwilliam@btconnect.com
Until end of April, our Pre-Paid Funeral plans are discounted by £100.00. To find out more regarding this genuine offer, please contact our office or phone 07789608714.

Mull Funeral Services
Isle Of Mull
Complete 24 hour Confidential service
Golden Charter Funeral Plan
Tel: 01680 812435
Mob: 07721 623854

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
(Established 1964)
DONALD MACDONALD
New Office Premises
17 Lorne Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8LU
Complete 24-hour confidential service throughout Argyll
Telephone
Lochgilphead 01546 602226
Mobile 07768 472 953
Email: info@donaldmacdonald.org
www.donaldmacdonald.org
Golden Charter Funeral Plan
Agents for new memorials, cleaning, lettering and restoration

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

GRADUATIONS
Michael Moore graduated with a Masters of Arts Degree in Geography. Son of Bill and Ann Moore (Kirkcaldy). Michael is the grandson of Peter and Phil McMonagle (Oban).

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 18 March 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS
The Clubhouse at Glencruitten
Restaurant & Bar
Available for Private Functions
Great Food
Ample Parking
Tel: 01631 562868

Words by the Wayside
"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
(Philippians 1:21)
God's Word has no power on us unless we submit to its demands. The Believer must prefer Christ to everything here on earth. If the Lord Jesus be our object we will do everything suited to Him. You may see nothing to favour you, and much to discourage you, but faith is not surprised by a 'famine' (that is, nothing to see); it relies on God. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:11)
www.wordsbythewayside.co.uk
Registered Scottish charity SC041290

HAMISH HOEY & SON
Funeral Directors
A Family Run Business
Serving All Denominations & The Non Religious
24hrs a day, 7 days a week
Tel 01631 562269
37-39 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA

OBAN MEMORIALS
A&D MacLean
MASTER SCULPTORS
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Designs and prices on request
Modern and Traditional Memorials
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN MOST CEMETERIES
Email: obanmemorials@btconnect.com
www.memorialgravestonesoban.co.uk
01631 563123
07765 815982

D&A MUNN LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est.1880
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ
24 hour family run business
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and Son.
We carry out services for all denominations as well as humanist services.
D & A Munn have been responding to the needs of the bereaved in Oban and the surrounding areas since 1880, a tradition we are very proud of.
Telephone: 01631 562562 Fax: 01631 562203
Email: damunn.oban@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.munns-oban.co.uk

GLENCRUITTEN GOLF CLUB
Following a funeral service it is a traditional and considerate gesture to provide food and refreshments. The Clubhouse offers quiet, peaceful surroundings to gather relatives and friends with ample private parking.
For enquiries telephone 01631 562 868

HAMISH HOEY & SON
Funeral Directors
A Family Run Business
Serving All Denominations & The Non Religious
24hrs a day, 7 days a week
Tel 01631 562269
37-39 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA

OBAN MEMORIALS
A&D MacLean
MASTER SCULPTORS
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Designs and prices on request
Modern and Traditional Memorials
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN MOST CEMETERIES
Email: obanmemorials@btconnect.com
www.memorialgravestonesoban.co.uk
01631 563123
07765 815982

D&A MUNN LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est.1880
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ
24 hour family run business
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and Son.
We carry out services for all denominations as well as humanist services.
D & A Munn have been responding to the needs of the bereaved in Oban and the surrounding areas since 1880, a tradition we are very proud of.
Telephone: 01631 562562 Fax: 01631 562203
Email: damunn.oban@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.munns-oban.co.uk

GLENCRUITTEN GOLF CLUB
Following a funeral service it is a traditional and considerate gesture to provide food and refreshments. The Clubhouse offers quiet, peaceful surroundings to gather relatives and friends with ample private parking.
For enquiries telephone 01631 562 868

GRADUATIONS
Clare Jordan graduated from Sabhal Mor Ostaig with a BA in Gaelic and Traditional Music. Clare is the daughter of Sandra Jordan, Oban, and Ian Jordan, Connel and granddaughter of Ian and Margaret MacLean, Oban and Joe and Dolly Jordan, North Connel.

GRADUATIONS
Toni McGhee graduated with a BA in adult nursing at Glasgow Caledonian University. Toni is the daughter of Tony and Linda McGhee and the granddaughter of Alex and Norma Callison and Brian and Jean Holmes (McGhee). Toni is now currently working at Kingston Hospital in London.

Kinlochshiel and Fort William share the points

Game switched to Kiltarlity as weather rules out both 'Shiel and Fort's home grounds

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Orion Premiership
Kinlochshiel 1
Fort William 1
KINLOCHSHIEL cemented their impressive arrival in the top flight with a fighting draw against a combative Fort William at Kiltarlity.
The fixture's venue had been uncertain until Saturday morning as shinty bosses struggled to find a pitch after rain ruled out both 'Shiel and Fort's grounds.
But by the time ref Graham Irving blew for full time, neutrals at breezy Balmacara Park were in

no doubt they had witnessed two quality sides in action.
An edgy first half blossomed into an end-to-end encounter in which both sides could rightly claim they had chances to grab both points.
Fort started the match brightly and Graham Kennedy had to look sharp to deny Gordy MacKinnon, but 'Shiel's mobile forward line soon began to click into gear and after threatening a breakthrough, the Lochalsh men took the lead on 13 minutes.
Fraser MacVicar's fine through pass split the Fort defence, and Gordy MacDonald cleverly drew keeper MacKay before slotting home.

'Shiel continued to press, and MacDonald turned provider on the half hour mark when his brilliant reverse pass almost freed Keith MacRae free in the danger zone.
Quicksilver
Only a single goal behind at the break and now with the breeze behind them, Fort fought their way into the game, with Stevie Stewart and Neil Robertson in particular showing their mettle in defence against 'Shiel's quicksilver forward line.
MacKinnon flashed a shot wide on 54 minutes and two minutes later MacVicar should have done better than to blaze over when well-placed.

SHINTY

With an hour gone Fort really began to turn the screw and enjoyed their best spell of the game as they pinned 'Shiel back.
Niall MacPhee's strike from 35 yards with 15 minutes left looked a certain scorer until Kennedy made a brilliant stop high to his left.
But Fort would not be denied – and it was the youngest player on the pitch who grabbed the glory.
Arran MacPhee's speculative high, long shot from the right did not look capable of causing Kennedy too much trouble, but



Stevie Stewart moves in to thwart Finlay MacRae. 20_f11shinty02

the keeper chose to save with his chest, misjudged the flight, and only succeeded in turning the ball into the net.
MacPhee, a real talent in the making, had marked his 16th birthday only days before - and was at the centre of celebrations again as his was mobbed by his teammates.

Late on, Fort could have won it as first Bryan Simpson then MacKinnon fired wide, but it took MacKay to make a great stop from MacDonald at the other end to prevent a 'Shiel victory.
'Shiel coach Johnston Gill told The Oban Times: 'In the first half we probably had the better

of the game and in the second both teams had their chances. I was disappointed to lose the goal the way we did.'
Fort coach Peter MacIntyre said: 'I was very disappointed with the first half. But we created a lot of chances in the second and probably deserved to win the game.'

CCTV to help boxers

BOXING
LOCHABER Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club have installed CCTV cameras in their gym – but instead of safety the cameras will be used to help boxers with their skills.
The fighters will be able to replay their sparring sessions and analyse the positives and negatives with the club coaches.
Fort William company City Electrical Factors donated the cameras to the club.
Coach Vince Lopez said: 'We have found in the past that when our boxers have watched back videos of their bouts they have seen more clearly their mistakes and how to correct them. Bearing this in mind we thought the natural progression would be to bring this technology into training.'
Lochaber boxers James Aitchison, Chris Bradley and Igor Slivinski at the Scottish Championships in Edinburgh later this month, with the club's next home show to be held on April 7.

Magnificent seven

INDOOR FOOTBALL
GOON SQUAD recorded the biggest win of the night beating Ballachulish FC 7-1 in the Ali Young Premier League at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.
Leaders Lochaber Leisure kept up their unbeaten season with a 2-0 win over The Granite House, while TNF United moved into third after a 3-0 win against Bayern Bru.
Meanwhile, Liverpool defeated AA Young 7-2, HW Energy won 3-0 against Achintore FC and Steava Sookabrest lost by the same score to Stroke City.

Grant is number 1

TABLE TENNIS
THE TWO top table tennis players in Fort William went head to head to fight for the number one spot recently.
Monte Bleasdale, who doesn't lose many important matches took on local postie John Grant at the Nevis Centre, but Grant showed real determination to walk away the victor and take the number one ranking in division one.
Fort William Table Tennis club hold open sessions every Monday from 6.30pm, with players of any level welcome to come along and give it a go.

Alleycats on top

TEN PIN BOWLING
ALLEYCATS remain top of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league scratch division after 16 weeks of play following a 5-0 win at the Nevis Centre. Council are second, four points back on 70, with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in third on 51 points despite going down 3-2 to fourth place Rotavators.
Council are top of the handicapped division with 52 points despite losing 5-0 to British Legion Scotland. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio move up to second on 49 points whilst Rotavators are now third on 48 points.
The top individual scratch game came from Frank Sweeney, Council, with 189, while this week also saw 187 from Bob Colman, Phoenix, and 184 from Bill Clark, British Legion Scotland.

Fort hoping for a change of fortune in the league cup against Formartine

FORT William will be hoping the Highland League Cup can provide a tonic for their league woes when they welcome Formartine United this Saturday.
Danny Conlon's men lost 2-1 to Strathspey Thistle in last weekend's bottom of the table clash.
Conlon told The Oban Times there were positives to take from the match despite the loss, which

leaves his side four points adrift at the bottom.
He said: 'Last week was probably the best we've played attacking for quite a while. We created more chances than we have been doing, but we only managed to take one of them. We should have a stronger squad this Saturday though.'
'Formartine have spent a lot of money but they've had a disap-

pointing season so far and this is really their last chance of getting any silverware.'
With only 14 players in his match day squad at Grantown-on-Spey, Conlon gave a debut to keeper Robbie Donaldson, who recently signed on loan from Clachnacuddin. Fort opened the scoring in the 26th minute through Darren Quigg but Strathspey scored either side

FOOTBALL

of half time to take all three points.
Conlon said: 'It was the same story as the last few weeks – playing well for 45 minutes and disappearing for the other 45. We easily could have been three or four up at half time but we got hit by a goal just before half time.'

Inverlochry are interschool champions

INVERLOCHRY Primary broke Caol Primary's recent dominance of the Lochaber Primary Interschool Cross Country Championships by taking first place at Nevis Range last week.
Some 95 youngsters from 17 schools across Lochaber tackled the tricky mile-long course. Inverlochry's team of six runners, (Brett MacMillan, Johnny Forster, Shaun MacLeod, Danielle Ferguson, Mairi Bell, Lolly Patterson) took the overall title. Fort William RC took second while last year's champs Caol finished third.
Fort William RC pupil Lachie Shaw recorded the fastest time of the day, finishing the course in 10minutes and 23seconds. His schoolmate Keir Gibson came second in 10m 54s while St Brides youngster Alex Dent was third in 10m 58s.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Abbie Blackhall of Caol Primary was the quickest girl in a time of 10m 40s, followed closely by her sister Robyn, who was just 11 seconds behind. Rebecca Johnstone of Invergarry primary was third in 11m 57s.
The event, sponsored by Samuel and Partners, was jointly organised by Active Schools Co-ordinators and PE staff from the schools. Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas thanked the marshals from Lochaber High School and everyone who helped organise and run the event.



Winning school Inverlochry Primary pose with the shield after winning the cross-country championships. 20_f11race01



The fastest pupils on the day: from left - Abbie Blackhall, Robyn Blackhall, Lachie Shaw, Keir Gibson and Alex Dent. 20_f11race02



Big hitters: Nathan McDade and Sam McLeod were in action in Banchory on Friday night.

Big hitters box well at Banchory

NETHER Lochaber 'Claymores' Amateur Boxing Club marked further progress in the sport nationally at the St Mary's ABC show in Banchory on Friday night.
Star of the night was 20 year-old Nathan McDade from Kinlochleven, who stepped up a division from his usual middleweight to take on Elgin ABC's Scottish novice light heavyweight champion Cameron Holliday.
Holliday carried a reputation of throwing knockout punches and a record of five wins and no losses, but McDade's meticulous preparation paid off big time as he comprehensively out-boxed his opponent.
After out-jabbing his opponent in the first, McDade's crisp combinations to the head and body and a lethal long left hook had Holliday in real trouble in the second.
Now well on top, McDade relaxed and picked his punches in the last to frustrate Holliday at every turn and was a unanimous

winner at the final bell.
McDade's delighted coach Martin Glenesk said: 'This was Nathan's coming of age bout. He boxed with a maturity and confidence I always knew he had and now the amateur boxing community has seen what he is capable of. These are very exciting times for Nathan.'
Earlier in the show, Claymores' Sam McLeod, also from Kinlochleven, narrowly lost out to Sarunas Gestautas from Peterhead ABC.
The pair's second meeting in the ring proved to be just as explosive as their first, and hugely entertaining contest had the largely neutral crowd on their feet.
At the end, 16 year-old McLeod was disappointed to lose out by a single point in what turned out to be the highest scoring bout of the night.
The verdict left McLeod and Gestautas with one win each, so the third and deciding bout will be held at the Claymores' home

BOXING

show in Kinlochleven on June 2.
Meanwhile at the Claymores gym, trainees in the popular Amateur Boxing Academy will be put through their first assessment Kinlochleven High School theatre on Monday, when Amateur Boxing Scotland representatives will assess the group, the first Academy trainees in Scotland to reach this stage.
The officials will congratulate the club and present the trainees with t-shirts, hoodies and bags of equipment. The club is also inviting trainees' parents to come along to the event to see what the non-contact boxing training sessions are all about.
For further information about the boxing academy contact Head Coach Martin Glenesk on 07776 477 930 or email netherlochaberabc@yahoo.co.uk
Tickets are available for the club's home show on 07799 705 742.

Get ready for the season

If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

Krisp Print offer excellent prices on medium to long run colour brochures and leaflets as well as short run digital printing. We also offer a professional design service to help you make a good first impression where it counts.

Campbelltown • T: 01586 554975
E: staff@krispprint.co.uk
Oban • T: 01631 568015
E: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.
If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.
The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £500

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

We have a winner!
Congratulations to D Mitchell, Muasdale Cottages, Tarbert who won the jackpot of £550

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Dawson's eight minute hat-trick sinks brave Kyles

KINGUSSIE will travel to Lochaber to take on Fort William this Saturday looking for back-to-back wins after downing Kyles Athletic 3-1 last weekend.

The game is scheduled to be played at Black Parks, with The Dell as a back up in case the Inverloch pitch is unplayable.

Kings manager Steven Borthwick told The Oban Times Fort would provide a tough challenge wherever the game was played.

He said: 'Fort William are going through a transitional period as well as Kingussie. They're playing a lot of young boys and I think they'll see the benefit of that at the end of the season.'

'They are a hard team to beat, especially at home. If we can win on Saturday it'll do our confidence no harm.'

Kings beat last season's runners up at The Dell after an eight minute hat-trick from new captain Craig Dawson in the first half.

Borthwick said: 'Craig has been building up towards full fitness. He's lost a lot of weight and that'll do him the world of good. We always knew he was a goalscorer.'

'The team played well, especially compared to last week. Kyles put up a good fight but we had the majority of the game.'



Kingussie's hat-trick hero Craig Dawson. Photo: John MacFavish

KYLES ATHLETIC paid the price for a disrupted pre-season and a postponed opening day fixture as they continued to experiment with their new-look side.

Kingussie had all but beaten the young Kyles side (average age around 21 years) at half time with a 3-0 lead on Saturday and although Duncan Kerr pulled a goal back in the second half, it was too little, too late.

Kyles' trainer James Perlich explained the club has probably settled on its best line-up - but it took until half time in Kingussie to find the right tactical formula.

'The team we started with on Saturday was one in transition and it was obvious the boys were just trying to find their feet.'

'We managed to regroup and win the second half 1-0 but we knew this game was going to be very difficult and more of an experiment for the coaching staff.'

'We have a new group of young players who have dabbled with the first team but now we need to get the most out of them.'

This weekend Kyles host Glenurquhart but with the Tighnabruach Sports Pitch all but ruled out, the game is likely to be moved elsewhere.

LOVAT lead the Orion Group Premiership by a point after overcoming Kilmallie 2-1.

In a hard fought encounter at Canal Parks last Saturday.

The Kiltarlity men may be top of the league for the first time, but they are there on merit after shocking champs Newtonmore 3-1 in their opening fixture.

Leading the early season charge is Greg Matheson, who followed his hat-trick against More with the opener at Kilmallie.

The 18 year-old, fast becoming

the league's most lethal forward, will be central to Lovat's success this season - if he can remain injury-free.

He even afforded himself the luxury of missing a penalty against Kilmallie, but his team prevailed to go top of the premier division for the first time ever.

Lovat have no game this weekend, a situation Lovat coach Allan MacRae is none too happy about.

'We would rather keep going because we are playing well, but it's out of our hands,' he told The Oban Times.

MacRae admitted his side had 'ground the result out' against Kilmallie, but singled out international keeper Stuart Macintosh for stopping John Stewart's second penalty.

'Stuart kept us in it,' he said. 'It was a cracking save - he really pulled it out. Lorne MacKay had a good game in the middle of the park and the defence stayed firm.'

NEWTONMORE face a tough test when high-flying Kinlochshiel visit The Eilan this Saturday.

'The More got back to winning ways with a 4-0 win over Bute last weekend following their shock loss to Lovat on the opening weekend, and the reigning premier league champions will be looking to build on that result with a win against the unbeaten Lochalsh side.'

Manager Norman MacArthur said: 'There's no easy games. Kinlochshiel will be a tough side, but they shouldn't cause us too many problems. They knock the ball around well and the wider park suits them, but we beat them 5-0 at The Eilan last season.'

He continued: 'The Lovat game was a freak result; I'd never read too much into the first game of the season. We played really well against Bute. Our confidence would have been really down if we'd lost that one as well.'

Glen Macintosh opened the scoring against Bute in the 26th minute, but the home crowd had to wait until 12 minutes from time to see any more scoring. David Cheyne then hit the back of the net twice in three minutes to secure the win, before Chris Sellar finished the scoring in the 90th minute.

KINLOCHSHIEL travel to The Eilan on Saturday to take on champions Newtonmore in their third tough fixture against the premier division's big guns in as many weeks.

It may have been a baptism of fire so far for the Lochalsh men, but they have acquitted themselves with distinction and proved themselves well worthy of their place among shinty's elite after bagging three points from a possible four.

After a stunning 5-3 win at The Dell in the opener and last weekend's tough 1-1 draw against Fort William, 'Shiel find themselves in second spot behind surprise packet Lovat.'

Coach Johnston Gill should have a full squad at his disposal for the 'More clash, the only doubt being Stevie Callander, who walked off Balgate Park at full time with his eye almost closed after an encounter with a Fort William caman.

He told The Oban Times: 'It's a game that we would not be expecting to take anything from, but we'll go down there looking to put in a big performance.'

'The bigger and better the pitch, the better we seem to play. Everybody is available for Saturday as far as I am aware.'

He added: 'If somebody had told us before the season started that we would have had three points from two games, we would have grabbed that with both hands.'

GLENURQUHART take on Kyles Athletic this Saturday looking to recover from last weekend's surprise home loss to Inveraray.

Manager Fraser MacKenzie told The Oban Times he expected the game to either be switched from Tighnabruach to Drumadrochit or Oban due to Kyles' pitch being unplayable.

MacKenzie earmarked Kyles forward Duncan Kerr as their main danger man.

He said: 'Considering they've lost a few players, it's a game we should be looking to be more competitive in than we were last year. We'll just give it our all and hope we can bounce back from last weekend's result.'

Last weekend Glenurquhart lost 1-0 after Andrew MacMurdo scored just before half time.

'I think a draw would have been a fair result,' MacKenzie said. 'But we've got no complaints - we didn't play well enough on the day and we didn't create enough chances. Inveraray travelled with about a strong squad as they could, which has been a problem for them in recent years.'

'We were wanting to build a bit of momentum and that result has given us a bit of a dent.'

It was either a tactical masterstroke or a stroke of good luck but it was a reshuffled **INVERARAY** that broke their Drumadrochit jinx with an impressive 1-0 away win on Saturday. The unlikely goal hero was Andrew MacMurdo who had been moved by coach John Smylie into the forward line, meaning Garry MacPherson dropped into the half-back role.

Explaining his tactical reshuffle, John said: 'I just wanted to try something different and it worked well.'

'It was a great team performance and although it was back to the wall for the last 10 minutes the defence never looked like conceding.'

MacMurdo scored the only goal of the game on the stroke of half-time after a quick free hit by Stuart Robertson, while the Royal Burgh defence held strong throughout.

Andrew, whose upcoming stag weekend in Benidorm means Inveraray have no game this Saturday, explained: 'I used to play up front for the second team but I have only scored once before for the first team, against Oban Camanachd about five years ago.'

'I am happy to play wherever the boss wants me to and I think he is doing himself a disservice; it was a well thought out change.'

'We have come off the back of a bad season, where we didn't make any cup finals and avoided relegation on the last day, so we are determined to do better this season.'

KILMALLIE hope to spring themselves off the foot of the table by beating league newcomers Bute on their own turf this weekend.

They conceded a 'gut-wrenching' three goals in the final 10 minutes as David Cheyne, a perennial problem for the islanders, again made the difference last Saturday.



Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish scores Oban Camanachd's sixth goal against Aberdeen. st_11cam02

SHINTY

Bute shipped four goals against Newtonmore last time out, but the Rothesay men are a different prospect at The Meadows and will present the Caol men with a stern test.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre cited his team's failure to turn pressure into goals as the main culprit for Kilmallie's slow start - a problem that needs a fast remedy.

'Bute are a good, strong team at home, but I think we have a good chance of beating them if we can get the goals,' he told The Oban Times.

'In our first two games we have had plenty of pressure on teams, but the goals have not been coming.'

Against Lovat we had our chances the same as we had the week before, but never took them. We are bottom of the league, so we will have to change that this week.'

Kilmallie went down 2-1 to Lovat, with John Stewart scoring one penalty to level the scores at 1-1 then having a second brilliantly saved by Macintosh as Kilmallie fought for a leveller. Greg Matheson scored Lovat's opener and Owen Ferguson grabbed the winner.

Kilmallie defender Alan MacDonald had to leave the field early in the second half and is a doubt for the Bute game.

FORT WILLIAM welcome Kingussie to their temporary home at Black Parks this weekend undefeated in the Orion Group Premiership - but still looking for their first victory.

Two draws in two games against newcomers Bute and Kinlochshiel may seem a poor return, but Fort are in the process of rebuilding and stand every chance of being in the frame for honours come the sharp end of the season.

Against Kinlochshiel Fort were missing the mercurial Gary Innes from the forward line and Duncan Rodger's grit in defence, but both men could feature in the starting lineup against Kings on Saturday.

Fort coach Peter MacIntyre, however, could be without Alex Duncan who picked up a knee injury against 'Shiel and is fighting to be fully fit.

'We'll assess Alex later in the week but I would put his chances at 50-50,' MacIntyre told The Oban Times.

'Kingussie have kind of gone back to their old style with Ronald missing, and have Craig Dawson as a big target man at full forward.'

'He has a big shot on him and scored a hat-trick against Kyles. It's not a style of play we are used to from Kingussie, and we have to come up with a plan to combat it.'

BUTE conceded a 'gut-wrenching' three goals in the final 10 minutes as David Cheyne, a perennial problem for the islanders, again made the difference last Saturday.



Bute's Iain MacDonald and David Cheyne, who netted two goals for Newtonmore, tussle for the ball during last Saturday's match at The Eilan. Photo: John MacFavish

Manager Barry Martin admitted his side were outmuscled by Newtonmore but said his side were always in the game until Cheyne's introduction, when he scored four of the home side's goals.

'It was gut wrenching to lose 4-0 because we had held them to one goal for most of the game,' said Barry. 'David Cheyne always seems to do the damage against us. I could write a book on how many times he has come on to score against us.'

Bute hope their pitch will be playable for the visit of Kilmallie this Saturday and expect Leighton Reid, Donnie McDermid and Gordon MacMillan to return to the squad.

Barry said: 'Kilmallie have had two games and got nothing from them, so if we can get two points against them, we've already opened up a small gap on them.'

LOCHABER underlined their promotion credentials by crushing Skye Camanachd 7-1 at Spean Bridge last weekend.

Michael Delaney's men were 2-0 up at half time, and added five further goals in the second half to take a comfortable victory. Young forward Zands Ferguson notched a hat-trick for Lochaber as did Scotland international Shaun Nicolson, with Scott Patterson also on the score sheet on a successful first home game of the season.

Lochaber, who sit a point behind north division one leaders Beaulieu, will have a rest this Saturday with their next game away to Caberfeidh due to be played on March 24.

SKYE CAMANACHD, so impressive in staging a remarkable fightback to win at Caberfeidh in the opening game, will look to get their campaign back on track at home to Strathglass after last weekend's sharp reality check at Lochaber.

Skye's prospects will not be helped by injuries sustained in the 7-1 defeat at Spean Bridge and Danny Morrison (suspected broken finger), Jamie MacDonald (knee) and Shockie MacLennan (hamstring strain) are all doubtful for the Strathglass match.

Skye had no answer to a

powerful showing from the Lochaber men, and a late goal from Jordan Murchison was their sole consolation.

LOCHCARRON travel to Inverness this Saturday with both sides anxious to get their first win of the 2012 season.

Both sides have picked up just one point from their opening two games, and Lochcarron manager Andrew MacKenzie told The Oban Times he was confident his side could get the win.

He said: 'It's very important for us to get our first win; we could certainly do with it. We'd hope to get a win up there.'

MacKenzie should have a full squad for the game, with the exception of full back Alan MacKay, who will miss the match.

MacKenzie's men lost 4-1 away to Beaulieu last weekend. Ben Dalgety opened the scoring for Lochcarron in the first minute of the game, but his side found themselves 3-1 down at half time. The current league leaders added a fourth in the second half through Jamie MacLennan.

MacKenzie said: 'It was a bit of a game of two halves. There was a bit of a breeze across the park and Beaulieu had most of the first half, we had most of the second half.'

'We had plenty of chances. I think their keeper had more saves to make than ours. I think a lot of it was about luck.'

OBAN CAMANACHD'S forwards have been put through their paces at training this week despite knocking six past Aberdeen on Saturday.

In a dominant performance, the Oban side could have scored more and will be looking to sharpen up ahead of their visit to Kilmory this weekend.

Co-manager Diarmid MacMillan said: 'We dominated for the first 20 minutes and got three early goals through Scott MacMillan, Aidan MacIntyre and Malcolm Clark and looked to be on to a great game but our standards seemed to fade as time went on.'

It was a good win but we really need to be hitting the target a lot more frequently.

Aidan MacIntyre scored two more times to complete his hat trick and Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish finished off the rout. Diarmid added: 'Aidan MacIntyre stood out last Saturday, as his attitude and commitment to getting us back up to the premier league really did show.'

'We have everything there and the fitness is good but we just need to sharpen up a bit and score more goals.'

'Our squad is good this year and players will be fighting to ensure their places in our starting line-up.'

'The weather will hopefully be better to toughen the park up as the Kilmory pitch has been very soft.'



Results

Saturday 10 march

Orion Group Premiership
Newtonmore 4, Bute 0
Glenurquhart 0, Inveraray 1
Kilmallie 1, Lovat 2
Kinlochshiel 1, Fort William 1
Kingussie 3, Kyles Athletic 1

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu 4, Lochcarron 1
Lochaber 7, Skye 1
Strathglass 2, Inverness 2

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni 2, Kingussie 1
Fort William P Kinlochshiel P
Pitch Unplayable
Glenangary 3, Glenurquhart 0
Newtonmore 8, Lochaber 1
Skye 4, Lovat 0

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Boleskine 6, Strathglass 3
Caberfeidh 3, Lewis Cam 2
Inverness 1, Beaulieu 8
Lochroom 1, Lochcarron 0
Strathpey 1, Kilmallie 3

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Taynuilt 1, Mid Argyll 6
Glenorchy P v P Kilmory
Pitch Unplayable
Oban Camanachd 6, Aberdeen 0
Strachur 1, Oban Celtic 2

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 1, Kyles Athletic 3
Tayforth 2, Ardnarmurchan 1
Ballachulish P v P Bute
Pitch Unplayable
Col Glen 8, Glasgow MA 1
Lochside Rovers 7, Inveraray 4

Marine Harvest South Division 3

Aberdour 1, Kyles Athletic 3
Tayforth 2, Ardnarmurchan 1
Ballachulish P v P Bute
Pitch Unplayable
Col Glen 8, Glasgow MA 1
Lochside Rovers 7, Inveraray 4

Fixtures

Saturday 17 March

(all throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

Orion Group Premiership

Bute v Kilmallie
David Mitchell
Fort William v Kingussie
Billy Witherspoon

Kyles Athletic v Glenurquhart
Graham Cameron
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
Evan MacRae

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Caberfeidh v Beaulieu
Graham Irving
Inverness v Lochcarron
Innes Wood
Skye v Strathglass
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glasgow MA v Aberdeen
Dunkie Kerr
Glenorchy v Strachur
Colin MacDonald
Kilmory v Oban Camanachd
Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Glenorchy v Lovat
Duncan Kelly
Glenurquhart v Aberdeen Uni
John MacLeod
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore
John Angus Gillies
Kingussie v Fort William
Donald MacRae
Lochaber v Skye
Neil Ferguson

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ardnamurchan v Glasgow MA
Robert Baxter
Col Glen v Kyles Athletic
Ronnie Campbell
Inveraray v Aberdeen
Jim Innes
Lochside Rovers v Bute
Iain Kennedy
Tayforth v Ballachulish
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Ardnamurchan v Glasgow MA
Robert Baxter
Col Glen v Kyles Athletic
Ronnie Campbell
Inveraray v Aberdeen
Jim Innes
Lochside Rovers v Bute
Iain Kennedy
Tayforth v Ballachulish
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest South Division 3

Beaulieu v Caberfeidh
Graeme MacMillan
Lochroom v Inverness
Callum Duff
Lochcarron v Kilmallie
John Matheson
Strathglass v Lewis Cam
Robert Morrison
Strathpey v Boleskine
Kevin Cheeseman

Thistle and Lochgilphead Red Star turn on the style in game of the day

THE Oban Express Primary Football swung back to action at the 3G Community Pitch in damp conditions on Sunday but the rain stayed away and the enthusiasm from the players made it an exciting day with a full compliment of teams represented in a blaze of colour.

The Galaxy paraded their new strips sponsored by Dawson Estate Agents but they failed to win their opening match against the improving Wasps who had Laura MacEachen in good form at the back despite Pearce MacBeth coming close on three occasions. The new strips would then unfortunately suffer two heavy defeats. The first against Tralee who had Ryan Henrickson score a hat trick with Dougie MacDonald scoring and a rare strike from Tom Howe then the Scorpions stung them with goals from 5 different scorers including Euan Finlay, Jamie Munro Tyler Robertson and Craig Millar.

The Scorpions were involved in two other very tight affairs on the day starting with a match against the youngest Saints starlets 03 who recorded the narrowest of victories thanks to a Ross Campbell thunderbolt early in the second half. The Scorpions pressed for an equaliser and would have scored but for a great save from Innes Horne in the dying seconds. The older Saints 02 faced up to the Scorpions next and a stuffy affair was settled in Scorpions favour

when the impressive Cameron Williamson netted in the second half.

After their opening confidence-boosting results the Wasps took on Saints 03 but neither side could find a way through and the Wasps recorded their second morale boosting draw of the day and looked to be heading for a third in their match with Tralee until the dying minutes when Ryan Henrickson smashed home after a goal mouth scramble. Nonetheless, a good day for the The Wasps but they might need to get the shooting boots on at training now the defence is sound. This was an important result for Tralee who had earlier gone down heavily to a strong Thistle who had Rory Dowd Jamie Anderson, Scott Mossman and Cameron Hill scoring.

Undoubtedly the game of the day was Thistle against Lochgilphead Red Star who opened the scoring through Ewan Litster but the Thistle came storming back into it with a Kier MacLean goal then took the lead with Oran Bryce finding the net. Red Star rallied and a final push saw them equalise with a cracking long shot from distance by Finn Scott. Red Star went on to record a win over Jags with a double from Litster and two Kian Francis headers ensured a good result against Lochnell.

Another cracking game was served up by Saints 02 and the All Stars with the Stars taking the lead when Kenny Tanno swung a corner into the area for Andy Ritchie to bullet a header past keeper Jamie Turner. Saints showed character though and equalised when Lewis Campbell fired through the keeper's legs then went on to take the lead after a defence splitting pass from Jude Bain allowed Lennon Campbell to finish. The 02s scored another by Lewis Campbell who latched on to a slack throw out and coolly finish into the corner. Just rewards for the 02s who had earlier suffered anguish at conceding a very late winner to Craig Easton for the older Saints Boys.

It was an unlucky day for the All Stars as they suffered an early narrow defeat to Lochnell after opening the scoring with a Beppe Lopez volley only for Lochnell to snatch it with two, then, in their match against Jags, they again opened the scoring through Andy Ritchie but the Jags equalised then took the lead as Finbar Dunne and Mark McKnight scored. McKnight made it three with a left foot volley into the top corner before Darren Van Der Meer netted his first for the Stars but time ran out and the Jags enjoyed their second win of the day after earlier winning at Saints 03 with Dunne and McKnight again on target.

PRIMARY FOOTBALL



Galaxy FC in their brand new playing kit sponsored by Alexander Dawson, Estate Agents.

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Campbell's hat-trick turns the Milk sour

Saints withstand late pressure to gain all three points in close match

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
**Oban Saints 3
Castlemilk 2**

CASTLEMILK were the visitors to Glencruitten as Saints played their first league game since the middle of September and Walter French's men gave a good account of themselves in what turned out to be an absorbing match.

The game started at a cracking pace with both teams going at each other right from the off.

The home side opened the scoring in the 11th minute with an excellent move when Alan Miller sent Lewis Cameron clear on the right flank. The youngster sprinted forward and spotted Donald Campbell racing into the box. Lewis squared the ball across the face of the goals for his strike partner to hammer the

ball high into the net past a helpless Milk keeper Craig Lowe. The visitors were playing some good stuff and were unlucky when a Danny Simpson shot flew inches past the post.

Saints increased their lead in the 22nd minute when the same two players, Alan Miller and Lewis Cameron, who created the first goal did the same again and Donald Campbell was on hand to bury the ball into the corner of the net.

However the two goal advantage lasted precisely 60 seconds. A harmless cross into the box didn't look too dangerous, but for some reason the home defence stopped, claiming for offside. The ball fell to Thomas Finnegan who didn't wait to see if the referee was going to blow his whistle as he thumped the ball past Graham Douglas to

FOOTBALL

make the score 2-1. This was a poor goal for Saints to lose, letting Castlemilk right back into the game.

Saints created another good opportunity when Donald Campbell set up Lewis Cameron, but Craig Lowe raced from his line to make a brave block to deny the Saints striker.

Castlemilk were pushing hard for an equaliser and the home defence had to be on their toes as the Glasgow side started to gain control of the midfield area and were unlucky when an Alan Larkin shot came back off the post with Saints keeper Graham Douglas rooted to the spot.

Right on the half time whistle the Oban side created two great chances and both Donald Campbell and Paul Kerr will be



Donald Campbell makes no mistake from the penalty spot, sending Castlemilk keeper Craig Lowe the wrong way. 15_111saints01

disappointed that they failed to hit the back of the net.

The home side increased their lead nine minutes into the second half when Donald Campbell was brought down in the box by Alex Watt leaving referee Jim Litster from Lochgilphead, who had a good game, an easy decision to make.

Donald, who missed a spot kick against Knockentiber the week before didn't shirk his responsibilities and this time made no mistake blasting the ball home for his hat-trick and to restore his team's two goal advantage. Any thoughts Saints might

have had that the game was over and Castlemilk would crumble were quickly dispelled as the visitors piled on the pressure and only some heroic defending kept the eager Milk forward line at bay.

The visitors pulled a goal back in the 64th minute when a ball over the top caught out the Saints defence and Thomas Finnegan raced through to despatch the ball past Graham Douglas to make the score 3-2 - game on.

Donald Campbell then set up Craig MacEwan with a great cross but Craig's header came back off the post. With nothing to lose Castlemilk

went for it, but they found the Saints defence of Jamie Graham, Alex Craik and Marc MacCallum in excellent form, ably assisted by keeper Graham Douglas who was forced into a couple of good saves.

Saints were on the back foot as the game drew to a close, but try as they might the visitors could not get that elusive equaliser and it was a relieved home side who picked up the three points in an entertaining game.

Unfortunately there was a bit of a skirmish as the players left the field after the game, but thankfully everybody saw sense and the situation soon calmed down.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted to get the win against a very good Castlemilk team. He said: 'It was an excellent game and I was generally happy with the performance, but disappointed at the two goals we lost, although I must give the team as a whole a lot of credit for some excellent defending when Castlemilk put us under pressure in the second half.'

Saints are at home again this Saturday when they take on second placed St Joseph's in the premier division match. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Scott.

Residential camp for Argyll and Bute youth footballers

FOOTBALL CAMP

ARGYLL and Bute Council's football development service ran their first ever summer residential camp last year which proved to be a great success.

Football development officer Martin Rae has announced that the camp will take place again this summer from 23 to 27 July, based at the school hostel in Oban.

The camp is open to any budding player aged 9 to 16 years who will not only be coached by SFA qualified coaches, but they will be given an introduction to sports science, including fitness testing, nutritional and hydration advice, sports psychology and lifestyle management as well as doing all the day to day chores that are expected of a full time professional youth player.

For further information on the camp please contact Martin Rae on 01631 572194 or e-mail him at martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results Under 13s no game; Milngavie 3, Under 14s 2. Scoring for Saints were Kieran Hendry and Stuart MacLean. Under 15s no game; Under 16s 6, Strathleven 3. Saints scorers were Ryan MacDougall (4), Rory Bruce and Liam McEachran. Friendly match - Under 13 development squad 5, Lochgilphead 2. Netting for Saints were Lewis Buchanan, Craig Easton, Bepe Lopez, Daniel McCuish and Martin Rennie.

This weekend's fixtures: Renton Craigandro v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Milngavie v Under 15s; Lenzie Youth Club v Under 16s.

Pool league split

POOL

Team	Pts
Markie Dans A	24
Lancaster A	24
The Claredon	20
The Cellar	18
Lancaster B	16
The Lochavullin	10
Markie Dans B	6
Oban Backpackers	2

The league now splits in two with the top four teams playing each other and the bottom four teams playing each other.

Winner will take the title

OVER 35's LEAGUE

THE OVER-35s indoor league at Atlantis Leisure will be decided during the final league games this Monday when Taynuilt play Trialists.

Both have won all their seven games, meaning the winner will take the title, but if they play out a draw there will be another game as a playoff.

The other game on Monday is Seil v Teachers and if Seil win they will finish third.

League organisers thanked referees Kevin Summers and Neil Beaton.

Results: Emergency 0, Taynuilt 4; Trialists 3, West Coast Massive 1.

Garmony holds second mini rugby competition

ISLE of Mull Rugby Club hosted the second Mini Rugby Dalriada of 2012 at Garmony last Sunday.

More than 80 rugby players from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll and Isle of Mull took part in the two competitions that ran on the day for P4/5 and P6/7 age groups.

Etive Vikings continued their 100 per cent record this season winning all four games in the P4/5 age group, scoring an impressive 24 tries in the process.

Mid Argyll, Oban, Taynuilt 2 and Mull completed the P4/5 group that produced some fantastic rugby and some very high scoring games.

It was Isle of Mull who remained unbeaten in the P6/7 age group, winning both of their games against Oban Lorne and the Vikings. After the group

PRIMARY RUGBY

games the three teams played two 10 v 10 games with scrums and lineouts in preparation for playing touring teams and also broadening their knowledge of the game.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright said: 'The fact that the tournament was so well attended is of huge credit to the players, parents, organisers and of course the coaches who all made the effort to travel to the island for the day.'

'Thanks to Isle of Mull RFC, who hosted the event, the first aiders and the parents who as usual provided some excellent post match food for the players.'

The next Dalriada tournament will be at Taynuilt on April 29.



The winning group, Rockfield A, did Chile proud with skilfully decorated t-shirts. 16_111athletic01

Regional athletics final

LOCAL schoolchildren converged on Atlantis Leisure last week to take part in a regional athletics final day.

Primary four and five pupils from Dalmally, North Lorn, Dumbeg, Park and Rockfield had previously taken part in other competitions to reach the final.

The Oban Primary Inter-school Athletics competition has been running since 2008 and Dale Kupris, Active Schools Co-ordinator for Oban and Lorn, says he has seen improvements year on

INDOOR ATHLETICS

year: 'It was a fantastic day, the kids did really well. They really worked and prepared for it and the standard is really going up. They are good little athletes.'

The Olympics were the theme for the event and teams were allocated a random country to represent on the day.

The pupils conducted research into their given country and created t-shirts, flags and banners as part of the challenge.

Tobermory golf's winter medal final

RESULTS of the Winter Medal Final played on March 11: 1 Ian McNaughton (Chas), 38-09-29; 2 Graham Brown,

GOLF

36-05-31; 3 Gordon Chalmers, 39-07-32.

Bob called up again for Scotland under-16 squad

OBAN golfer Bob MacIntyre has again been called up to the Scottish under-16 golf squad for the annual international quadrangular tournament.

The eight-man Scottish team will face Ireland, Wales and Holland in the development matches at Hilton Templepatrick Golf Club in Belfast from April 4-7.

The 15 year old said: 'I'm delighted and honoured to have been selected again to play for Scotland under 16s, and to

GOLF

be given this opportunity to play against the best players from other countries.'

Bob will be joined by Ewen Ferguson, Bearsden; Alasdair MacDougall, The New Club, St Andrew's; Innis Ferguson, Drumpellier; George Burns, Williamwood; Adam Fisher, Inchmarlo; Cameron Kirkwood, Bearsden; and Fraser Davern, Williamwood.

Euan is the new shinty development officer

ONE OF Inveraray's most dynamic forwards has this week taken up the role of shinty development officer with the Camanachd Association.

Euan McMurdo, well known in shinty circles as a forward with Inveraray Shinty Club, has gained responsibility for improving the sport across Argyll and Bute.

Already an enthusiastic volunteer and coach with a number of schools and youth shinty teams in Mid Argyll, Euan says his aim is to improve shinty at all levels from primary school right through to the national team.

Hoping to introduce more children to shinty and ensure teenagers maintain their interest in the sport, Euan said the association's strategic plan is to improve participation.

'Oban historically has always had really good primary school teams, they still do but I think in

SHINTY

the age range from S1 to S3 they struggle in terms of participation so it would be good to look at that,' Euan said. 'I am looking forward to working with the area committee in Oban to develop a plan and reverse that trend.'

Euan is a former fitness instructor with the Mid Argyll Sports Centre.



Euan McMurdo 06_a11euan01



A team of Oban Old Crocks took on their counterparts from Cambria in a friendly match at Oban Community pitch last Saturday. The Oban lads fought back from 2-0 down to draw the game 2-2 thanks to two goals from Mark Welsh. Netting for Cambria were Brian Tonner and Bill Colthart. Man of the Match was Oban's Jimmy Jackson. Accompanying the Glasgow team were Obanites Alex Beaton and Rocky MacMillan along with Calum Stewart who taught at Oban High School for a number of years. 15_111crocks01

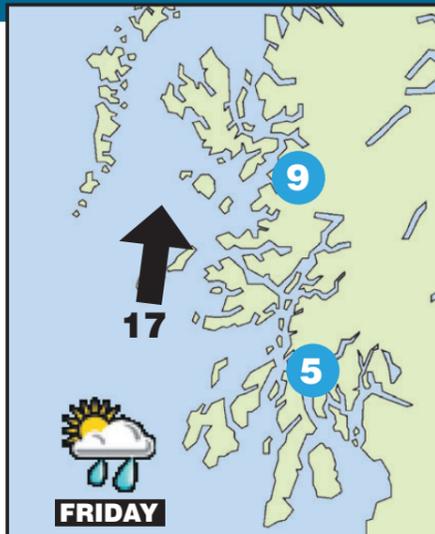
Weather

Thursday Mainly dry on Thursday, rain reaching Argyll in the afternoon spreading southeast later. Temperatures 5°C to 9°C

Friday Rain on Friday then brighter and colder later. Winds moderate, south easterly. Temperatures 2°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday, snow on hills

Ferry Crossings/Sea States	
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 15, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	10.34	2.8	17.27	1.5	23.33	2.9
Thur	04.52	1.2	10.34	2.8	17.27	1.5	23.33
Fri	06.07	1.5	13.01	2.7	18.51	1.6	*** **
Sat	01.42	3.0	07.39	1.6	15.10	2.8	20.25
Sun	03.02	3.1	09.13	1.4	16.07	3.0	21.33
Mon	03.51	3.4	10.09	1.2	16.33	3.2	22.22
Tues	04.26	3.6	10.49	1.1	16.50	3.4	23.02
Wed	05.00	3.8	11.24	0.9	17.17	3.6	23.39

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk

The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8086

Thursday 15 March, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence



Focus On

BEN NEVIS ESTATE



See page 12

For all the latest news video and photos log on to www.obantimes.co.uk Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

Mallaig and Caol mourn as two killed in crash

PROVOST of Lochaber Allan Henderson this week spoke of two communities' grief following the deaths of two local men in a horrific road accident at Glencoe.

Ferguson Transport lorry driver Stewart McGifford and Ronnie MacPhee died when their vehicles collided a mile south of the Lochaber village last Thursday afternoon.

Mallaig man Mr MacPhee, a father of two, had been driving home when his Fiat Punto was in a collision with the articulated lorry driven by Mr McGifford. The lorry was heading south with a delivery of planks from BSW's sawmill at Corpach.

Speaking through *The Oban Times*, Mr Henderson said: 'I would like to add my condolences to all concerned as Provost of Lochaber.

'I was in Mallaig on Friday night where the sadness and sense of loss was palpable.

'I am sure Caol was no different. Please express my sympathy in the strongest possible terms.'

Mr McGifford, 48, who lived with his wife Joan in Kilmallie Road, had been a driver for Ferguson Transport for five years.

Mr MacPhee, 45, lived in Daliburgh in South Uist before he moved to Mallaig. He was brought up on the family croft and has an extended family on the island.

He had worked for Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) for 27 years.

Ferguson Transport boss Ali Ferguson said Mr McGifford would be 'sorely missed'.

A CalMac spokesperson said staff had been 'shocked and saddened' by Mr MacPhee's death. Mr MacPhee's funeral was held in St Patrick's Church in Mallaig yesterday at 1pm, followed by his burial at Morar.

Mr McGifford's funeral takes place at Inverness Crematorium tomorrow (Friday) at 10.30am.

Meanwhile, a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Fort William.

A fatal accident inquiry could follow.



Seed to supper: Banavie Primary School pupils, from left, Gregory Woodward, Andrew Dingwall, Ciara Muir, Ena Wood and Jo Barr Muir planting their seeds. 20/11/seed01

Banavie pupils dig deep on seed project

GREEN-fingered youngsters from Banavie Primary School visited Lochaber Rural Education Centre on Tuesday to plant seeds which they will cultivate over the next few months.

As part of the centre's annual 'Seed to Supper' project, the P4 pupils planted a variety of seeds, including potatoes, onions,

sweetcorn and squash, as well as flowers. They will tend to the plants as they grow throughout the summer before harvesting them in autumn.

The children have outdoor lessons as well as filling in worksheets and planning out their vegetable patches. When they finish the project later in the year, they plan to make a

tasty meal out of the fruits of their labour. Youngster Ciara Muir told *The Oban Times*: 'It's amazing! I like getting my fingers dirty.'

Centre trustee Isabel Campbell said: 'As well as gardening, they are learning science, maths and social interaction. And they all really enjoy it.'

Crofters' shock at news they cannot vote in elections

SOME crofters eligible to vote in elections to the new Crofting Commission have not received postal ballot papers from Highland Council, it has emerged.

Brae Lochaber couple Joy and Willie Munro, who live on a registered croft at 25 Inverroy, are among those disenfranchised.

Ms Munro, 73, was told by Highland Council she was not entitled to vote because her name was not on their records.

That information was based on a letter from the Crofters Commission to Mrs Munro

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

returned to the sender by Royal Mail in 2010 marked 'address unknown'.

Mrs Munro is disappointed she has been excluded from the first ever commission elections - and says she is not alone.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We have only been here since 1969. A two-minute phone call to our township clerk would

have established our credentials. Famously enough the Forestry Commission can find us for croft rent, Highland Council can find us for Council Tax and the Department of Work and Pensions can find us for pension details. On further enquiries in our township of 15 crofters, at least two others did not receive ballot papers, although one did eventually receive them on making a complaint. If this was replicated throughout the other crofting counties there could be several hundred other crofters who have been disenfranchised.

I was also told that it was too late to send out ballot papers.'

She added: 'Incompetence on this scale is what one would expect in a third world country.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'After Joy Munro contacted us to find out why they had not received a ballot paper we asked the Crofting Commission to check their Register of Crofts. Their records showed that in 2010 Royal Mail had returned mail as 'address unknown' therefore the address was removed from the register.'

Glenelg leads the way with wave power cash talks

Tidal energy proceeds would be invested in other local green projects

THE SCOTTISH Government is actively considering radical proposals which would see Glenelg and surrounding communities taking a stake in a tidal energy scheme proposed for the Kylerhea narrows, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

The move follows face-to-face talks in Edinburgh between First Minister Alex Salmond and Glenelg and Arnsdale Development Trust representatives, at which GADT proposed a Community Renewable Development Fund (CRDF) to finance community investment in local green energy projects.

The ambitious plan would start with Kylerhea, where Marine Current Turbines propose a £44million scheme between Skye and the mainland.

The 8MW, four-turbine development could generate annual revenue of £5.5million - £135million over its expected 25-year lifespan.

GADT envisage revenue generated by their stakeholding being ploughed back into the CRDF, then recycled to provide capital for other communities seeking to develop their own renewable energy schemes.

These would also contribute to the fund, and as surpluses built up cash would become available for regeneration projects along the west coast.

The narrows at Connel, Loch Leven and Corran are among locations already cited as having tidal energy potential.

Mr Salmond expressed support in principle for GADT's 'pilot' community ownership scheme

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

harder and stronger commitment this time.'

He added: 'There was a bit of resistance from the government initially, but they agreed to go away and look at potential sources of funding. We are looking for a positive response from them. They promised to get back to us as quickly as possible.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'The First Minister had a positive meeting with representatives from Glenelg late last year when he heard more about the tidal project being developed at Kylerhea.'

'We are working with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Glenelg to help ensure the community can benefit from the project.'

MCT has set up Sea Generation (Kylerhea) Ltd to progress its bid. Spokesperson Paul Taylor said an application would be lodged with Marine Scotland by December.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'MCT is very open to the idea of a community investment in the scheme. The process has started and there has been an encouraging level of interest. We are proceeding in taking forward the scheme through the planning and consultation process.'

He added: 'Talk of financing the tidal project is one thing but the scheme still requires planning permission and an important part of that process is community consultation and local support.' Siemens energy recently acquired a 10 per cent stake in MCT.



Hebrides Haulage LTD

DAILY SERVICES
GLASGOW
FORT WILLIAM
SKYE

PARCELS, PALLETS AND GENERAL HAULAGE

★ CHILLED SERVICE ★

38-40 Rigs Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2RF
Tel: 01851 703255
Fax: 01851 706001

149 Balmoral Street, Glasgow G14 0HB
Tel: 0141 954 6566
Fax: 0141 959 0197

email kenneth.smith@hebrideshaulage.co.uk

Lochalsh Depot Now Open
the Scottish island delivery specialists

Police pledge to crackdown on underage drinkers

POLICE have said they will crack down on underage drinkers in Lochaber after officers found a number of teenagers with alcohol on the streets of Fort William and Caol last weekend.

The officers caught a number of 16 and 17-year-olds with bottle and cans of alcohol in residential areas, as well as in Viewforth Car Park, during foot patrols on Friday and Saturday night.

The list of drink confiscated by officers included 32 bottles and cans of beer, three bottles of vodka, three bottles of rum and lime, two bottles of Buckfast and a two litre bottle of cider.

Northern Constabulary Chief Inspector David Bushell told *The Oban Times*: 'This quite clearly shows if officers on patrol come across underage persons drinking alcohol we will seize it and

dispose of it. We will make inquiries as to where the alcohol came from, and if any crime has been committed reports will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

Chief Inspector Bushell said any person found purchasing drink on behalf of anyone underage, or selling alcohol to anyone underage, would be reported to the fiscal.

Islanders take Mallaig ferry link bid to Glasgow

DEMONSTRATORS from South Uist, Benbecula and Eriskay demanded the re-introduction of the Lochboisdale-Mallaig ferry link outside the SNP's spring conference in Glasgow on Saturday.

Around 50 'Missing Link' campaigners called for the route to be included in the government's 2013-2023 Ferries Plan.

Protest organiser Josie Burgess said: 'Far from providing a lifeline service, the Scottish Government seem to be doing all they can to make it as difficult as possible for people to travel home

to South Uist. We now hope the Government grasps the importance of this to South Uist.'

Missing Link member Deirdre MacEachen said the Mallaig connection would greatly cut the current 20-hour return journey to Glasgow.

Travel problems
'These kind of travel problems perfectly demonstrate why the Lochboisdale-Mallaig service is so urgently required,' she said.

Meanwhile, a Benbecula businessman says he has lost £120,000 worth of business in Lochaber

because poor ferry links made co-ordinating work impossible. MacGillivray Floor Furnishings managing director Rory MacGillivray said: 'For Uist to prosper, the logistical travel nightmares being experienced over the last few years must be resolved without further delay.'

He added: 'RET has the potential to allow local island businesses to successfully price work on the mainland.'

'However, costs of travel become negligible when the actual ferry service is so inadequate.'

Various Makita Naked Tools Available

£379 incl. VAT

Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd
Unit 2, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Claggan, Fort William, PH33 6PR
Tel 01397 705159
Fax 01397 700722

Glen Nevis Restaurant and Lounge Bar

Re-Open for the Season on Friday 23rd March

Relax and enjoy the finest quality produce, excellent selection of specially sourced wines and fine malt whiskies in beautiful surroundings

Light lunches, snacks and homebaking served daily from 12 noon

Bar meals available from 5pm
Glass fronted scenic restaurant opens from 5pm

Families welcome, children's menu available.

Call 01397 705459 or email restaurant@glen-nevis.co.uk for information and reservations

Music duo take to Glenuig Hall stage

LOCHAILORT musician Jim Hunter teams up with singer songwriter Graham Flett for a gig at Glenuig Hall on Saturday night.

The duo, who have just returned from a tour of Switzerland, will be joined by special guests 'The Quinine Cowboys'.

Bike ace Ben takes the honours in winter league race

DUROR cycling ace Ben Miller won West Highland Wheelers' winter league race at Wolfrax, Laggan, on Sunday.

Ben, 16, came in ahead of fellow Lochaber youngster Stephen Dent, who took a career best second place.

Roddy Wells was first male veteran home, while Marie Meldrum took the ladies race from Nix Forster.

With two events to go, titles are still up for grabs with a number of contenders for each trophy.

Glen Loy hosts the penultimate event on March 25.

Cancer charity's Ben Nevis climb appeal

CHILDREN'S cancer charity CLIC Sargent is appealing for supporters in the West Highlands to join a fundraising climb of Ben Nevis on Saturday June 23.

For more information call 0141 572 5700 or email nevis@clicsargent.org.uk



Siobhan MacInnes and Derek Macintosh from Dè a-nis? with Portree's Alannah Beaton, centre, who won best performance in the 12-17 age category.

National Gaelic film awards success

THE HEBRIDES scooped an array of honours at the FilmG awards at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow on Friday night.

Now in its fourth year, MG ALBA's annual national Gaelic film awards – the Oscars of the Gaelic film world – was another star-studded occasion.

Danny MacAskill from Dunvegan, the YouTube sensation and professional street trials rider, attended the event.

In the 12-17 age category, pupils from Back School in Lewis won the Gaelic award

for their short film 'Abair Sgaibh', Seachdain nan Sgoilearan at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat won best script for 'An Geall' and Alannah Beaton from Portree took best performance for her role as Margaret in 'Teid no Cha Teid'.

Director

In the adult category, Elly Welch from Stornoway scooped the FilmG Theme Award, best first-time director (Industry) and best factual short award for 'Oidheche Shàmhach'.

Also from Stornoway, new entrant Stephen MacLeod won best student film for 'Air Cùl na Gàire', while Uist Drama Group won best community short award for 'A' Phàrlamaid'. During the awards, Western Isles MSP Dr Alasdair Allan MSP announced a further £30,000 from the Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig for the FilmG project.

The 2012 competition received a record number of entries from home and abroad. All entries and winners can be viewed online at www.filmg.co.uk.

River boss cleared on gun charge

A LOCHABER river manager has been cleared of firing a shotgun over the heads of four poachers near the River Lochy.

John Ferguson, Christopher MacLeod and brothers Brian and Craig Tolmie told a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court they had been illegally fishing in the River Lochy on July 1 when a man on the other side of the 80 metre wide river fired a shotgun over their heads to scare them off.

Three of them identified River Lochy manager John Veitch, aged 45, as the culprit, but police constable Shaun Brooks said he had visited the scene and would not be able to recognise a person on the opposite bank as the distance was too large.

After questioning the four men and the officer, Procurator Fiscal

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Laura Ryan asked for a short adjournment and told Sheriff Mungo Bovey she was no longer seeking a conviction against Mr Veitch.

Craig Tolmie, aged 19, told the court he turned to run after seeing a man get out of a 4x4 vehicle on the opposite side of the river.

He said: 'I reeled in my hook and ran up a wee path. That's when he shot the gun at us. I looked back and saw him standing with a gun. I saw him pointing it towards the bushes where we were running to.'

All four of the witnesses described hearing the sounds of 'stones' or 'pebbles' hitting the

trees above their heads. Ms Ryan asked Mr Tolmie if Mr Veitch was the man he saw. 'Yes, I've seen him before. I know who he is,' he replied.

The police were not informed about the alleged incident until they received an anonymous phone call in September, two months after the event. All of the poachers denied making the call.

Mr Ferguson, aged 19, said: 'We knew that we would be in the bad for not getting permission from the landowner to fish. We weren't that fussed.'

Mr Veitch, of The Steading, Camisky Lodge, Tortundy, had pled not guilty to culpably and recklessly discharging the pump action shotgun over the heads of the men to their alarm and danger at Torcastle, near Banavie.

Club lotto jackpot jumps to £600

THERE were no winners in the Fort William FC lotto draw on Saturday. Numbers were 04-12-16.

The jackpot goes up to £600 this week.



Top class quiz winners

Portree Primary School were top of the class when they outscored 13 other teams to win the Skye and Lochalsh Primary Rotary Quiz. The Portree team of Dougal McKiggan, Johnathan Smith, Emily MacDonald and Lauren Gunn, pictured above with their trophy, answered 95 per cent of the questions correctly. The quiz quartet now goes forward to represent Skye and Lochalsh at the area finals in Ballintore on May 12.



An old bogie from the Lochaline sand mine: part of Morvern's industrial history.

Miners urged to share memories

FORMER miners who burrowed deep under Lochaline for silica sand are being urged to get involved in an oral history project as the village's mine prepares to re-open later this year.

As a first step, ex-miners and their relatives are being invited to Lochaline Social Club on Saturday evening at 7.30pm to share memories of working at the plant.

Their testimonies and stories will form part of a local exhibition tracing the mine's story since it opened in 1940.

It is hoped some oral contributions can be matched with old photographs to provide a unique interpretation of work above and below ground.

Lochaline played a significant

role in the war effort, providing high grade sand for the manufacture of submarine periscope lenses and sunsights.

The exhibition could form part of a bigger event, featuring street theatre performers and workshops.

However, planning is at a very early stage.

Fascinating

Project organiser, local woman Veronique Walraven, came up with the idea of marking the mine's re-opening by celebrating its fascinating history at the same time.

She told The Oban Times: 'To have this industrial site within this place of very great beauty stirred something within me. I felt we really have to do

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

something theatrical within that. We want to discover this history from the miners point of view.

'We would like to record these oral reminiscences for future safe keeping and use some of the stories for an event at the mine opening later this year.'

'When it first opened there were many workers who came from the slate quarry at Ballachulish, so it's not impossible some of those men could still be alive.'

Stories

'If not, maybe their children or partners still have some stories and I would really like to hear from them. If people can't make it on

the Saturday evening, we have a storyteller and a filmmaker coming from Edinburgh who can visit them in their own homes.'

The mine's new owners, joint venture company Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd, a partnership between global glass manufacturer NSG Group and Italian mining company Gruppo Minerale Maffei, bought the mine from Tarmac last year.

Export

The firm plans to extract 100,000 tonnes of sand annually for export by sea to glass-making plants in England.

Around 12 jobs will be created at the Morvern port. Anyone wishing to assist Veronique with her history project can contact her on 01967 421774.

Nevis Radio in urgent cash crisis appeal

FORT William's community radio station Nevis Radio needs to raise £20,000 or risk going off the airwaves by the end of the year.

The volunteer-run station, which started broadcasting 15 years ago, faces a bill of at least £4,500 to repair a fault at a transmission aerial at Trestlaig which has caused sporadic breakdowns for several weeks. A new piece of equipment has been ordered but will not be ready for installation for another month.

Chairman Iain Ferguson said the

repairs, plus the need to upgrade all the station's transmitters across Lochaber and general upkeep means it faces huge bills between now and the end of the year.

He said: 'We raised £600 on the first day from anonymous donations, which was fantastic. But we need the public to continue giving. The message is simple, dig deep and help us right now, or we won't be there when you need us most.'

An engineer put in temporary equipment to get Nevis Radio back

on the airwaves last week, but service was only resumed in the greater Fort William area. Mr Ferguson said as soon as the new equipment is installed full service will resume. A number of fundraising events are being planned to help the radio station, including quiz nights, golf tournaments and a radio auction.

Donations can be made at the studios or through the website www.nevisradio.co.uk.

For further information phone 01397 700007.

Race night helps fund application

LOCHABER Sports Association raised £1,306 at its race night in the Volunteer Arms on Saturday night.

The cash means the group now has enough match funding for an application for 75 per cent LEADER funding into a feasibility study on a possible multi-sport indoor training facility in the Greater Fort William area. The bid will be determined early next month.

Bridge work complete

WORK to upgrade four swing bridges on the A82 and A830 at Fort Augustus, Aberchalder, Laggan and Banavie is due to be completed today.

The bridges over the Caledonian Canal have been refurbished, repaired and repainted.

Local MSP Dave Thompson said the 1932 steelwork on the Aberchalder and Laggan structures had been 'severely corroded'.

Walker tumbles near Lealt Falls

A 35-year-old walker was taken to the Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford, Skye, on Tuesday after he fell near Lealt Falls, 12 miles north of Portree.

Police, ambulance paramedics and members of Skye Mountain Rescue Team were called to the scene around 12.30pm. The man sustained minor injuries.

Man caught driving more than four times drink limit

POLICE have seized a Caol man's car after he was caught driving in the village while nearly four times the legal alcohol limit.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Graeme Ellis' Peugeot 306 would likely be scrapped due to its low sell-on rate, after it was valued at £300-£600. Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan said the forfeiture of the car would act as a 'deterrent' to other drivers.

Ellis, of 7 Cameron Place, was also banned from driving for two years and fined £800 after pleading guilty to drink driving on Glenpane Street, Kilmallie Road and Glendessary Street.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Ellis had been drinking at home on March 11.

He said: 'For some reason, he decided to drive from his home in

Caol to a garage two miles from his house to purchase cigarettes.'

Ellis was spotted by a police patrol car a short distance from his house and immediately admitted he had been drinking. The 54-year-old spent the night in custody.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey said: 'This is an alarming amount of alcohol in the system of a person in charge of a vehicle.'

Race against time to save Lochaber's Steall Gorge path

ONE OF Lochaber's most scenic tourist trails is facing closure if essential repairs to combat worsening erosion are not carried out soon.

Wild Land conservation charity the John Muir Trust says Steall Gorge path in Glen Nevis is 'in desperate need of maintenance' if it is to stay open to the thousands of visitors who venture along it each year.

The rollercoaster path, cut into the side of the gorge, leads up to An Steall Bàn (the white spout), Scotland's second highest waterfall. But erosion from heavy use and

exposure to the elements is taking its toll. To help keep the path open, the trust has entered a European Outdoor Conservation Association competition, where a number of conservation projects from across Europe are put to a public vote. Getting the most votes will earn £25,000 towards the urgent work required on the path.

Fran Lockhart, the trust's Nevis manager, said: 'The path is under a lot of strain and is now starting to show its age. We'll use the funding to carry out appropriate repairs. This will ensure access through the gorge

so that people can continue to explore these amazing, rugged surroundings and enjoy one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Scotland for many more years to come. If we don't do anything, there's a serious risk that access will be lost completely.'

Broadcaster and author Cameron McNeish, who is backing the funding bid, urged everyone to vote for the John Muir Trust.

Voting is open at www.outdoorconservation.eu/project-voting-category.cfm?catid=1#facebook-like until March 27.

Man admits assaulting wife

A FORT William man has been ordered to be of good behaviour for one year after admitting assaulting his wife in their home.

David Ball, of 1 Mull Court, pled guilty to striking his wife on the head and body and seizing her on the arm all to her injury on February 5. The woman was left with red marks, scratches and swelling on her arms and chest, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Defending Ball, Hamish Melrose said the 38-year-old 'deeply regrets what happened'.

Search on for canine crimefighter

NORTHERN Constabulary has issued a public appeal to help it find a young spaniel or labrador capable of being trained as a police sniffer dog.

The potential canine crimefighter should be between 10 months and two-years-old, preferably of gundog breeding, and keen on playing with toys.

Anyone wishing to re-home their dog can contact PS Niall Maclean of the dog section in Inverness on 0845 600 5703.

FAMILY CEILIDH DANCE

With Michael Garvin, Neil MacKay and Tom Adams and various other local artistes

Friday 16th March 2012 at 7.30pm

Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban

Tickets £8 Concession £5 Family Ticket £20 Tel: 01631 564848

Tickets from the Oban Music Shop, MacQueen Bros, Committee members and available at the door

Visitors Welcome Corporate tables available

CANCER RESEARCH UK Oban Local Committee Registered Charity no 108946

TARIFFS. WE'VE MADE THEM EASY PEASY.

We've made it much easier for you to get the best energy deal with us. Simply choose between a fixed and variable tariff and get 7% off the unit rate when you choose monthly direct debit and paperless bills. No wonder we've been voted number one for customer service by uSwitch for the past six years.* To find out what else we're doing to make energy better, call us or go online.

Call 0800 048 3642 www.hydro.co.uk

Scottish Hydro

*Scottish Hydro is a trading name of SSE Energy Supply Limited, voted Best Overall Energy Supplier every year since 2006 in the uSwitch Customer Satisfaction Reports.

FW

92-year old blind woman robbed in her Oban home

POLICE are hunting a female thief who robbed a 92-year-old blind woman in her home after feigning illness.

The woman is alleged to have knocked on the pensioner's door and asked for a glass of water. After she left, the elderly woman discovered the contents of her purse had gone missing.

The reported incident happened on Soroba Road at around 2pm on Monday.

Anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious at that time, or has any information on the theft should contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

More than 60 caught in Kilniver speed trap

POLICE issued 63 charges or warnings to drivers in six weeks for speeding through the village of Kilniver.

Despite closely monitoring the speed of drivers through the village since February 1, Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld expressed frustration that drivers continued to flout the 30mph limit past the village primary school.

The most serious recent incident involved a seven-and-a-half tonne lorry travelling at 45mph last Saturday afternoon.

NHS confirms Islay doctor shortlist

NHS HIGHLAND has this week confirmed it is shortlisting potential GPs for the vacant post in Bowmore on Islay.

The closing date for job applications was March 10 and dates for interviews are scheduled for next month. NHS Highland refused to say how many applications had been received.

Call to attend Scottish Ferry Review meeting

RESIDENTS of Oban Lorn and the isles are being urged to attend a meeting about the Scottish Ferries Review in the Corran Halls tomorrow (Friday).

The meeting will discuss the impact of the proposals on Oban, which has the most Caledonian MacBrayne ferry routes.

The meeting will begin at 7pm.



caption caption caption caption caption caption

Cookery student Liam Roberts, from Oban, with a seafood platter from the Scrumptious Scotland event. 16_111cook01

College chefs serve up Scottish treat

COOKERY students at Argyll College have served up a mouth-watering medley of Argyll fare to promote the county's produce.

Scrumptious Scotland is a national event funded by Scotland's colleges and 11 Oban students used the campaign to demonstrate their cooking skills at a special nine-course dinner

for invited guests in the college on Tuesday.

Cookery tutor Chris Wolfe said on Tuesday: 'The students have used as much local produce as possible and all the game is locally sourced.'

'This is a cracking bunch of students and I hope this event will be a recognition of what

they can do. It is a chance for them to show off.'

Among the dishes on the extensive menu were shellfish, pheasant, venison and rhubarb and ginger sorbet.

The students will be hosting another Scrumptious Scotland event, a buffet lunch, at the end of this month.

Buck passed over Mull pier repairs

Government blame council, council blame CMAL, meanwhile islanders and tourists face another summer of delays and discontent

THE ARGUMENT over who is responsible for the pier in Craignure on Mull has been settled by the Scottish Government.

A letter from Transport Minister Keith Brown to local MSP Michael Russell puts the burden of repairing and maintaining the pier firmly at the door of Argyll and Bute Council.

Michael Russell said: 'It clearly lays the blame at the council's door and makes it clear the council should act.' The letter criticises the council for allowing Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) to spend £400,000 of its 'scarce reserves' while to date they, the port owner, have contributed nothing.

Keith Brown said: 'Only Argyll and Bute Council have the statutory responsibility to take forward the replacement of a Passenger Access System (PAS) at Craignure.'

'In addition, given Argyll and Bute Council receives £1m in revenue from CalMac from this port alone, only they are in a position to secure funding for a replacement PAS.'

Long term, and in line with the recommendations in the draft plan for ferry services, the Scottish Government is willing to be



The Passenger Access System is a CMAL asset say council

responsible for all 'lifeline' ferry services in Scotland including their associated ports.

The government will work with Argyll and Bute Council to discuss the possibility of taking over responsibility for services currently provided by them.

In the meantime the letter states 'that both CMAL and Argyll and Bute Council are continuing to work on the design for a permanent replacement and it

is recognised that such procurement will take 15 to 18 months. CMAL will continue to maintain and improve where possible the 'temporary' system.'

Despite foot passengers having to regularly leave the ferry using the vehicle ramp a spokeswoman for the council said: 'The council, Scottish Government officials and CMAL have been working together for a number of months to ensure that the Passenger Access System at Craignure is both safe and fit for purpose.'

'The council's position is that as the Passenger Access System is a CMAL asset, and in line with similar arrangements at other ferry terminals on the west coast of Scotland, CMAL should lead and fund its future replacement.'

'The letter received from the Transport Minister is receiving detailed consideration at this time and a response will be issued within the near future.'

'The revenue derived from Craignure, along with the revenue from all its piers and harbours across Argyll and Bute is reinvested in supporting lifeline ferries operated by the council and the council's piers and harbours which support the local economy and community life.'

Platinum follows gold at Tyndrum

Valuable find is 'highly promising'

HIGHLY valuable platinum has been found on a hillside near Tyndrum in the latest round of exploratory drills by mining company Scotgold.

The company said the results of its drilling programme had shown an area of highly anomalous gold and platinum group elements containing palladium, copper, nickel and cobalt.

Scotgold said the discoveries, at Sron Garbh, added an exciting new dimension to its exploration programme, describing the geological conditions as 'highly promising'.

The drill site is about two kilometres from Tyndrum, and five kilometres northeast of the soon to be developed Cononish gold and silver mine.

It's thought the ground conditions were similar to major deposits in Aguablanca in Spain and in certain parts of the Sudbury mines in Ontario, Canada.

Further test drills at Sron Garbh will be carried out later this year.

Chris Sangster, chief executive of Scotgold, said: 'The potential deposit style adds an exciting new dimension to Scotgold's exploration programme and represents a significant new target in addition to the narrow vein gold and other targets identified elsewhere within the Scotgold's licence areas.'

'Scotgold is keen to advance further work in the area as soon as possible.' It is the latest in a series of successful test drills by the company, which in February said early prospecting work at its River Vein area, along River Orchy, near to Glen Orchy Farm, showed at least two possible gold and silver bearing structures.

The company was last month given the green light to mine for gold and silver at Cononish in Loch Lomond National Park.

NEWSDESK 01397 703003

Seven west coast businesses in PSYBT's Scottish top 100

SEVEN successful west coast businesses feature in a list celebrating 100 of the best companies supported by the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT).

Best performers The research, independently verified by the Royal Bank of

Scotland, identifies the 100 best performing companies funded by PSYBT since it launched in 1989.

Among the most successful, those companies with a turnover between £1million-£5million, are Argyll-wide firm Mellex Plant and Construction, better

known as West Coast Plant Hire and Lewis firms Wild West Foods, and Autoparts Stornoway Ltd.

Mull's Island Bakery and Lewis crane hire company, John MacIver and Sons, feature in the £500,000-£1million turnover bracket, while the Harris fish-

ing boat MFV Isbjorn and Treen band, Skerryvore, feature in the £200,000-£500,000 category.

Between them, the ventures have generated 86 jobs.

'Exceptional' Presenting the survey, Mark Strudwick CBE, chief executive of PSYBT, said: 'The 100 busi-

nesses featured in this report are all exceptional; but we must not forget they started off as micro-businesses without the funding and support in place to become sustainable businesses.'

'PSYBT provided that support and, through our volunteer network, helped build the con-

fidence and skills necessary for these businesses to flourish.'

'The supported businesses have a combined turnover of some £157million.'

'This has a huge impact on the Scottish economy and is well recognised by all those who know about PSYBT's work.'



Winner David Harvey is £1,750 better off 06_at1spot01

Tarbert's £1,750 Spot the Shinty Ball winner is thinking about a holiday

A KEEN player of The Oban Times Spot the Shinty Ball competition recently finally enjoying the fruits of his labour with a stunning £1,750 spot-on win.

David Harvey, from Tarbert,

The surprised 40-year-old

is now thinking about how to spend his £1,750 winnings after his success with the West Highland's favourite weekly newspaper.

David, who lives in Tarbert with his wife Eileen, said they

might put the money towards a holiday.

David added: 'We normally go over to the Isle of Mull in the summer so perhaps we will put some of the money towards our trip.'

'Hopefully we can make across when the better weather comes in.'

David said: 'I play spot the shinty ball in The Oban Times almost every week and I have come close many times but I

have never won before.

'I'm pleased all of my efforts have paid off.'

'When I got the call from The Oban Times I thought "what have I done now"; I wasn't expecting it at all.'

Discussions aimed at avoiding Shanks' strike

UNION officials representing Shanks' staff across Argyll and Bute will attempt to sit down with company bosses again as it aims to avoid further strikes.

Staff in Oban have been joined by colleagues across the county in staging three walkouts so far this year in a dispute over a proposed one-third cut to sick pay entitlement, in return for a four per cent pay increase offer over three years.

Shanks had previously told staff that they were risking their jobs in taking staging the protests and had withdrawn their pay increase offer.

Alec McClucky of the GMB Union is hoping the company will return to talks. He said: 'We want to have further discussions before we consider taking any further action. We have now offered to meet with them for negotiations to see if we can move things on.'

Shanks confirmed that talks between the parties have now reopened.

Damaged Dunbeg road signs to be replaced say Transerv

BROKEN chevrons on the A85 near to Dunbeg will be replaced in the coming weeks as part of a programme to improve the road's safety.

Scotland Transerv is in the process of replacing all the road signs between Oban and Connel after a safety survey identified the stretch as having a higher than average accident rate.

There was concern from Connel Community Council's Les Stewart that the broken and tatty chevrons on the approaches to the Halfway Filling Station would remain untouched after Transerv staff told him they

weren't included as part of the work.

However, the company responsible for maintaining the west coast's trunk roads clarified they would be replaced.

A spokesperson said: 'The signage works, between Oban and Connel, were generated from a safety study as this section of road has a higher than average accident rate.'

'Additionally there have been visibility, drainage and road surface condition improvements. The replacement signage includes the chevrons near the Halfway Filling Station.'

Oban Shopmobility saved by MacQueen's Charitable Trust

A LAST minute cheque for £1,000 from the MacQueen Community Charity Shop has saved Oban's Shopmobility from closure in its 10th year - but its future is still in doubt.

Volunteers running the not-for-profit facility, established by the Oban Disability Forum in 2002, had actually agreed to shut the doors before the charitable trust approved the grant.

Further grants of £250 from West Highland Housing Association and £1,800 from Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector's Grant Scheme have secured its future for the next six months. However, failure to obtain further funding will

force the organisation to close its doors for good.

Having leased mobility aids to 181 separate individuals in 2011, they say it is an essential feature for any vibrant town centre.

Shopmobility Oban's Fiona Morrison said: 'It costs around £6,000 a year to keep us going, but funding is very hard to come by now. If we can't get funding, we will have to close. Really, what we need is funding to secure our next three years.'

Further applications for funding are pending approval.

Meanwhile, volunteers are being sought to help run the shop. For more information, phone 01631 567150



At the handover of cheques to save Shopmobility Oban were, from left, Kate Winton, Catrina Campbell, Ed Morton, Jan Morton, Judith Dougans, MacQueen Charitable Trust trustee Linda Fraser, West Highland Housing Association's Leslie McInnes, Fiona Morrison and Elaine Robertson.

15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, February 20, 1997 Mission completed, thanks to all our generous readers! Worry over road-side rubbish Councils save three centres

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD Across 1 Deep red soup (6) 4 Nervy (2,4) 9 On which to write? (7) 10 Suit (5) 11 A feeling (5) 12 Hairstyle for men (4,3) 13 Document case (8,3) 18 Sweet potato instrument (7) 20 Elbow (5) 22 One with a cover story (5) 23 Catch (7) 24 Religious ministers... (6) 25 Regular (6) Down 1 ...religious teacher (6) 2 Bow rub (5) 3 Make haste to keep in line with gossip? (5,2) 5 Chivalrous (5) 6 Actual (2,5) 7 Housing en masse (6) 8 Journeying outwith the Earth's atmosphere (5,6) 14 Picture (7) 15 This enables speech and hearing simultaneously (7) 16 Tile pattern (6) 17 Thus (6) 19 Topping sounds chilly! (5) 21 Excitement (5)

BID4Oban move towards September ballot

A MEETING to present the survey results by the BID4Oban steering group was heralded as a success last week.

Dozens of members of the local business community came to the Corran Halls last Thursday night to hear how a BID could improve the town.

Chairman of the steering group, Graham MacQueen said: 'We are delighted with the turnout and it is really good to see so many businesses from the town represented.'

The majority of the presentation was carried out by steering committee member Andy Spence and project manager Pauline Cameron.

The pros-and-cons of becoming a BID town were explained and included promoting year-round events to extend the tourist season and keep Oban sustainable by encouraging more visitors to the town.

Other proposals included improving car parking, signage and availability of public toilet facilities within the town.

A ballot to allow businesses to vote on the proposals is expected in September. A positive result would see all businesses within the 30mph speed limit in Oban contribute financially to BIDS. Asked by one concerned businessman about how binding the ballot result would be the steering group reply was: 'If it is a yes vote you are in it. There is not an opt out.'

Mr Spence said that in the face of a tough economy 'this is a real chance as a business community to all get together and promote a successful BID.'

'Even those not directly affected by tourism can benefit.'

'It is about prosperity in the town as a whole.'

The amount businesses would be expected to contribute to a BID scheme will depend on their current rateable value.

Webster wins right to appeal against murder conviction

CONVICTED wife-killer, Malcolm Webster, has won the right to appeal his conviction for murder.

The 52 year old former Oban hospital managerial staff member, who was jailed for life and ordered to serve a minimum 30 year sentence, had previously been granted the right to appeal his sentence, although at that time an appeal of his conviction was refused.

Three judges have now granted him leave to appeal his conviction after reading written statements from Webster's lawyers.

The grounds for appeal are not yet known. Webster was, in May last year, found guilty of murdering Claire Morris in an Aberdeenshire crash in 1994, and of intending to bigamously marry hospital theatre manager Simone Banarjee, of Oban, to gain access to her estate.

Among other charges, he was also found guilty of attempting to murder Felicity Drumm in New Zealand in 1999.

Woman accused of Tthree child assault

A 40-year-old woman has been accused of assaulting a nine-year-old boy on the Isle of Tiree. The alleged incident happened on March 1 in Scarinish.

Vehicle vandalised in Dunbeg

A BLACK Volvo parked in Lorn Road, Dunbeg was scratched from the front to the rear between March 6 and 7.

Police are appealing for any witnesses to the incident to contact PC Mark O'Donnell at Oban Police Station - 01631 510 500.

NEWSDESK 01631 568000

Bonawe bus future plan to go ahead despite assurances

RESIDENTS of Bonawe are to continue planning a more sustainable future for its bus service despite assurances current provision will remain at least until February 2013.

More efficiency Steering Ardcattan to Better Buses wants to explore what

can be done to make the current services more efficient and has canvassed residents of Bonawe to see what they need and what they think of what's currently on offer.

More than 50 per cent of households asked to complete the survey responded and while

the full results are yet to be compiled, plans are already afoot to carry out a similar exercise in Benderloch and Barcaldine.

Chairman of Ardcattan Community Council and steering group member, Iain MacDonald, said: 'The survey

is quite interesting. What we've discovered is that a lot of the services were arranged for historic reasons.

'For example, the Bonawe bus goes all the way to the Achnaba - doubling up with another service - because, in years gone by, there used to be a family

there with lots of kids.

'They're now long gone, but the result is we have two buses going to Dunbeg at the same time.'

'As we thought, these timetables are put together by someone sitting behind a desk. 'So if the council can't give

us a bus service we can use we'll have to devise something ourselves.'

Mr MacDonald said Eleanor MacKinnon, of Argyll Voluntary Action, was compiling the results of the survey for presentation to the group in the coming weeks.

Key Oban meeting to modernise planning system

Investment in infrastructure for rural areas is dwindling

CALLS for a more flexible approach to maintaining rural roads will be made at a Scottish Government planning meeting to be held in Oban this week.

Planners from Argyll and Bute and Highland councils will meet with local developers and government officials at the Corran Halls on Friday in a bid to modernise the planning system.

With tourism reliant on good transport links, yet the size of investment in infrastructure for rural areas dwindling in recent years, government officials

will hear that there is a need to approach the maintenance of essential roads in a different way.

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council's scheme of delegation will come under scrutiny, while Highland Council will discuss its approach to affordable housing.

Other items up for discussion included planning procedures for hydro development, and how the system supports the deployment of micro-renewables.

The discussions will feed into the Scottish Government's new performance framework for planning, to be published later this month and coming into use next month.

Planning minister Derek Mackay said: 'Of course planning must support our overarching purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth. It's clear from those discussions that while the legislation and the planning system is generally working, we can do more. Getting attitudes and actions right will be key.'

The meeting follows a similar event held in Fort William last October, when developers raised a number of concerns with the way the system currently works.

Among them were apparent inconsistencies between the way some applications were dealt with, the time it takes for some applications to be approved and slow responses from government agencies for statutory legislation.

Lochgilphhead teenager to carry Olympic flame

A LOCHGILPHEAD teenager has been selected to carry the Olympic flame later this year as it makes its way through Scotland to the 2012 London games.

Myles Clark, 18, says he is 'excited and nervous' about the once in a lifetime opportunity.

Torchbearer A S6 student of Lochgilphhead High School and Argyll College, Myles will carry the torch on June 9 for a 300-metre stretch of his journey somewhere between Glasgow and Inverness.

Myles said: 'The school nominated me and I only found out about it when my teacher told me I had been chosen; I was very surprised.'

Myles is one of 8,000 people chosen to be a torchbearer by The London 2012 Organising Committee, which received tens of thousands of nominations.

Voluntary work Lynda Borland, teacher at Lochgilphhead High School, said Myles was a very worthy candidate.

'Myles is an exceptionally helpful and caring young man who works exceptionally hard. He has done a lot of voluntary work in the school and the community so this is a well deserved honour,' she said.

Admitting he is not much of a runner, Myles said his 300-metre stretch would be a gentle jog.

Myles, who lives at home with his parents and older brothers, said he hoped his journey would not be far from Argyll so family and friends could enjoy the memorable day with him.

The Olympic flame will be lit in Greece on May 19 and will reach London on July 27 when it will take centre stage at the opening ceremony of the Olympic games.



Quick-thinking watchkeepers Eireen Stephen, left, and Sheila Young pictured at Oban War and Peace Museum. 15_t11wap01

Watchkeepers save flood-hit museum

Quick-thinking rescues War and Peace Museum's priceless artefacts

TWO VOLUNTEERS at Oban's War and Peace Museum brought a new meaning to the term watchkeeper after saving the museum's priceless artefacts from flood damage.

Quick-thinking Sheila Young and Eireen Stephen averted disaster after a burst water pipe began to flood the museum - on only the second day of its 2012 season.

Sheila, a member of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in Cairo during World War Two, said there were four visitors in at lunchtime on February 28,

one of whom reported a hissing noise coming from behind a door.

'I opened the door and out came an avalanche of water, cascading across the floor.'

'One of the visitors was a plumber but he couldn't stop it, so we decided to contact the fire brigade to turn off the water supply in the street. Everything we did was just common sense and at our age you can cope with any emergency.'

The two women have been watchkeeping together at the museum for the past seven years

but have been members since the museum formed in 1995.

Eireen, who donated an old RAF pilot's uniform worn by her late husband, squadron leader James 'Steve' Stephen, said: 'If this had happened at night, or during the winter months when the museum was closed, we would have lost all these wonderful artefacts.'

'There are so many things the museum has collected over the years. It is just luck that we were here.'

Museum curator Bill Leech said: 'Sheila and Eireen got onto

it very rapidly. They phoned me and by the time I got into town I could see the blue flashing lights outside.'

'I would also like to thank plumber Campbell Clark, who was working nearby and reacted very promptly to fix the problem.'

The watchkeepers said they would like to hear from the unknown visitors who raised the alarm. Sheila added: 'They had to rush for a bus and didn't sign the visitors' book, so we don't even know where they are from.'

Gym co-owner found guilty

A CO-OWNER of an Oban gym has been found guilty of indecently assaulting two women by rubbing their breasts during massages, organised to give tips ahead of job interviews.

Robin Morton, aged 50, indecently assaulted one of the women on June 15 last year and another between September 1 and October 10, 2009. Sheriff Ruth Anderson also found Morton guilty of offering one of the women £50 to allow him to massage her.

The victims, who both gave evidence during the trial, explained how they had enquired about a job and had been asked by Mr Morton for a CV before being told to come in for a massage, but described the experience as 'perky'.

One said: 'I feel stupid now. I don't know why I didn't say stop but it just felt horrible. When you massage you apply some pressure but it was like he was just feeling my boobs.'

Morton, of Tigh na Craig, Clachan

Seil, took the witness stand last Friday and claimed the witnesses had been lying about the assault, describing their evidence as 'poisonous' and 'vindictive'. In cross-examination procurator fiscal David Glancy told Morton: 'These witnesses had to enter a punishing cross-examination by your solicitor, which was lengthy, emotionally bruising and rigorous, yet their positions remained unchanged.'

Sheriff Anderson deferred sentence until April 3. Morton has been placed on the sex offenders' register.

A spokesman for Energie Fitness said: 'We are appalled that one of our franchisees has been found guilty of indecent assault. The ethos of Energie is one of family values and providing a safe and friendly environment for our members. We have a zero tolerance to any suggestion of sexual harassment or any other form of inappropriate behaviour.'

OFT to investigate delivery charges and excessive pricing

TRADING practices in the Highlands and Islands are to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) - who are asking you to let them know what is wrong.

The OFT wants to hear concerns of consumers and businesses - particularly unfair delivery charges or excessive cost of goods and services. A spokesperson for the OFT said: 'We are building a picture of the experience of businesses and consumers residing in the more remote parts of the UK, where features of distance and connectivity have distinctive impact on the price, quality and choice of goods and services.'

sell, who contacted the OFT on behalf of residents said: 'Almost daily I hear concerns of constituents who have been treated unfairly because of our geography. I am glad the OFT is taking our concerns seriously.'

'The information we give the OFT will influence its work and help to develop ideas for the future.'

The OFT can be contacted at remotecomunities@oft.gsi.gov.uk or write to Office of Fair Trading, 23 Walker Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HX.

Information can also be provided on the OFT website and all submissions must be received by April 20. Findings will be published in the summer.

Advertisement for Bonnie Babies competition 2012, featuring a baby's face and a coupon for £500 worth of vouchers. Includes text: 'Enter your baby today!', 'The co-operative good for everyone', and 'WIN £500 worth of vouchers'.

Argyll and Bute reshaping care for older people

COUNCIL funded care home places and hospital beds will be reduced across the county as part of a project to care for more elderly in their own homes.

The plans, agreed last week by Argyll and Bute Council, is part of a nation-wide project focused on keeping elderly people out of hospital and in good health.

Partly funded by the Scottish Government's Change Fund, the reshaping care for older people project will see £1.7million of fresh investment in falls prevention, medicine management, telehealthcare, dementia services, equipment and end of life services until 2014/15.

It will also help improve the level of support for carers over the next three years.

Executive director of community services, Cleland Sneddon, said: 'The Change Fund will allow the development of community based services and maximise older people's independence and significantly improve the quality of life experienced by our older population.'

Advertisement for Alienergy and SAOS, promoting a forum and event on producing wood fuel from farm woodlands. Includes logos for NFUScotland, green heat, Forestry Commission, and European Union.

Advertisement for The Oban Times, stating it is read by over 40,000 people every week and is the largest selling newspaper in the Highlands & Islands.

Advertisement for Tom McCardel Associates, a smithy studio in Barbreck, Lochgilphhead, offering alterations, extensions, and new builds.

FW

Campbell's hat-trick turns the Milk sour

Saints withstand late pressure to gain all three points in close match

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 3
Castlemilk 2

CASTLEMILK were the visitors to Glencruitten as Saints played their first league game since the middle of September and Walter French's men gave a good account of themselves in what turned out to be an absorbing match.

The game started at a cracking pace with both teams going at each other right from the off. The home side opened the scoring in the 11th minute with an excellent move when Alan Miller sent Lewis Cameron clear on the right flank. The youngster sprinted forward and spotted Donald Campbell racing into the box. Lewis squared the ball across the face of the goals for his strike partner to hammer the

ball high into the net past a helpless Milk keeper Craig Lowe. The visitors were playing some good stuff and were unlucky when a Danny Simpson shot flew inches past the post.

Saints increased their lead in the 22nd minute when the same two players, Alan Miller and Lewis Cameron, who created the first goal did the same again and Donald Campbell was on hand to bury the ball into the corner of the net.

However the two goal advantage lasted precisely 60 seconds. A harmless cross into the box didn't look too dangerous, but for some reason the home defence stopped, claiming for offside. The ball fell to Thomas Finnegan who didn't wait to see if the referee was going to blow his whistle as he thumped the ball past Graham Douglas to

make the score 2-1. This was a poor goal for Saints to lose, letting Castlemilk right back into the game.

Saints created another good opportunity when Donald Campbell set up Lewis Cameron, but Craig Lowe raced from his line to make a brave block to deny the Saints striker.

Castlemilk were pushing hard for an equaliser and the home defence had to be on their toes as the Glasgow side started to gain control of the midfield area and were unlucky when an Alan Larkin shot came back off the post with Saints keeper Graham Douglas rooted to the spot.

Right on the half time whistle the Oban side created two great chances and both Donald Campbell and Paul Kerr will be



Donald Campbell makes no mistake from the penalty spot, sending Castlemilk keeper Craig Lowe the wrong way. 15_11saints01

disappointed that they failed to hit the back of the net.

The home side increased their lead nine minutes into the second half when Donald Campbell was brought down in the box by Alex Watt leaving referee Jim Litster from Lochgilphead, who had a good game, an easy decision to make.

Donald, who missed a spot kick against Knockentiber the week before didn't shirk his responsibilities and this time made no mistake blasting the ball home for his hat-trick and to restore his team's two goal advantage. Any thoughts Saints might

have had that the game was over and Castlemilk would crumble were quickly dispelled as the visitors piled on the pressure and only some heroic defending kept the eager Milk forward line at bay.

The visitors pulled a goal back in the 64th minute when a ball over the top caught out the Saints defence and Thomas Finnegan raced through to despatch the ball past Graham Douglas to make the score 3-2 - game on.

Donald Campbell then set up Craig MacEwan with a great cross but Craig's header came back off the post. With nothing to lose Castlemilk went for it, but they found the Saints defence of Jamie Graham, Alex Craik and Marc MacCallum in excellent form, ably assisted by keeper Graham Douglas who was forced into a couple of good saves.

Saints were on the back foot as the game drew to a close, but try as they might the visitors could not get that elusive equaliser and it was a relieved home side who picked up the three points in an entertaining game.

Unfortunately their was a bit of a skirmish as the players left the field after the game, but thankfully everybody saw sense and the situation soon calmed down. Manager Iain Jackson was delighted to get the win against a very good Castlemilk team. He said: 'It was an excellent game and I was generally happy with the performance, but disappointed at the two goals we lost, although I must give the team as a whole a lot of credit for some excellent defending when Castlemilk put us under pressure in the second half.'

Saints are at home again this Saturday when they take on second placed St Joseph's in a premier division match. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Scott.

Residential camp for Argyll and Bute youth footballers

FOOTBALL CAMP

ARGYLL and Bute Council's football development service ran their first ever summer residential camp last year which proved to be a great success.

Football development officer Martin Rae has announced that the camp will take place again this summer from 23 to 27 July, based at the school hostel in Oban.

The camp is open to any budding player aged 9 to 16 years who will not only be coached by SFA qualified coaches, but they will be given an introduction to sports science, including fitness testing, nutritional and hydration advice, sports psychology and lifestyle management as well as doing all the day to day chores that are expected of a full time professional youth player.

For further information on the camp please contact Martin Rae on 01631 572194 or e-mail him at martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results Under 13s no game; Milngavie 3, Under 14s 2. Scoring for Saints were Kieran Hendry and Stuart MacLean. Under 15s no game; Under 16s 6, Strathleven 3. Saints scorers were Ryan MacDougall (4), Rory Bruce and Liam McEachran. Friendly match - Under 13 development squad 5, Lochgilphead 2. Netting for Saints were Lewis Buchanan, Craig Easton, Bepe Lopez, Daniel McCuish and Martin Rennie.

This weekend's fixtures: Renton Craigandro v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Milngavie v Under 15s; Lenzie Youth Club v Under 16s.

Pool league split

POOL	Pts
Markie Dans A	24
Lancaster A	24
The Claredon	20
The Cellar	18
Lancaster B	16
The Lochavullin	10
Markie Dans B	6
Oban Backpackers	2

The league now splits in two with the top four teams playing each other and the bottom four teams playing each other.

Winner will take the title

OVER 35's LEAGUE

THE OVER-35s indoor league at Atlantis Leisure will be decided during the final league games this Monday when Taynuilt play Trialists.

Both have won all their seven games, meaning the winner will take the title, but if they play out a draw there will be another game as a playoff.

The other game on Monday is Seil v Teachers and if Seil win they will finish third. League organisers thanked referees Kevin Summers and Neil Beaton.

Results: Emergency 0, Taynuilt 4; Trialists 3, West Coast Massive 1.

Garmony holds second mini rugby competition

ISLE of Mull Rugby Club hosted the second Mini Rugby Dalriada of 2012 at Garmony last Sunday. More than 80 rugby players from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll and Isle of Mull took part in the two competitions that ran on the day for P4/5 and P6/7 age groups.

Etive Vikings continued their 100 per cent record this season winning all four games in the P4/5 age group, scoring an impressive 24 tries in the process. Mid Argyll, Oban, Taynuilt 2 and Mull completed the P4/5 group that produced some fantastic rugby and some very high scoring games.

It was Isle of Mull who remained unbeaten in the P6/7 age group, winning both of their games against Oban Lorne and the Vikings. After the group

PRIMARY RUGBY

games the three teams played two 10 v 10 games with scrums and lineouts in preparation for playing touring teams and also broadening their knowledge of the game.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright said: 'The fact that the tournament was so well attended is of huge credit to the players, parents, organisers and of course the coaches who all made the effort to travel to the island for the day.'

'Thanks to Isle of Mull RFC, who hosted the event, the first aiders and the parents who as usual provided some excellent post match food for the players.' The next Dalriada tournament will be at Taynuilt on April 29.



The winning group, Rockfield A, did Chile proud with skilfully decorated t-shirts. 16_11athletic01

Regional athletics final

LOCAL schoolchildren converged on Atlantis Leisure last week to take part in a regional athletics final day.

Primary four and five pupils from Dalmally, North Lorn, Dunbeg, Park and Rockfield had previously taken part in other competitions to reach the final.

The Oban Primary Inter-school Athletics competition has been running since 2008 and Dale Kupris, Active Schools Co-ordinator for Oban and Lorn, says he has seen improvements year on

INDOOR ATHLETICS

year. 'It was a fantastic day, the kids did really well. They really worked and prepared for it and the standard is really going up. They are good little athletes.'

The Olympics were the theme for the event and teams were allocated a random country to represent on the day.

The pupils conducted research into their given country and created t-shirts, flags and banners as part of the challenge.

Tobermory golf's winter medal final

RESULTS of the Winter Medal Final played on March 11: 1 Ian McNaughton (Chas), 38-09-29; 2 Graham Brown,

GOLF

36-05-31; 3 Gordon Chalmers, 39-07-32.

Bob called up again for Scotland under-16 squad

OBAN golfer Bob MacIntyre has again been called up to the Scottish under-16 golf squad for the annual international quadrangular tournament.

The eight-man Scottish team will face Ireland, Wales and Holland in the development matches at Hilton Templepatrick Golf Club in Belfast from April 4-7.

The 15 year old said: 'I'm delighted and honoured to have been selected again to play for Scotland under 16s, and to

GOLF

be given this opportunity to play against the best players from other countries.'

Bob will be joined by Ewen Ferguson, Bearsden; Alasdair MacDougall, The New Club, St Andrew's; Innis Ferguson, Drumpellier; George Burns, Williamwood; Adam Fisher, Inchmario; Cameron Kirkwood, Bearsden; and Fraser Davern, Williamwood.

Euan is the new shinty development officer

ONE OF Inveraray's most dynamic forwards has this week taken up the role of shinty development officer with the Camanachd Association.

Euan McMurdo, well known in shinty circles as a forward with Inveraray Shinty Club, has gained responsibility for improving the sport across Argyll and Bute.

Already an enthusiastic volunteer and coach with a number of schools and youth shinty teams in Mid Argyll, Euan says his aim is to improve shinty at all levels from primary school right through to the national team.

Hoping to introduce more children to shinty and ensure teenagers maintain their interest in the sport, Euan said the association's strategic plan is to improve participation.

'Oban historically has always had really good primary school teams, they still do but I think in

SHINTY

the age range from S1 to S3 they struggle in terms of participation so it would be good to look at that,' Euan said. 'I am looking forward to working with the area committee in Oban to develop a plan and reverse that trend.'

Euan is a former fitness instructor with the Mid Argyll Sports Centre.



Euan McMurdo 06_11euan01



A team of Oban Old Crocks took on their counterparts from Cambria in a friendly match at Oban Community pitch last Saturday. The Oban lads fought back from 2-0 down to draw the game 2-2 thanks to two goals from Mark Welsh. Netting for Cambria were Brian Tonner and Bill Colthart. Man of the Match was Oban's Jimmy Jackson. Accompanying the Glasgow team were Obanites Alex Beaton and Rocky MacMillan along with Calum Stewart who taught at Oban High School for a number of years. 15_11crocks01

Get ready for the season

If you haven't already ordered your promotional printing for the 2012 summer season then now is the time to do so.

Krisp Print offer excellent prices on medium to long run colour brochures and leaflets as well as short run digital printing. We also offer a professional design service to help you make a good first impression where it counts.

Campbelltown • T: 01586 554975
E: staff@krispprint.co.uk
Oban • T: 01631 568015
E: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £500

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

We have a winner!
Congratulations to D Mitchell, Muasdale Cottages, Tarbert who won the jackpot of £550

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Kinlochshiel and Fort William share the points

Game switched to Kiltarity as weather rules out both 'Shiel and Fort's home grounds

REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Orion Premiership
Kinlochshiel 1
Fort William 1

KINLOCHSHIEL cemented their impressive arrival in the top flight with a fighting draw against a combative Fort William at Kiltarity.

The fixture's venue had been uncertain until Saturday morning as shinty bosses struggled to find a pitch after rain ruled out both 'Shiel and Fort's grounds.

no doubt they had witnessed two quality sides in action. An edgy first half blossomed into an end-to-end encounter in which both sides could rightly claim they had chances to grab both points.

Fort started the match brightly and Graham Kennedy had to look sharp to deny Gordy MacKinnon, but 'Shiel's mobile forward line soon began to click into gear and after threatening a breakthrough, the Lochalsh men took the lead on 13 minutes.

Fraser MacVicar's fine through pass split the Fort defence, and Gordy MacDonald cleverly drew keeper MacKay before slotting home.

'Shiel continued to press, and MacDonald turned provider on the half hour mark when his brilliant reverse pass almost found Keith MacRae free in the danger zone.

Quicksilver
Only a single goal behind at the break and now with the breeze behind them, Fort fought their way into the game, with Stevie Stewart and Neil Robertson in particular showing their mettle in defence against 'Shiel's quicksilver forward line.

MacKinnon flashed a shot wide on 54 minutes and two minutes later MacVicar should have done better than to blaze over when well-placed.

SHINTY

With an hour gone Fort really began to turn the screw and enjoyed their best spell of the game as they pinned 'Shiel back.

Niall MacPhee's strike from 35 yards with 15 minutes left looked a certain scorer until Kennedy made a brilliant stop high to his left.

But Fort would not be denied – and it was the youngest player on the pitch who grabbed the glory.

Arran MacPhee's speculative high, long shot from the right did not look capable of causing Kennedy too much trouble, but



Stevie Stewart moves in to thwart Finlay MacRae. 20_11shinty02

the keeper chose to save with his chest, misjudged the flight, and only succeeded in turning the ball into the net.

MacPhee, a real talent in the making, had marked his 16th birthday only days before - and was at the centre of celebrations again as his was mobbed by his teammates.

Late on, Fort could have won it as first Bryan Simpson then MacKinnon fired wide, but it took MacKay to make a great stop from MacDonald at the other end to prevent a 'Shiel victory.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill told The Oban Times: 'In the first half we probably had the better

of the game and in the second both teams had their chances. I was disappointed to lose the goal the way we did.'

Fort coach Peter MacIntyre said: 'I was very disappointed with the first half. But we created a lot of chances in the second and probably deserved to win the game.'

CCTV to help boxers

BOXING

LOCHABER Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club have installed CCTV cameras in their gym – but instead of safety the cameras will be used to help boxers with their skills.

The fighters will be able to replay their sparring sessions and analyse the positives and negatives with the club coaches. Fort William company City Electrical Factors donated the cameras to the club.

Coach Vince Lopez said: 'We have found in the past that when our boxers have watched back videos of their bouts they have seen more clearly their mistakes and how to correct them. Bearing this in mind we thought the natural progression would be to bring this technology into training.'

Lochaber boxers James Aitchison, Chris Bradley and Igor Sliwinski at the Scottish Championships in Edinburgh later this month, with the club's next home show to be held on April 7.

Magnificent seven

INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON SQUAD recorded the biggest win of the night beating Ballachulish FC 7-1 in the Ali Young Premier League at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Leaders Lochaber Leisure kept up their unbeaten season with a 2-0 win over The Granite House, while TNF United moved into third after a 3-0 win against Bayern Bru.

Meanwhile, Liverpool defeated AA Young 7-2, HW Energy won 3-0 against Achintore FC and Steaua Sookabrest lost by the same score to Stroke City.

Grant is number 1

TABLE TENNIS

THE TWO top table tennis players in Fort William went head to head to fight for the number one spot recently.

Monte Bleasdale, who doesn't lose many important matches took on local postie John Grant at the Nevis Centre, but Grant showed real determination to walk away the victor and take the number one ranking in division one.

Fort William Table Tennis club hold open sessions every Monday from 6.30pm, with players of any level welcome to come along and give it a go.

Alleycats on top

TEN PIN BOWLING

ALLEYCATS remain top of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league scratch division after 16 weeks of play following a 5-0 win at the Nevis Centre. Council are second, four points back on 70, with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in third on 51 points despite going down 3-2 to fourth place Rotavators.

Council are top of the handicap division with 52 points despite losing 5-0 to British Legion Scotland. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio move up to second on 49 points whilst Rotavators are now third on 48 points.

The top individual scratch game came from Frank Sweeney, Council, with 189, while this week also saw 187 from Bob Colman, Phoenix, 186 from Colin Pinkett, Council, and 184 from Bill Clark, British Legion Scotland.

Fort hoping for a change of fortune in the league cup against Formartine

FORT William will be hoping the Highland League Cup can provide a tonic for their league woes when they welcome Formartine United this Saturday.

Danny Conlon's men lost 2-1 to Strathspey Thistle in last weekend's bottom of the table clash.

Conlon told The Oban Times there were positives to take from the match despite the loss, which

leaves his side four points adrift at the bottom.

He said: 'Last week was probably the best we've played attacking for quite a while. We created more chances than we have been doing, but we only managed to take one of them. We should have a stronger squad this Saturday though.'

'Formartine have spent a lot of money but they've had a disap-

pointing season so far and this is really their last chance of getting any silverware.'

With only 14 players in his match day squad at Grantown-on-Spey, Conlon gave a debut to keeper Robbie Donaldson, who recently signed on loan from Clachnacuddin. Fort opened the scoring in the 26th minute through Darren Quigg but Strathspey scored either side

FOOTBALL

of half time to take all three points.

Conlon said: 'It was the same story as the last few weeks – playing well for 45 minutes and disappointing for the other 45. We easily could have been three or four up at half time but we got hit by a goal just before half time.'



Big hitters: Nathan McDade and Sam MacLeod were in action in Banchory on Friday night.

Big hitters box well at Banchory

NETHER Lochaber 'Claymores' Amateur Boxing Club marked further progress in the sport nationally at the St Mary's ABC show in Banchory on Friday night.

Star of the night was 20 year-old Nathan McDade from Kinlochleven, who stepped up a division from his usual middleweight to take on Elgin ABC's Scottish novice light heavyweight champion Cameron Holliday.

Holliday carried a reputation of throwing knockout punches and a record of five wins and no losses, but McDade's meticulous preparation paid off big time as he comprehensively out-boxed his opponent.

After out-jabbing his opponent in the first, McDade's crisp combinations to the head and body and a lethal long left hook had Holliday in real trouble in the second.

Now well on top, McDade relaxed and picked his punches in the last to frustrate Holliday at every turn and was a unanimous

winner at the final bell.

McDade's delighted coach Martin Glenesk said: 'This was Nathan's coming of age bout. He boxed with a maturity and confidence I always knew he had and now the amateur boxing community has seen what he is capable of. These are very exciting times for Nathan.'

Earlier in the show, Claymores' Sam MacLeod, also from Kinlochleven, narrowly lost out to Sarunas Gestautas from Peterhead ABC.

The pair's second meeting in the ring proved to be just as explosive as their first, and hugely entertaining contest had the largely neutral crowd on their feet.

At the end, 16 year-old MacLeod was disappointed to lose out by a single point in what turned out to be the highest scoring bout of the night.

The verdict left MacLeod and Gestautas with one win each, so the third and deciding bout will be held at the Claymores' home

BOXING

show in Kinlochleven on June 2.

Meanwhile at the Claymores gym, trainees in the popular Amateur Boxing Academy will be put through their first assessment Kinlochleven High School theatre on Monday, when Amateur Boxing Scotland representatives will assess the group, the first Academy trainees in Scotland to reach this stage. The officials will congratulate the club and present the trainees with t-shirts, hoodies and bags of equipment. The club is also inviting trainees' parents to come along to the event to see what the non-contact boxing training sessions are all about.

For further information about the boxing academy contact Head Coach Martin Glenesk on 07776 477 930 or email netherlochaberabc@yahoo.co.uk

Tickets are available for the club's home show on 07799 705 742.

Inverlochry are interschool champions

INVERLOCHRY Primary broke Caol Primary's recent dominance of the Lochaber Primary Interschool Cross Country Championships by taking first place at Nevis Range last week.

Some 95 youngsters from 17 schools across Lochaber tackled the tricky mile-long course. Inverlochry's team of six runners, (Brett MacMillan, Johnny Forster, Shaun MacLeod, Danielle Ferguson, Mairi Bell, Lolly Patterson) took the overall title. Fort William RC took second while last year's champs Caol finished third.

Fort William RC pupil Lachie Shaw recorded the fastest time of the day, finishing the course in 10minutes and 23seconds. His schoolmate Keir Gibson came second in 10m 54s while St Brides youngster Alex Dent was third in 10m 58s.



Winning school Inverlochry Primary pose with the shield after winning the cross-country championships. 20_11race01

Abbie Blackhall of Caol Primary was the quickest girl in a time of 10m 40s, followed closely by her sister Robyn, who was just 11 seconds behind. Rebecca Johnstone of Invergarry primary was third in 11m 57s.

The event, sponsored by Samuel and Partners, was jointly organised by Active Schools Co-ordinators and PE staff from the schools. Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas thanked the marshals from Lochaber High School and everyone who helped organise and run the event.



The fastest pupils on the day: from left - Abbie Blackhall, Robyn Blackhall, Lachie Shaw, Keir Gibson and Alex Dent. 20_11race02

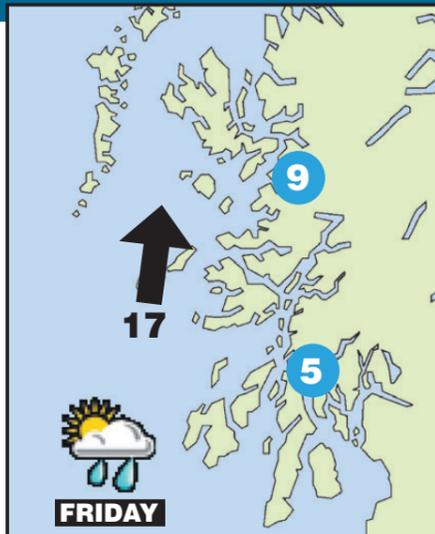
Weather

Thursday Mainly dry on Thursday, rain reaching Argyll in the afternoon spreading southeast later.
Temperatures 5°C to 9°C

Friday Rain on Friday then brighter and colder later.
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 2°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday, snow on hills

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 15, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.52 1.2 10.34 2.8 17.27 1.5 23.33 2.9	
Fri	06.07 1.5 13.01 2.7 18.51 1.6 *** **	
Sat	01.42 3.0 07.39 1.6 15.10 2.8 20.25 1.5	
Sun	03.02 3.1 09.13 1.4 16.07 3.0 21.33 1.3	
Mon	03.51 3.4 10.09 1.2 16.33 3.2 22.22 1.0	
Tues	04.26 3.6 10.49 1.1 16.50 3.4 23.02 0.9	
Wed	05.00 3.8 11.24 0.9 17.17 3.6 23.39 0.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk