

# Get your Boat back in the water

Feature on page 17



# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Argyll and Bute councillor resigns



FRESH questions have been asked of the stability of Argyll and Bute Council's ruling administration following the resignation of one of its most senior members.

Michael Breslin, until last week the authority's lead councillor for education, said he could no longer be a part of the SNP following disagreements within the alliance administration.

Explaining his decision, Mr Breslin blamed the council voting to progress a closure of Du-noon's Struan Lodge care home - a move he declined to vote on - 'duplicitous' and disagreements within the administration and 'poor behaviour' among councillors when former leader Roddy McCuish fell ill and announced his decision to stand down.

He also described new council leader James Robb as the 'wrong person for the job'.

But the SNP/independent/Argyll First administration will later this month come under fresh scrutiny after failing to persuade the Scottish Government to consider building a new road at the Rest and Be Thankful on the A83 and to postpone the new Campbeltown-Ardrossan ferry service for a year to allow for infrastructure upgrades.

Campbeltown councillor Rory Colville said: 'There's no point being in administration if it's not going to be a strong one. There's a motion that's been accepted for next week's meeting questioning the practices and traditions of the council.'

Responding, Mr Robb, said: 'I'm confident this administration will continue to put the interests of the people of Argyll and Bute first. In doing that I'd hope to have the support of the opposition councillors.'

He declined to comment on the exact content of the opposition's motion until it was in the public domain.



Flames lit up the night sky above Oban this week as fire raced across a large area of grassland between Glencruitten and Connel - See more Page 7 Picture - Kevin McGlynn

### Airport to now work for Oban

#### Targets achieved on island flights

A RELAUNCH of Oban Airport will aim to make it work for the benefit of the town after fulfilling its objective of supporting the region's islands.

Station manager Tom Eddleston made the statement as Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the airport recorded its highest passengers figures last year, with some 3,224 making use of the facility - nearly 700 more than the previous year.

#### 'Lifeline service'

Of those, more than half were for NHS, council or public body staff - making the airport a 'lifeline service' for the isles.

Moya Ingram, the council's strategic transportation manager, has now confirmed a new stakeholder group will be formed this summer as the council looks to redouble its efforts and market the facility effectively to ensure the airport works for the benefit of Oban and not just the isles.

While there's no concrete news on expansion of services, it is hoped the efforts will lead to an expansion of services to the airport - including the previously mooted potential for air links to Glasgow.

Speaking exclusively to *The Oban Times* at the airport on Tuesday, Ms Ingram said: 'Speaking from experience, I stayed in Inveraray recently and I was looking through the information in the hotel and there were details about Glasgow and Edinburgh airports - but it didn't say anything about Oban.'

#### Marketing

'That's where we're failing. We need to drive more business to the airport and let people know it's there.'

Mr Eddleston added: 'Oban Airport was initially set up to support the islands - mission accomplished. Now it's about supporting Oban.'

Work to market the airport has started already, with the facility appearing on national television and newspapers in recent weeks.

Local businesses, community representatives, tourism bodies, hoteliers and neighbours of the site are among those to be invited to join the new Oban Airport stakeholder group, with a meeting to be held in the Corran Halls in May to discuss ways to make better use of the airport.

### Islay High School pupils outperform FTSE 100 share index

Investing students' team is one of the most successful in the UK-wide competition

FOUR budding investors from Islay High School have made £20,000 in virtual shares in just three months as part of a national competition - outperforming the FTSE 100 share index in the process.

#### Regional final

The Miskits team of James Morrison, Keith MacNeil, Gavin Cameron and Anna McArthur could soon be giving

London's city boys a run for their money. But first they must represent Islay High School in the regional final of the Student Investor Challenge, run by *i/s* School of Finance, in Leeds next Wednesday.

The pupils, under the tutelage of business studies teacher Michael Mitten, were given £100,000 of virtual money to buy and sell shares in FTSE 100

companies.

The shrewd Miskits managed to make nearly £20,000 on their shares, making them one of the most successful in the UK-wide competition.

One of seven teams from Islay High School to enter the competition, The Miskits finished 87th in the UK out of 10,000 teams and will be one of 21 teams from Scotland, Northern

Ireland and the north of England in the regional final. Only three Scottish schools have made the regional final.

If successful at this stage, the youngsters will have the chance of making it through to the national final in April where an all expenses paid educational trip to New York and £2,000 for their school is up for grabs.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael

Russell, the Scottish Government's education secretary, said: 'The next time I am on Islay I will be seeking tips because it seems these pupils could manage my money better than I can.'

'I am very enthused by practical education like this and I am delighted to hear of the pupils' success, which shows the range of skills around and that young

people on Islay can compete with the best.'

The competition, supported by Bloomberg, gives teams of four students aged between 14 and 19 years old the opportunity to experience shares dealing and investing in the stock market.

Now in its 20th year, the competition is the largest of its kind in the UK and is also open to international students.

### Oban High School strikes gold

OBAN High School has become the only school to be recognised with a gold status from Investors in People Scotland.

Investors in People status is a standard which encourages business excellence through staff development. Only three per cent of UK institutions achieve the gold accreditation.



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### Royals say thank you to St Columba's primary pupils

PUPILS at St. Columba's Primary in Oban have received letters of thanks from the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duchess of Cornwall after sending them a batch of their prize-winning lavender shortbread.

The recipe for the sweet treat was part of the school's special Diamond Jubilee menu for the Queen which was created last year. It won primary seven pupils a trip to Buckingham Palace to see their recipes prepared by the Royal Chef and help serve the Queen and the Duchess of Cornwall at a special reception.

The primary 4/5 class had heard about the Duchess of Cambridge's cravings for lavender shortbread during her pregnancy and decided to send some to Clarence House.

And this week the children were delighted to receive a letter from the Duchess of Cambridge saying she was touched they had thought of her in this way. They also received a letter from the Duchess of Cornwall saying the lavender shortbread was delicious.



The first articulated lorry drives off the ferry Picture - Robbie Cook

### First articulated lorry arrives on Lismore

A CHANGE of ferry vessel between Oban and Lismore has allowed the first ever articulated lorry to land on the island.

The *MV Loch Linnhe*, which is being used as part of a two-week trial period, has a greater tonnage capacity than the regular *MV Isle of Eigg*, allowing larger vehicles to be transported from Oban.

Hector MacDonald of FLIT self drive in Oban, who drove the first articulated lorry onto Lismore last Wednesday, said: 'This is something the islanders have wanted for some time, especially those who are building houses. By having the *Loch Linnhe* on this run I was able to take over a lorry with a gross weight of 44 tonnes, which would not have been possible on the *Isle of Eigg*.'

CalMac confirmed the *MV Loch Linnhe* would be deployed on the Lismore route up until the start of the summer timetable but would have to review its future deployment before making a permanent decision.

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**Eye to eye**  
with John Wallace

**Charity Begins At Home**

This weekend our television screens will be full of stars of stage and screen making fools of themselves for a very worthy cause. Comic Relief is back again for its annual outing. No doubt you have been watching the build-up over the last few weeks and seen some very moving stories of charity work undertaken both in the UK and overseas. With its emphasis on children Comic Relief highlights suffering and inequality.

One area where we can all help is in providing an excellent education for all children. With monies from both Comic Relief and Children In Need being used to provide school infrastructure perhaps we, as parents, should look at how our children can achieve their full potential at school. In a recent survey undertaken by the College Of Optometrists 28% of parents had not had their children's eyesight examined in the previous two years. We also know at least one in five children

fail to achieve their full potential at school due to vision problems.

I regularly see children who have had an "eye exam" at school (in reality a cursory vision screening) who have been declared to have normal eyesight but who actually have significant problems due to their eyes not working together properly. I also regularly see children who have been labelled as "dyslexic" but who have never had a full vision assessment. We really need to look after our children's eye-care much better. After all, our children are our seed corn for our future.

In the UK there is no need to skip on our children's eye-care. The NHS throughout the UK funds children's eye examinations and provides "vouchers" to help cover the cost of any spectacles required. Your optometrist will advise you on how often your children need eye examinations.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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**New company set up to work on Uig St Kilda Centre plan**

MOVES to create a St Kilda Centre in the Uig area of Lewis have gained new momentum after a new company, Ionad Hiorl Ltd (IHL), was set up to progress the project.

IHL, a registered charity, takes over from local voluntary group Buidheann Leasachaidh Ionad Hiorl (BLIH).

The winding-up report of BLIH said the scheme had advanced despite the small number of people involved and the 'barriers of credibility' that had to be overcome.

It added: 'We also recognise how much is still to be done in order to bring the project to fruition and wish the new company great success in achieving this on behalf of Uig, the Western Isles and the memory of the St Kildan people.'

UNESCO has designated the proposed centre as a model for the development of sustainable tourism and remote areas.

IHL chairman Iain Buchanan said: 'Our strong relationship with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre is very much based on this being a project that has its roots in the community and is not something grafted

on from the outside. That is the model they are interested in developing at other world heritage sites, the vast majority of which bring little or no economic benefit to their local communities.'

A recent community appraisal found strong backing for creating the centre on a cliff-top site at Mangersta, a site chosen in 2010 following a competition initiated by Western Isles Council.

A strategic brief for the project has been developed and Scottish Natural Heritage has expressed full support.

The National Trust for Scotland's five-year plan for the management of St Kilda commits to working with Ionad Hiorl to advance knowledge of the islands.

The site has been gifted to the community by the landlord, with the area to be declassified approved by the local grazings committee. An information board and high-powered binoculars will be installed shortly.

IHL plans to appoint a project development manager later this year to oversee the design of the centre and seek out potential funders.

**Tiree centre to host landmark three-day history conference**

National scholars and local historians attract international audience to discuss social and economic past of island

PREPARATIONS are well underway for a landmark three-day conference at the end of May that aims to put the island of Tiree's history under the spotlight.

The event, from May 30 to June 1, has already attracted considerable international interest with bookings already coming in from as far afield as Canada.

The conference, which will cover a large and varied programme of the island's cultural, social and economic past since the 17th century, has been organised by the Lewis-based Islands Book Trust, working with An Iodhlann, the island's historical centre and funded by the Windfall Fund of the Tiree Trust.

A feature of the annual Islands Book Trust conferences has been the mixing of national scholars and local historians.

Tiree's Professor Donald Meek, Coll's Nicholas MacLean-Bristol, Professor Rob Dunbar, Dr Margaret Mackay, Dr Donald William Stewart, Dr Ronald Black, Professor Ian Boyd, Flora MacPhail, Aileen Boyd, Ian Smith and Gordon Scott are among the speakers giving 18 talks on subjects ranging from the contrast between the neighbouring islands of Coll and Tiree to the history of the land struggle on the island.

Although Tiree has in the past attracted a number of scholars, particularly from the School of Scottish Studies, because of its rich traditional culture, the



Maggie MacDonald (Magaidh Dhòmhnaill 'ic Eòghainn), her sister Mrs MacPhee, nephew Neil Campbell and brother, Donald in Balemartine in the 1930s.

conference has been titled 'The Secret Island' because there are few books about the island.

One of the aims of the conference is to lay the groundwork for a volume about the island's history published by the Islands

Book Trust which should be out next year. Dr John Holliday, chairman of An Iodhlann, said: 'Following the huge interest at the autumn launch of the book Tiree: War among the Barley and Brine, the Islands

Book Trust decided to set up this major project. The island has a fascinating history which deserves more attention and this conference will be a landmark event.' The conference includes after dinner talks, a visit to the

island's medieval Christian sites and a final night ceilidh-dance. Further details of the conference can be obtained from Alayne Barton on 01851 820946, or alayne@theislandsbooktrust.com.

**Luining Community Trust appoint development manager for £1m project**

A MANAGER has been appointed to lead the construction of an island project worth over £1 million.

Isle of Luining Community Trust has named Andrew Pinkerton, an Ayrshire architect and community leader, as its first Project Development Manager.

Andrew will oversee the building of the Atlantic Islands Centre on Luining on behalf of the trust. Construction is expected to begin in June and be completed next year. He will also work with the trust and community council to strengthen the island community.

He said: 'I am looking forward to getting to know the community on Luining and am excited about delivering the Atlantic Islands Centre.'

'The work of the community trust is important for the future of the island and I am delighted to have been given the responsibility of being its project development manager.'

Andrew brings to the trust an 'outstanding' combination of experience in business and project management, community engagement and marketing.

He was born and brought up in Glasgow and has lived in an Ayrshire village for the last



Andrew Pinkerton has taken on the role of project development manager for the Atlantic Islands Centre.

15 years where he has been actively involved in establishing a community company set up to develop and manage the local village hall.

He qualified as an architect more than 25 years ago and in a varied career has worked on a wide range of projects both at home and abroad. He is a regular visitor to Argyll and has a keen

interest in Scotland's architectural and industrial heritage.

Trust secretary Peter Hooper is 'very pleased' Andrew has accepted the role. He said: 'We held in depth interviews over three days and there were some other very strong candidates for the post.'

'However, it was Andrew's combination of professional expertise and experience together with his proven track record of community involvement and leadership that convinced us he was the best person for the job.'

'Over the last ten years Andrew has made a crucial contribution as a volunteer to the building and programming of Dunlop Village Hall and the refurbishment of Dunlop Parish Church.'

The post has been jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise and is part of a £1.2 million project to build the Atlantic Islands Centre in Cullipool and promote community regeneration on Luining.

The centre will provide a community hub and learning centre for the island and a new visitor destination to showcase the rich cultural and natural heritage of Luining and the other Argyll islands.

**Exploration of Lochalsh sea lochs gets underway**

EXPLORATION of three Lochalsh sea lochs got underway last week to find out more about some of Scotland's most important marine wildlife.

A team from the British Geological Survey (BGS) is surveying lochs Duich, Long and Alsh using cutting-edge techniques to create a 3D image of the seabed.

The work follows last December's discovery of 100 million flame shells on reefs in Loch Alsh, a colony of scallop-like shellfish with vivid orange tentacles thought to be the largest in the world.

That survey also found forests of tall seaweeds and large numbers of fireworks anemones in soft burrowed mud carpeting the main basin of Loch Duich.

Information gathered during the current survey will be used to map these habitats, along with others of conservation interest.

The survey, which should be

completed by the end of April, is one of a series being carried out around the Scottish coast this year under a research programme led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Marine Scotland to help government and others plan for sustainable management of the seas.

The lochs have been identified as one of 33 proposed Marine Protected Areas put forward to the Scottish Parliament in December. Scottish Ministers are considering which ones will be formally consulted on this summer.

SNH project manager Laura Clark said: 'Over the next two months the team from the British Geological Survey will cover a large area with their coastal survey boat the *RV White Ribbon*. They'll process the data collected to produce 3D images of the seabed. From these we will be able to draw up detailed habitat maps of the seabed.'

**Fighting men end up in Oban court**

TWO MEN who engaged in a stand up fight in Graham Court, Dunollie, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Jason Gregory, 40, was admitted after admitting the offence at an earlier hearing. Sheriff John Herald said: 'I'm taking the view that you are more the victim in this situation. You are admonished and free to go.'

However, Sheriff Herald deferred sentence for 32-year-old Peter MacCuish, formerly of 8 Miller Road Oban, now resident in Dumfries, to be of good behaviour until May 28.

He added: 'If you commit any further offences you will be sent to jail.'

'I do not want to see your face in this court again. Get back to Dumfries.'

**Tarbert man fined at Oban court**

A TARBERT man who assaulted a woman before turning on police officers trying to detain him has been fined £450 by Oban Sheriff Court.

David Beckett, 36, of Braeside, Castle Street, Tarbert, pled guilty to the offences, including attempting to kick and headbutt officers at an address in Oban last December.

Defence agent Ruben Murdanaigum said 'He is very ashamed of what he has done.'

**Argyll charity gains £10,000 for social media cafés**

AN ARGYLL charity has been awarded almost £10,000 to run social media cafés in various locations throughout the area.

Argyll Voluntary Action recently received £9,998 from Awards for All to help increase the skills of people in rural areas and help to reduce isolation amongst residents.

The grant will fund seasonal staff, mileage, publicity, resources and venue hire. Local MSP Michael Russell is delighted by the award.

He said: 'I would like to congratulate Catherine MacGregor and the team at Argyll Voluntary Action for their efforts in securing this funding.'

'I very much look forward to the continued development of this project and many others across Argyll and Bute and wish them well as they progress their work.'

**Uist artist returns to Isle of Mull**

AN ARTIST from Uist is returning to the Isle of Mull to launch a new exhibition and start the season in style.

Deborah Anne MacVicar, who left Mull 20 years ago to live on Uist will be returning to launch the Glegorm Castle season with her new exhibition 'Inspiration'.

The exhibition will be open from March 30 to May 2 and Deborah hopes that her use of vibrant colours and her passion for the landscape will inspire others to want to spend more time in the countryside.

She is also holding workshops in Mull to inspire others. To arrange a visit to the exhibition or a place at a workshop please contact bellemact7x@hotmail.com.

**Rugby club Red Nose fun day**

LOCHABER Rugby Club's youth section is to hold a fun day at the clubhouse this Saturday to raise money for Red Nose day.

Fancy dress will be the theme of the day, with each participant in costume donating £1 to the charity.

There will also be a baking stall and tea and coffee for sale, with any baking donations or volunteers more than welcome.

The event starts at 10am and will finish at 12pm.

**Islay golfer aims to be on the right 'tea' with airport café**

AS A PGA professional, Ron Goudie is more used to tee caddies than tea caddies, but now the Islay based golf coach is taking on a fresh business challenge by running the busy café at Islay Airport, while continuing to teach golf on the island.

Ron, the resident professional at The Machrie Hotel on Islay, and his wife Emma have taken over the café concession in the terminal with the aim of providing tasty home cooked dishes using fresh, local ingredients.

The couple will employ two staff members, as they continue to run a bed and breakfast at their home in Laphroaig.

**More timber for school boatbuilding project**

PLOCKTON High School has received another batch of timber from the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) for its traditional boatbuilding project Am Bata.

FCS delivered larch boards for the scheme, which teaches traditional boatbuilding skills to young people in the school and is now in its sixth year.

Head of Technical Studies at Plockton Jamie Kean said he was 'delighted' with the latest delivery.

Boat builder Mark Stockl said: 'It's great to have this support. There was always a great history of woodland management linked to boat building on the west coast and the project and the ongoing support from the Forestry Commission is keeping this tradition alive.'

**Crofting vital to Western Isles wildlife**

CONSERVATIONISTS in the Western Isles have stressed the importance of crofting for local wildlife after an RSPB report found steep falls in livestock numbers in the past 10 years.

The research, which assessed sheep and cattle impacts in 'Less Favoured Areas' across the UK, has prompted the RSPB to call for greater support to 'vulnerable' farmers and crofters through the Scotland Rural Development Programme and other Common Agricultural Policy schemes.

The charity says the wholesale removal of livestock, in some instances, means insufficient grazing is taking place to allow fragile flowers and ground nesting birds to flourish.

Welcoming the report, Robin Reid, RSPB Scotland's conservation officer for the Western Isles, warned grazing was 'essential' to maintain biodiversity in remote areas.

He said: 'The report reveals that changes in livestock grazing in the most vulnerable farming areas, of which Scotland has a significant share, could have an impact on threatened wildlife and habitats. This is particularly true of the Western Isles.'

'There has been a sharp reduction in hill grazing by sheep and cattle over the last decade and in some areas this has led to an increase in grazing by red deer.'

'Some areas suffer from over-grazed and frequent muir-burn whilst in other areas livestock have been completely

removed. Getting the grazing balance right is essential for maintaining the richness of the wildlife in the islands. Preserving crofting and preserving the biodiversity of the Western Isles goes hand in hand.'

Key findings in the report by Cumulus Countryside and Rural Consultants included less cattle and mixed grazing, summer grazing on the hill starting later, less out-wintering and feeding on the hill and less hefting and shepherding.

Also noted were fewer holdings and farmers with stock and a reduction in grazing on crofts. The paper recommends shortening food supply chains to connect consumers to local, more sustainable farming systems while preserving precious habitats.

**Support**

Rebecca Cotton, manager of the Uist-based Conserving Machair LIFE+ Project said: 'Cattle are at the heart of the traditional machair system of management. As a result, they help to support a habitat that is very valuable for wildlife.'

'One of the greatest threats the machair faces is the lack of young crofters coming forward to undertake this work.'

'Grant incentives are very important to keeping the economic and ecological system viable for the future.'

She added: 'It sends important warning signals about what we stand to lose if we don't take the opportunity of CAP reform to get the support mechanisms right.'



Crofter Chrissie Laing feeding livestock at Drimsdale, South Uist.



Cattle crossing to Vallay Island, North Uist.

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## VisitScotland may use Luing as a showcase island for others

A SMALL west coast island could become a showcase for the best of the Scottish Isles, according to VisitScotland.

### Virtual gateway

The organisation's regional director, David Adams McGilp, recently visited the Isle

of Luing and met members of its community trust.

The trust is currently working on the Atlantic Islands Centre, which will act as a community hub and heritage, cultural, business and social centre for both islanders and

visitors.

Mr McGilp said: 'There are plans for it to function as a virtual gateway to the remaining Argyll islands group, including some of the busier and better-known.

'Luing has the advantage of

being only a very short crossing from the mainland, but has limited opportunity to encourage longer stays by visitors at present - something which we hope to change.

'For example, this new centre would provide a cafe/restaurant

for the first time.' He added: 'There are also plans to re-open the slate quarry specifically to supply Historic Scotland with conservation-grade slate, which could become an attraction linked to the industrial heritage of the island and its

neighbours, famous for slate production during the 18th and 19th centuries.

'The ongoing work surrounding the creation of this new centre could see Luing become a showcase island and heralds a very exciting time

for the area.

'It gives everyone involved in the tourism industry the chance to demonstrate what a beautiful part of the world this is and to attract as many visitors as possible to experience that for themselves.'

## Survey on Rockfield's future begins

SURVEY work to find out whether the old Rockfield School in Oban needs to be demolished started last week.

The car park at the site was shut to the public last Friday in what could be the beginning of the end for the old building.

There are currently architects on site carrying out a study on behalf of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to determine the future of the building.

Work is expected to be complete in mid April and ACHA hope to construct affordable housing on the site for use by the elderly.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'The association is carrying out a feasibility study on the site at Rockfield in relation to its future use.

'This is a technical options appraisal to determine whether the building can be economically saved or whether it has to be pulled down.

'This work is being carried out in conjunction with the council and the report will be submitted to Historic Scotland. That is required before they can take a view.'

## Hotel worker remanded in custody

A HOTEL worker accused of breaching his bail conditions in relation to a rape charge appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Alan Radcliffe, 28, of staff quarters, Portsochnachan Hotel, Dalnally, made no plea or declaration during the private hearing. He was committed for further examination and remanded in custody.

## Mary's Meals film on television

A DOCUMENTARY film, produced by Dalnally charity Mary's Meals, will air on STV tomorrow (Friday).

Child 31, a powerful documentary about the charity's work in Malawi, Kenya, and India, will be broadcast at 10.35pm.

Following founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Child 31 offers a glimpse into the charity's simple, yet groundbreaking, approach to feeding the world's poorest children.

## Man admits Dunbeg thefts

BREAKING into houses in Oban and Dunbeg and stealing tools landed one Glaswegian man in court.

Paul Ogilvie, 26, of 151 Muirfoot Road, Glasgow, admitted stealing tools from two properties when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. He will be sentenced on April 2.

# Islay students are part-time school cleaners

## 'Working' pupils now finding added pride in their school

PUPILS at an Argyll high school have swapped their school ties for tabards in a novel move by the head teacher to overcome a cleaning staff shortage.

Struggling to recruit casual cleaning staff, Islay High School head teacher Joanna Holmes last month offered the work to her senior students.

She now has a team of eight pupils, who each work around three hours per week keeping the school clean and tidy, gaining a wage and work experience into the bargain.

Mrs Holmes told The Oban Times: 'We really struggled to get casual cleaners, so I asked all the pupils who were over 16 years old if they wanted part-

time work in the school.

'I didn't tell them it was a cleaning job at first but that didn't seem to bother them.

'They get paid exactly the same as any casual cleaner and the work is after school, at a convenient time for them.'

The move has been so successful that in the first week of the cleaners taking up their post Bowmore Primary School had contacted the high school to ask if they could 'borrow' a pupil for a shift there.

The pupils have received training from Andrea Harris, Argyll and Bute Council's cleaning services area manager, but are not permitted to use any machinery.

One of the cleaners, 16-year-old pupil Siobhan Macnab, said: 'We get paid for our work and will get a good reference out of it but we also take pride in doing our job well and it is nice when the pupils and staff notice a job well done.

'It has changed how I look at the school now; I can get a bit obsessive compulsive about mess and I have told students off for dropping litter and emptying pencil sharpenings on the floor!'

Mrs Holmes added: 'I get the sense from the students that keeping the school clean is not 'someone else's job' and they are really looking after the place.'

## Mull voters urged to turn out

AS THE ballot to turn Mull, Iona and Ulva into the first all island Business Improvement District (BID) draws to a close promoters have urged businesses to make their 'vote count'.

A public meeting was held in Tobermory's Aros Hall last Friday night where local business owners and members of the community heard how the BID could inject £655,000 into the island's economy.

The BID has been designed by island businesses to help strengthen the local economy by reversing the decline in visitor numbers seen over the past five years.

Neil Hutton, chairman of the BID steering group which put the proposal together following consultation over a 15-month period, said: 'This is a unique opportunity for local businesses to join together to put in place a co-ordinated programme of activities, initiatives and events to both attract visitors and improve their experience of the islands once they are here.

'The plan is specifically designed with sufficient flexibility to respond to opportunities as they arise. We have a thriving local business community offering a high quality experience for visitors but we need to attract people back onto the island.'

But James Heggie, a trader on Tobermory's Main Street, described Friday's meeting as a 'truly disgraceful session' with 'blatant disregard for the views of a substantial number of potential no voters'.

He said: 'The three from BID said absolutely nothing of consequence and more importantly said nothing to reassure us that we were in safe hands. Watching them squirm and frankly lost for words could have been amusing if it wasn't such a serious matter up for discussion.'

The business plan has been backed by Paddy Crerar of Crerar Hotels Group and owner of the Isle of Mull Hotel who said: 'Once the BID company is set up and the funding secure (i.e. we know what we actually have) the business plan can be fully fleshed out.

'I have been involved with many businesses that have had to evolve their strategy (business plan) several times in a year as the external conditions change.'

The confidential postal ballot closes on March 21 with results declared shortly afterwards.

## Boats fail random inspections at Argyll ports

EVERY boat checked by police and coastguard during safety checks in Campbeltown and Tarbert were found with defects - one serious enough to be detained.

Organised as part of Operation Myriad, inspections were carried out over Thursday and Friday last week, with seven boats checked.

### Unsafe

Led by Campbeltown CID along with the Small Ports Unit, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Marine Scotland Compliance and Revenue and Customs, the inspections also saw boats checked for offences linked to drugs, illegal immigration and terrorism.

Four boats were checked in Campbeltown, with one deemed so unsafe it was ordered to remain at the port until essential

repairs were made.

Two were found to have serious deficiencies requiring urgent repair and one a minor repair.

Two of the three vessels checked in Tarbert were found with serious problems and one requiring minor repair.

Nobody was charged or arrested as a result.

A spokeswoman for the MCA admitted it was unusual for every boat checked to be found with faults, but added that it was 'just like an MOT'.

She said: 'One vessel's defects were deemed serious enough to see it not allowed to sail. It may not have been able to cope in an emergency.'

'Repairs will be made in a matter of days and once complete the boat will be allowed to sail again.'



The eighth century cross is currently being reassembled before being returned to the Isle of Iona



RNLi Oban committee members and lifeboat crewmen raise a dram to its next fundraising effort.

## Lifeboat crew raises a toast to new venture

MEMBERS of Oban Lifeboat Station raised a dram to its next fundraising effort, which could see the charity net a potential £40,000.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLi) Oban fundraising committee has 297 bottles of a unique 18-year-old Oban malt whisky to auction off and sell.

The bottles have come from a hoghead of malt whisky gifted by Oban Distillery owners Diageo last year to mark the 40th anniversary of the town's 'water of life' to those who save lives on the water.

Early estimates indicate each bottle could fetch £140 - £180.

Stewart said: 'I think a total in excess of £40,000 is a possible fundraising figure, thanks to this gift from Diageo.'

'This is great for us but it has taken us two years to get to this stage and everyone has worked very hard to make sure the bottles are ready.'

Around 100 bottles of the cask-strength whisky are already on

pre-order and the lifeboat station will keep around 20 for future fundraisers. Among the bottles being kept are the numbers 14, 23, 12 and 97, which make up the boat's service number of 1423 and yard number of 1297.

The RNLi whisky was casked in 1994 on the eve of the Oban Distillery's bicentenary celebrations.

## Eighth century Celtic High Cross to be returned to Iona

'We believe it was commissioned by a King around the mid 700s'

THE WORLD'S first Celtic High Cross, which dates back to the eighth century, is currently being reassembled before being returned to the Isle of Iona.

St Oran's Cross, pictured, is being pieced back together in Selkirk before being brought to Iona for the celebration of the 1,450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba.

His arrival was the springboard for the spread of Christianity in Scotland. St Columba and his followers arrived from Ireland and established a monastery on Iona in AD 563.

St Oran's Cross will be re-erected for the first time in centuries in a new display as part of the 1,450th anniversary celebrations.

Peter Yeoman, Historic Scotland's head of cultural heritage, said: 'The complete cross originally weighed in excess of one tonne and was 4.4 metres high.

'We believe it was commissioned by a King around the mid 700s. It is beautifully carved with biblical scenes and Celtic interlaced patterns.

'Just below the centre of the cross arm is an extremely rare and early image of the virgin and child sheltered by the wings of angels.

'This monumental, powerful, and decorative use of the Christian cross had never been seen before anywhere in Western Europe.

'It is one of the largest and finest in the collection of early medieval carved stone grave slabs and crosses to be found at Iona Abbey.'

The cross, which was in five pieces, will be re-erected within a specially constructed steel structure designed by Borders-based museum mount-maker Richard West.

Historic Scotland's experts are cleaning, studying and conserving the carved stones before they go back on display in a new exhibition in time for the anniversary.

The agency is also investing in new interpretation and visitor facilities to help visitors fully appreciate Iona Abbey's fascinating history and the significance of the spectacular carved stone collection.

## Staff and customers of Oban shoe shop appeal for new buyer

STAFF and customers at Oban's closure-threatened DE Shoes have appealed for a buyer to help secure its future.

The George Street outlet, which has been in Oban for 57 years, has been on the market since the beginning of the year.

Since then parent company, William Smith (Shoe Merchants) Ltd, has been undertaking a 90-day consultation with its 31 staff

members across Scotland, including the six staff in Oban, while it looks for buyers to take on the shops as going concerns.

Oban shop manager Catherine Cakebread said: 'If this store closes there are six people here who will be losing their jobs.

'The shop has a very good turnover and will be a great investment for the right person. We will know more when the consultation ends

on April 19.'

Parents who shop at the Oban store have expressed their hope a buyer can be found, as DE Shoes is the only shop remaining in the town that sells fitted shoes for children.

Oban mother Laura Pagan was in the shop last Friday to get new shoes for her children, George and Emily, aged five and three.

She said: 'This is the last shop

in town where you can get shoes properly fitted and that is very important for children.

'The alternative is going to Glasgow, which is quite far away for people for some people, especially those with young children.

'The internet is okay for shopping but you don't get the service, or an accurate fitting.'

The company's managing director, Robert Sinclair, said the

consultation period was necessary as a way of 'avoiding, or reducing, the need to make redundancies'.

He added: 'Since the news about the difficulties facing our shoe shops was first announced, footfall in the branches has increased significantly.'

Graham and Sibbald has been appointed selling agent and can be contacted at its Dundee office on 01382 200064.

**Lorn Lines**

THERE was a large turnout for Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society's February meeting to hear Iain Thornber from Morvern with his presentation on Christian Cameron (1859-1941) of Inverailort Estate.

Having had personal contact with Inverailort for more than 20 years, and through the photographs, papers and albums on display, Iain was able to fill in the life and times of this West Highland landowner with an interest in photography.

The house parties, the employees and the scale of life at Inverailort come over through her photographs.

Using early technical photographic skills, her scenes are indicative of the time before the estate was taken over in the 1940s and run as a Commando training headquarters. The main house has never returned to its former glory but moves are ongoing to help save the property and its story.

The next meeting of Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society is on Friday March 15 when Professor Steve Mithen, will talk on 'Hunter Gatherers in the Hebrides; recent excavations in Mull Coll and Islay'.

The venue for meetings is now well-established at St Columba Cathedral Hall, off Corran Brae, Oban.



Oban Art Society held its annual supper party in the Lorn Recreations Centre. Members were entertained by songs and recitations from Phil Coyle and friends. The subject of the fun competition was images in monochrome, which was won by Marilyn Franks. Pictured with their entries are Marilyn and runners up Margaret Whitton and Robert McCulloch.

OBAN SWRI welcomed Neil Matheson to its February meeting to find out more about Friends of Pebane in Mozambique.

Normally better known for furniture and work with Atlantis and other young enterprise schemes, Neil is also involved in a life changing project in Mozambique.

The Stirling based Friends of Pebane provide medical and practical support to a coastal community in poverty stricken Zambezia. As maternal and infant deaths are amongst the highest in the world, one key function of the group is to provide a medical infrastructure suited to the community's needs, which included transporting a birthing bed from Scotland in a shipping container.

Local businesses and clubs were able to support the hundreds of fishermen in the area by providing nets, sails and boat repair materials. The shipping container itself had been previously modified so that when empty, it would serve as a training room for medical staff and a workshop for the project's handyman.

Neil's honest presentation of a challenging place to live and provide support to was more moving than the emotionally manipulative TV 'infomercials' we have become accustomed to, and thoroughly appreciated by the audience.

For more information about Friends of Pebane and how to donate go to [www.friendsofpebane.com](http://www.friendsofpebane.com)

OBAN SWRI is growing, with three new members all aiming to demonstrate their handicraft and housewife skills in the April show in Connel.

Elchris Macfarlane and Lyndsay Elliott were both awarded gold for their hand crafted fridge magnets, a seasonal crocheted daffodil and a fabric butterfly, incorporating an up-cycled hair grip.

Guests and new members are welcome to attend the meetings, which are held on the last Tuesday of the month in the Guide Hall, Oban.

GORDON Baird LRPS from Kirkintilloch was the judge for Oban Camera Club's last competition of the season entitled 'Night Time'.

Prominent were shots from fireworks displays, plus views from McCaigs Tower and Pulpit Hill but the winning image of an illuminated bridge in Dubai was taken by Ronnie McKillop who received the Frank Walton Trophy and a gift voucher from Oban Camera Centre. Runner up was Stephen Lawson with a beautiful print of skyscrapers in evening light.

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club heard a wide variety of subjects at their meeting last week.

Chairman Frank Walton introduced speakers Malcolm Black, who gave a detailed talk on 'The Glencoe Lochan', Archie McPhail, who took an unusual approach to his subject 'The freedom of the Press', and Eamonn Arthur, who gave an interesting talk on 'The King's Speech'. Their immediate critics were Donnie Graham, Jim Fraser and Roy Wood. In the second half Alex Clark gave topics to Roy Wood, Peter Mills, Jim Fraser, Malcolm Black, Nicky Maclean and Eamonn Arthur.

The final meeting of the session will be held in the Ambo Room, Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, on March 21 at 8pm.

**Argyll estate manager found guilty of assault**

AN ARGYLL estate manager who assaulted his former girlfriend's ex-husband was fined by Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Donald Dempster, 47, of The Bungalow, Duileter Farm, Dalmally, denied assaulting the man but was found guilty by Sheriff John Herald following a trial.

Dempster had previously been in a relationship with the woman for a number of months, during which time she moved in with him.

The court heard that on December 30 last year the woman, who is 27, had been with her sister and ex-husband in her caravan around 1.30am when Dempster appeared.

She said in evidence: 'There was a loud knock on the door, I got a bit scared and asked my ex-husband to answer the door. I had an idea it might be him [Dempster] but I was unsure. Dempster claimed in court he had been punched before being pushed out the door forcefully, landing on his back leaving him 'tender'.

Giving evidence he said he had been invited into the caravan: 'I stepped in and was punched,' he said. Dempster added that his former-girlfriend appeared at that point and the pair 'both started pushing me back out the door'.

But Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'There wasn't one mark to your back, no bruising, no scrapes or scratches, no broken ribs - despite falling at force, after being pushed backwards on to gravel.' Dempster agreed there was not.

Sheriff Herald fined Dempster £350 and said: 'Why a man, aged 47, with no previous convictions, holding down a respectable job goes to a caravan in the early hours of the morning is something only you can explain to yourself.'

**No immediate plan to cut school hours**

HIGHLAND Council has said it is not planning to cut school hours to save money - but refused to rule it out as a possibility from 2015 onwards.

Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter raised the issue at a council meeting in Inverness last Thursday.

Chairman of adult and children's services committee Alasdair Christie said reducing the school week had been 'one option among many' during talks on the council budget for 2013-2015, but had been rejected. He said: 'However, from 2015/16 onwards, we are likely to be facing very significant financial pressures and so all proposals will have to be revisited and consulted upon as well as the council identifying further cost reduction measures.'

**Driver collided with wall**

A MOTORIST who collided with a wall on Corran Esplanade, Oban, has been found guilty of careless driving following a trial.

Sandy Hetherington, 36, of 164 South Street, Bathgate, was also found guilty of failing to report the accident to both the owner of the wall and police as well as failing to identify the driver of the vehicle to police.

He was fined £600 at Oban Sheriff Court last week and disqualified from driving for six months.

**Small private garden listed**

A SMALL privately owned garden in Argyll has been added to Historic Scotland's inventory of gardens and designed landscapes.

Linn Botanic Gardens, on the Rosneath Peninsula, was started in 1971 by Jim Taggart and is now run by his son James.

Elizabeth McCrone, Historic Scotland's head of listing and designed landscapes, welcomed the garden to the inventory.

**Man admits hospital assault**

ASSAULTING a doctor and nurse in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, landed a Helensburgh man in court.

Andrew Carrick, 43, of 17 Upland Wynd, Garlochhead, admitted the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. He will be sentenced on April 2.

**February weather in Plockton**

FEBRUARY in Plockton proved to be an exceptionally dry month with only 2.25 inches of rainfall and 11 consecutive days with no rain.

February 2012 saw five inches of rainfall.

However, there was no shortage of frost with 11 days below zero and the coldest night measuring -5.1°C. The warmest temperature by day was 12°C.

**Oban woman assaulted girl**

AN OBAN woman admitted assaulting a 13-year-old girl when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Kelly Ahmed, 23, of 8E Colonsay Terrace, Soroba, Oban, also pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing during the incident in Combie Lane last September. She will be sentenced on April 2.

**Tribute to colleagues**

COUNCILLORS have paid tribute to two Highland Council employees who died in sporting accidents in recent weeks.

Spean Bridge man Mark Phillips died on February 25 after falling during a climb on Ben Nevis, while Joy Robson of Portree was killed after a rally car crashed into spectators at the Snowman Rally in Glenurquhart Forest on February 16. Mr Phillips was an environmental health officer based in Fort William and Mrs Robson was a nursery teacher at Macdiarmid Primary School.

At the beginning of a full council meeting in Inverness last Thursday, Convener Jimmy Gray said the pair would be 'sorely missed'.

**Man admits drink driving charge**

A MOTORIST was found to be drink driving after being involved in a minor accident near Kilmoran last November.

Sebastian Gouwy, 31, of Ardanasigh Hotel, Kilmoran, admitted the offence when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. Gouwy was fined £200 and banned from driving for one year.

**Fairtrade message goes on tour around Lorn**

Taynuilt working towards becoming Fairtrade school as Dunbeg Primary School takes part in events

IN THE year Scotland became a Fairtrade nation, the Oban and Lorn committee has urged the community to continue to support the movement.

In a bid to gain wider support for Fair Trade, which helps get a better deal for Third World farmers, the local committee took Fairtrade Fortnight (February 25 - March 9) events outside of Oban.

One of these took place on Saturday in Taynuilt Village Hall, where pupils of Taynuilt Primary School displayed artistic representations of Fairtrade produce.

Marlyn Turbitt, a member of Oban and Lorn Fairtrade Committee, helped organise the Taynuilt event alongside Dr John Lyon. She explained how the committee was trying to help children understand what Fairtrade is about.

She said: 'Taynuilt is working towards becoming a Fairtrade school, so we got them involved in Fairtrade Fortnight by asking them to look at Fairtrade labels and we gave them a free hand to come up with designs based on the products.'

'It let them see how many Fairtrade products are out there; people seem to think it is just bananas and chocolate!'

Councillor Elaine Robertson had the unenviable task of picking the design competition winners.

Commenting on the high standard of design, she said: 'Children are our future, so it is important we get across the message of Fair Trade: that dignity and self worth comes through hard work and by buying Fairtrade goods you can help others to achieve this.'



Fairtrade art competition judge Councillor Elaine Robertson and organiser Marlyn Turbitt with Taynuilt Primary School pupils: brothers Alasdair Laurie, left, aged nine, and Cameron Laurie, aged 11, with Gemma Carswell, who was celebrating her seventh birthday last week.



Oban's FairTrade committee was joined by local MP Alan Reid, councillor Elaine Robertson, staff from Tesco and pupils from Dunbeg Primary School at the conclusion of FairTrade Fortnight on Saturday. [t1fairtrade1](http://t1fairtrade1)

Dunbeg Primary School pupils weighed in to help spread the word about FairTrade on Saturday as part of the last local event organised for FairTrade Fortnight.

The children handed out stickers and flyers at Oban's branch of Tesco as the local FairTrade committee provided information and the odd taster - courtesy of the shop - to encourage people to try the range.

The movement aims to give food producers in developing countries a fairer deal by offering a competitive price for their goods.

Oban committee member Murdoch MacKenzie said: 'We've been here for the whole week and we were at the Co-op last week. We have 84 FairTrade outlets in Oban, whether that's bed and breakfasts, shops or churches.'

'Hopefully we can encourage a few people to give it a try.'

**Iona pupils find that Spring is in the air**

Spring has sprung on the Isle of Iona and the nature detectives of the island's primary school have been out checking on the pond where there is a mass of frog spawn. The children are also busy getting the garden ready and will soon be planting their potatoes as tradition dictates they have to be in the ground by Easter.



SeaGeneration (Kyle Rhea) Ltd

**Kyle Rhea Tidal Array Public Exhibition Days**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 - 3.30pm - 8pm

The Broadford Hotel, Broadford

&

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 - 3.30pm - 8pm

Glengelg Community Village Hall

SeaGeneration (Kyle Rhea) Ltd is proposing to install an array of four SeaGen tidal devices to generate clean, predictable energy from the tidal currents of Kyle Rhea.

A Licence application for the project has been submitted to Marine Scotland and we would like to provide the local community with the opportunity to find out more about what is being proposed. An Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed and information on the possible impacts of the project will be available.

If you would like to learn more please come along to one of our drop-in sessions to discuss any questions you may have concerning the proposed project, the SeaGen technology, and the possible benefits and/or impacts of the tidal energy scheme.

**We look forward to meeting you**

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**Primary schools get together for second annual eco day**

BALLACHULISH and Kinlochleven primary schools will come together for their second annual eco day this Monday.

Pupils from each of the classes will explain what work they have been doing from a range of eco topics and show visual displays of their work.

The pupils will have lunch together and then be involved in a range of joint activities in the afternoon.

The schools have received a £500 grant from the local councillors' discretionary fund to pay for transport.

**Grants handed out by councillors**

LOCHABER councillors handed out five grants to local groups from their discretionary budgets at their latest business meeting in Fort William.

Beneficiaries include: Lochside Parent Council - £250 contribution to ski-ing lessons; Inverie village Hall committee - £282 contribution to legal fees to allow change of structure; Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacary Community Council - £1,000 for provision of replacement village notice board; Ballachulish Primary School - £500 contribution to costs for bus transport for joint Ballachulish/Kinlochleven primary school eco day; Lochaber Archaeology Society - £500 for Spitfire crash site recording and memorial plaque.

**Assault charge not proven**

A 16-YEAR-old girl accused of assaulting a 15-year-old girl by slapping her had the charge against her found not proven.

Caitlin McLuckie, of 7 Park Road, Oban, stood trial at Oban Sheriff Court last week. She had been arrested following an incident in Davaar Gardens in the town last July. McLuckie claimed she had told the girl to go away as no-one wanted her there but denied striking her.

Sheriff John Herald said: 'The one thing that is consistent with this case is the inconsistencies. I therefore find this charge against you not proven.'

He also found McLuckie not guilty of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing.

**Drink driver had cocaine**

AN OBAN man caught driving while more than twice the drink drive limit was found to be in possession of cocaine.

Kris Gillies, 25, of 3 Coe Gardens, Oban, admitted the offences when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. He also pled guilty to colliding with a fence and will be sentenced on April 2.

**Drink driving**

AN OBAN man admitted drink driving on two occasions while he was on bail at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

John McKay, 39, of 18 Nelson Road, will also be sentenced for an assault he carried out last July when he re-appears on April 30.

**Highland talent scheme welcomes 100th graduate**

A LINGUISTICS graduate working with Community Land Scotland (CLS) in Tarbert, Harris, is the 100th young person to find employment under a programme designed to bring fresh thinking and new talent to businesses in the Highlands and Islands.

Ruth Cape, 24, took up the post through the TalentScotland Graduate Placement, which is managed in the region by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). The initiative recruits skilled graduates to growing Scottish businesses or social enterprises to carry out innovative projects which otherwise would not be able to be progressed.

**Island life**  
Ruth, originally from Stirling, who is currently membership and marketing officer for CLS, gained an Honours degree from the University of Edinburgh and has already experienced island life in northern Norway while studying with the University of Tromsø.

She said: 'My dissertation at university was based around Gaelic medium education, sparking an interest in moving to the Western Isles.'

'I also fell in love with the islands after a camping trip there.'

'Community land ownership is an issue I really want to learn more about and it is an inspiring area of work. I am hugely grateful for the opportunity this placement gives me to get involved.'

She added: 'I will also be involved in establishing the Scottish International Land



Ruth Cape, the 100th young person to find employment under a programme designed to bring fresh thinking and new talent to businesses in the Highlands and Islands, is congratulated by Community Land Scotland chairman David Cameron at Tarbert, Harris.

Trust, which will be an additional resource for communities to tap into.' CLS chairman David Cameron said: 'Our membership has almost doubled over the two

years and we have always been aware that our strength comes from these people.

'Ruth's placement with us through the Graduate Placement

Programme will ensure that Community Land Scotland can respond to the wishes of these members.'

He added: 'Ruth has only been

with us for a few weeks but has settled in well.

'One of our aims is that she too should benefit from her work with us over the next year.'

**Morvern Lines**

PATRICK Sellar was arguably the most hated 19th century Scotsman.

He died 152 years ago, yet his name is as infamous today as it was then.

Sellar came to Morvern in 1838 - 22 years after his trial for arson and culpable homicide when he was found not guilty. He bought Acharn near Loch Arianes then nearby Clounlaid, Uladail and Old Ardtornish where he lived in style in the old Maclean laird's house demolished by his descendants in 1907. The whole estate ran to 21,575 acres and cost him £29,850.

According to local tradition, he stocked Acharn with sheep from Sutherland which he himself helped to drive down in the early part of 1839. He was accompanied by several shepherds, including a John Mackay whose popular and musically accomplished great granddaughter May, lived in Lochaline until recently.

Their journey took 14 days and as darkness fell on the final night, they entered the White Glen. Because Sellar had ordered the removal of more than 40 families from the glen the previous year, no accommodation was to be had. He and his companions were forced to shelter by the side of the old drove road in the lee of a large boulder which is pointed out to this day along with the remains of the burnt out houses and the desolate landscape he helped to create.

It has to be said, that a few years after Sellar came to live in Morvern, he and his family became popular benefactors. They helped build new piers and provided much-needed employment when the potato crop failed and famine was widespread.

One of Patrick's sons, William Young, was Professor of Humanity at Edinburgh University and considered one of the most brilliant classical scholars this country has ever produced. His grandson,



Patrick Sellar was a hated figure but later a benefactor to Morvern.

Gerard Craig Sellar (1871-1929), provided a district nursing service in Morvern long before the days of the National Health Service and created a welfare trust which continues to be enjoyed in the parish.

The old mansion house at Acharn, which disappeared long before Sellar's arrival, was unique. It was constructed of wickerwork between great oak beams, completely covered with heather and turf outside and lined with wood inside.

The interior, according to a contemporary description was, 'divided into several compartments and finished in a style of taste and elegance corresponding with the enlightened refinement of the occupants' - the Camerons of Glendessary. This house and its successor - which Sellar occupied for a few years, was described by a visitor as 'a small, neat white-washed building built in the latter half of the 18th century and probably one of the first slated houses in Morvern.'

It was demolished in the 1870s and the stone used to build the present agricultural sheds on the same site. The avenue of lime trees on either side of the old track leading up to the house from the river is reputed to have been planted in 1703 by a relation of Flora MacDonald, the heroine of the '45.

Iain Thorner.



Sellar's Stone was the only shelter Sellar could find after evicting families from the White Glen.

**Calum's award-winning design destined for jute shopping bags in Oban**

AN OBAN school pupil has bagged a big prize in an art competition organised by the town's Tesco superstore.

Calum Garvin, aged 11, pictured right, who attends Rockfield Primary School, won £250 for the school plus a £25 Tesco gift card for himself after winning the competition, organised by the supermarket to tell customers about their Click and Collect Groceries online shopping service.

But Calum's best prize of all

was seeing the winning artwork printed on 250 re-usable jute shopping bags, which will now be distributed free to parents and children at the winning school.

**Design**  
School children throughout the area had been asked by the tesco.com team to design an eye-catching picture to go alongside the Click and Collect design to promote the new service, which is the first of its kind in the Oban area.



**Careless driver didn't realise 'chasing' car was unmarked police vehicle**

A MOTORIST who was followed by an unmarked police car for 17 miles admitted careless driving when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Peter Daniels, 24, of 133 Milton Street, Motherwell, was fined £200 and had five penalty points placed on his driving licence by Sheriff John Herald.

The court heard Daniels sped past police at 50 miles per hour (mph) on Corran Esplanade which resulted in officers following his vehicle.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said officers observed the car travelling 'for a period of time on the opposite carriageway' before driving through Taynuilt

at 46 mph in a 30mph limit. Daniels was flashed to stop but continued driving, stopping when confronted by a marked police car, the court heard.

Defence agent Edward Thornton told the court Daniels was heading to work on a wind farm site at Kilchrenan.

He said: 'He was driving the work Land Rover, there was £4,000 of tools in it.'

'He was aware of a vehicle flashing him but he wasn't going to stop.'

'He was met with a marked vehicle and stopped immediately - only then did he become aware it was police officers behind him.'

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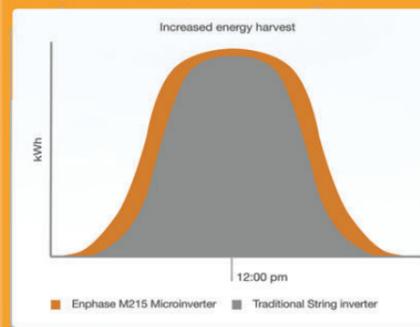


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**LISMORE**

TWO REPRESENTATIVES of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), along with Councillor Elaine Robertson, attended the community council meeting on February 21 as part of the ongoing negotiations to get a replacement ferry for the *Eigg* on the Achnacroich/Oban run.

Regional Manager David Taylor and Oban Port Manager Findlay MacRae outlined a temporary solution until several problems can be solved. This will see the *MV Loch Linnhe* being used. She came on the run on March 1 for a week so the crew could be trained.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'The situation is that we intend deploying *MV Loch Linnhe* on the Lismore route up until the start of the summer timetable - March 29 - but this is subject to demands elsewhere as she is currently a relief vessel for other routes.'

'For the same reason, we cannot commit at this stage to retaining her on that route beyond March 29. We, however, agreed to review that and make a decision about possible future deployment as soon as possible.'

The meeting heard that one of the problems is that the Lismore berth in Oban is not suitable in all tides and there is an issue with getting heavy machinery and hay lorries over. Elaine

Robertson said negotiations were positive and amicable and Lismore could look forward to a solution that would make the island more economically viable and hopefully make islanders working in Oban a real option, as well as attracting visitors.

SATURDAY March 2 was defibrillator day in Lismore when Dr Stuart Cairns instructed 16 people in basic life support and in the use of the island's community automatic external defibrillator (AED) which was officially opened where it has been installed outside the hall.

It was also a chance to remember the late Danny Hickford whose generous bequest funded this reassuring community asset. Danny's partner Ann Sanderson, who now lives in Oban, returned to the island for the official opening and dedication.

Although the AED is, to quote Dr Cairns, 'idiot proof' there is more to helping someone with cardiac arrest than defibrillating and at the end of the instruction everyone felt competent to perform the various stages.

Beth Campbell who organised the event and provided a light lunch, also explained Stephen Green had kindly installed the box at his own expense and because of the complicated wiring of the hall it was apparently a long job.



Alan MacFadyen, Ann Reid, Willie Fairbairn, Heather Smith and Tom Tinny. Inset: the plaque presented to the ferrymen.

BIG HEARTED ferrymen have been awarded a charity plaque to say thanks for collecting thousands of pounds.

The four men, who all work on the Easdale ferry, have collected £2,500 for Oban lifeboat over the last couple of years.

Alan MacFadyen, Willie Fairbairn and Tom Tinny, all from Easdale Island, received the plaque on Tuesday but Calum MacDonald, from

**EASDALE**

Ellenabeich, while unable to attend had his hard work recognised.

Oban lifeboat decided to mark the men's generous support of their organisation by handing them a special plaque for their ferry from the RNLI.

Les Stewart, treasurer with Oban lifeboat, said: 'I spoke to

Argyll and Bute Council, which operates the ferry, and I was told that it carries almost 15,000 people to and fro during the course of the year.

'On average, that means every journey has contributed 17p to Oban Lifeboat. Even Cal-Mac might be happy with that.'

'The men have done something in the background and didn't expect recognition but when I found out the RNLI

had these plaques I knew exactly who deserved one.'

Alan, Willie and Tom are pictured with Ann Reid, past secretary of the fundraising group, and Heather Smith, RNLI collection box secretary.

Les added: 'Heather collects boxes from Appin down to Crinan. It is a huge territory she covers - she has collected over £8,000 in the past year and counts it all up.'

**PORT ELLEN**

THIRTY eager pupils from Port Ellen Primary School dominated the annual Islay Primary Schools Shinty Tournament in Islay High School.

The tournament, on February 25, was split into a P4/5 league and a P6/7 league with teams from Port Ellen, Port Charlotte and Bowmore competing in each. There was a fantastic atmosphere in both halls as parents and friends excitedly cheered on the teams.

The final of the P4/5 league was between the Hard Hitters from Port Ellen and the Black Bullets from Bowmore. This was a very close game but the Hard Hitters were declared the winners with a 2-1 victory.

It was two teams from Port Ellen who made it through to the final in the P6/7 league - The Red Rascals and PEPS Power. This was a fiercely contested match with players from both teams being determined to claim the winners title but in the end this was awarded to The Red Rascals.

A huge well done to all the children who competed in the tournament and the primary school would like to thank Shona Ramsay, Chloe Wood and Mel Macneil for organising yet another fantastic celebration of this great sport.

**KILBRANDON**

PRESIDENT Linda Brown welcomed members to the March meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held in Seil Island Hall.

Speaker for the evening was Eilidh Smith, owner of Oban's Seafood Temple. Local Seil girl Eilidh's talk was entitled 'From Dressing Hair to Dressing Crab', since she had achieved her life-long dream of running a café after 20 years as a hairdresser. Eilidh uses only fresh, local produce and this, together with her obvious enthusiasm for making and sharing top quality food, has enabled The Seafood Temple to establish a world-wide reputation and become the number one seafood restaurant in Scotland. Janice Baxter gave the vote of thanks to Eilidh.

**COLONSAY**

IN MEMORY of Maryanne Macallister, a born and bred Colonsay islander who recently passed away, Gavin Clark, proprietor of the Colonsay Pantry, organised a fundraising day for RNLI, Maryanne's favourite charity.

On February 22, Gavin laid on tea and cakes between 2 and 4pm, followed by a RNLI-themed dinner at 7.30pm.

In between, he managed to find time to do his increasingly popular haddock and chips deliveries around the island. As if that weren't enough, the weekly quiz became a RNLI quiz, which entertained 16 people from 9pm onwards. His original target was to

raise £100; this was met almost immediately by a generous private donation. The total raised on the day was £506.50.

On hearing about the event, Sandra MacAllister, daughter of Maryanne, said: 'I heard about the fundraiser and we are all really touched by the gesture and thank everyone who was involved.'

'The people of Colonsay have been totally fantastic and for that we are all so grateful.'

'It makes me proud to call Colonsay home and be part of such a kind and caring community.'

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**ISLAY LETTER**

**Mòd medallist remembered**

A SPECIAL shield, commissioned by Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile, will commemorate the memory of Mòd gold medallist Robert Forrest who died in tragic circumstances in February last year.

The new shield, to be known as Sgiath Raibeart Forrest, will make its first appearance at the local Mòd on June 8 and will be presented to the youngster who has shown a commitment to the Gaelic language over a prolonged period and has shown a determination in the development of his or her Gaelic skills.

This boost to language development has been greatly welcomed by Gaelic activists and has also met with the approval of Robert's widow Belle.

Robert won the gold medal at the National Mòd in Inverness in 1984 while a member of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir. Following retirement, he returned to his native isle and joined Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile and became its valued Gaelic reader.

In this capacity he was a supportive and encouraging tutor and also passed on his enthusiasm for language and songs to island youngsters prior to their participation at both local and National Mòds.

Teachers at all the island schools, along with those leading local Gaelic choirs, are being invited to help in the identification of a worthy first time winner of the new shield.

**Litter's little stars**

ENERGETIC youngsters from Gaelic mother and toddlers group 'Rionnagan Beaga' descended on Bridgend Woods last week where they gathered 15 bags of rubbish weighing 71kgs.

The 'little stars' were sponsored for their endeavours and among those digging deep were Islay estates and their factor Willy Inglis. Parents also willingly mucked in and transport support was gratefully received from Neil MacLean and Stuart Doyle.

Rionnagan Beaga meet weekly at Ionad Chaluin Chille Ile where the burgeoning Gaelic interests are honed and encouraged by playgroup leader Lorraine Ferguson.

Nach math a rinn sibh!

**LUING**

A VILLAGE hall on the Isle of Luing has been fitted with equipment to help hard of hearing people enjoy events held there.

Cullipool Village hall was fitted with a hearing induction loop last week after the hall trust received £2,000 from Awards for All.

Jean Alexander, committee secretary, said: 'This is a good

**Pianist's presentation**

AT THE Glasgow Islay Association's 151st annual gathering on March 1, a presentation was made to Norma MacDougall who has acted as piano accompanist at gatherings and other Comann Ileach events for over a decade.

She was also a sought after accompanist at other similar events in the city.

Norma has now decided to close the piano lid and her musical contributions were justly recognised by the association.

Making the presentation on behalf of the committee was Irene Justice whose late husband Iain had a life long connection with the Glasgow Islay.

Norma and her husband Alastair, who has strong family connections with Islay and was the association's president from 2005 to 2008, live in retirement in West Kilbride.

**Hospital staff awarded gold award**

ISLAY Hospital staff are walking tall after being presented with the Healthy Working Lives gold award.

This was handed over by MAKI Locality Manager Christine Weir and Alison Guest, Clinical Services Manager.

On the receiving end were Carol Muir and Neil Ferguson representing the hospital's Healthy Working Lives group.

Locality manager Christine congratulated the hospital on its achievement which reflected the staff's commitment and dedication.

Not to be outdone, the hospital's catering staff also shared in the 'healthy living' glory after receiving the Healthy Living Plus award which is given in Scotland to those providing healthy food and assisting in making better food choices.

The local hospital consistently tops the food in hospitals survey in Argyll and Bute for patient meal satisfaction and the provision of quality, home-cooked food.

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

thing for people who are hard of hearing. They will now be able to hear clearly during all events in the hall - meetings, drama, concerts. It has been needed for quite a long time and we are very grateful to the lottery for giving us the money.'

Local MSP Michael Russell congratulated Jean on securing the funding.

He said: 'These awards are all about supporting social hubs in rural areas, facilities which are much valued by communities.'



Dr Stuart Cairns and Ann Sanderson at the official opening of Lismore's new community defibrillator.



**Portree after school programme wins award**

Portree Primary School has received a national community award in recognition of its after-school activities programme. Football, shinty, Jog Scotland runs, gardening and Highland dancing are just some of the many activities supported by staff, parents and community members. Above, local councillor John Gordon presents the award, which was sponsored by the Police Club of Great Britain, to head teacher John Finlayson. Also pictured, left to right, are coaches Kathleen Maclean and Robert MacAskill, Active Schools co-ordinator Sarah Ross and some of the P2 and P3 pupils involved.

**NETHER LOCHABER**

THE MANAGEMENT committee of Nether Lochaber Hall needs more support from the community as discussions continue on building a replacement.

Committee member Anne Marie Cameron said: 'We have unfortunately lost two members due to other obligations.

'Their enthusiasm and help will be greatly missed. We urgently need more members to keep the old hall functioning and to continue toward the building of a new hall.'

She added: 'In 2012 we held a consultation regarding the possibility of a new hall. Firstly, thank you to those who took the time to complete and return the forms.

'Our next step is to pass on the findings of the questionnaire and move to the next stage.'

The committee is also looking for 'able souls' to offer time with manual jobs at the hall including cleaning gutters, painting and electrical work.

Meanwhile, following a break-in in December, the committee has kindly been gifted items to replace those taken.

The window damaged at the time is also getting replaced following the offer of another.

Anyone able to assist should contact the committee through the Nether Lochaber Community Council website, www.netherlochabercc.org.uk which contains all relevant details.

**KERRERA**

A STUDY to decide whether a road connection is needed between the two parts of the island of Kerrera will be published in April.

The investigation, being carried out by Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council, is looking at transport for the island in the long term.

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times* the study would look at whether a road connection is needed between the two parts of the island and if so, what kind of road or track would be suitable. It will also look at ferry options for the island in the long term.

She said: 'There is a joint study being done with Argyll and Bute Council looking at long term transport options for Kerrera. The outcome is expected in April.'



Children of Strath of Appin Primary School celebrate World Book Day.

THE CHILDREN of Strath of Appin Primary have celebrated World Book Day with an eventful week full of reading activities.

All week, pupils have been swapping their unwanted books for new reading material at the school book stall.

**APPIN**

On Wednesday, primary four to seven pupils visited Waterstones in Oban where they enjoyed a tour of the store and fun activities led by staff.

The afternoon saw a special

outdoor clan challenge involving the children in a World Book Day themed orienteering activity along the Appin cycle track, where they had to find the answers to quiz questions based on popular children's books. On Thursday the school was filled with well

known characters as the staff and children came to school dressed as a character from their favourite book.

Special guests included, Oor Wullie, Katie Morag, 007, Cinderella, Tinkerbell, Harry Potter and The Tiger who came to Tea, to name but a few.

**GLENCOE**

THE SEARCH and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) begins its annual assessment in Glencoe today (Thursday) just eight weeks after four people were killed in an avalanche on Bidean nam Bian.

More than 20 specially-trained dogs and their handlers will take part in a range of tests over four days designed to test their skills and endurance.

SARDA Scotland secretary, Ken Weatherstone said: 'All our handlers are volunteers who are willing to assist mountain rescue teams throughout Scotland, on call 24 hours a day. They all do a marvellous job but our real heroes are our dogs.'

SARDA, formed in 1965

by world-renowned Hamish MacInnes of Glencoe, uses mountain rescue team volunteers and their dogs to help find missing people.

**ARISAIG**

ARISAIG and District Community Council (ADCC) held its February monthly meeting recently in Astley Hall, where the following topics were discussed:

The blue recycling bin has already been placed in the car park. Pauline Donaldson from TEC Services will be visiting to look at the parking situation by the other recycling bins and possible changes to parking in general. Discussion continued about the possible siting of bins closer to the campsites and

it was decided to contact the people running those sites.

A new community council notice board is in place.

Work is now in progress on the Arisaig footpath/cycle track

Treasurer Angela Hardman informed the meeting the ADCC bank account contains £3,548.91. £499.56 will be paid for the notice board and £10 for membership of the Association of Lochaber Community Councils.

Mo MacDougall from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) discussed creating a community emergency plan for the area.

The storm of December 2011 was discussed and suggestions were made about providing a generator for the Astley Hall as

a centre to be used for people unable to stay in their own homes. A generator should be supplied to the water pump in Mallaig so that the water doesn't go off as well. SSE is looking into improving electricity lines and clearing trees which may be too close to those lines.

Ms MacDougall had some pieces of kit which could be included in an emergency box, including a wind up light, wind up radio, thermal blankets and 'snap lights'. She suggested that the first thing to do was to identify the most vulnerable people in the area to make sure they will be checked on in an emergency. Eleanor Barrie offered to work on this.

The next ADCC meeting will be held on Monday March 18, with all welcome to attend.

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# Wild fires sweep across West Highlands and islands

## Skye, North Uist, South Uist, Barra, Sutherland and Argyll all affected

A RAGING heath fire that stretched for more than a mile along the hillside between Oban and Connel had families in the area preparing to evacuate their homes.

The huge grass fire, which seems to have started towards Connel, had fire crews occupied for more than 16 hours from 4pm on Monday and overnight into Tuesday morning.

As the wind picked, up the fire changed direction, threatening livestock and homes near the former rare breeds park on the outskirts of Oban.

Firefighters had to battle round to clock to protect homes, stables and the main Oban - Glasgow railway line, with crews from Oban, Inveraray and Dalmally joining the effort to bring the blaze under control.

Oban Fire Station's group four was first on scene at 3.45pm on Monday afternoon.

Group commander Ian MacInnes told *The Oban Times*: 'We were called to the hill at the top of Glencruitten, where we attacked the fire, but it wasn't until we reached the summit of the hill that we realised it was everywhere.'

**"It wasn't until we reached the summit of the hill that we realised it (the fire) was everywhere."**

**group commander Ian MacInnes**

'It was spreading so rapidly, which made it really intense and hard going for the boys.'

'There was a huge area to cover.'

As the wind strengthened on Monday evening the fire spread to within 20 metres from some homes and firefighters worked tirelessly to prevent the blaze reaching the railway line, as flames came within 400 yards of the track.

Alistair MacGregor, a local resident who has sheep in the area, said on Tuesday: 'I was shifting a few sheep last night, it was getting a bit scary.'

'The fire brigade were keeping a close eye on houses near the rare breeds park - it got very

close about 11pm - about 40 or 50 metres above the houses.'

With darkness descending firefighters focused on ensuring the flames did not pose a threat to people or property, continuing to monitor the area for any sign of danger.

Around 11pm the blaze, fanned by a swirling wind, then began to head towards a row of eight houses and firefighters again used beaters to tackle the fire and ensure the safety of the homes and residents.

Stewart Orr, whose house, Aspen, on the eastern outskirts of the town, was closely monitored by firefighters during the blaze, said: 'It came pretty close to the house - close enough to make me really worried.'

'The fire was all over the place and when the wind started getting up at about 7pm it looked completely unpredictable.'

Ryan Carter, who lives at nearby Barranrioch, said: 'I saw the fire come within 50 metres of my neighbour's house.'

'The thing that struck me was how quickly it was moving. If the wind had been any stronger it would have been a huge concern.'

### Fires spread throughout Skye and the Uists

SKYE and Uist residents have described the smoke and flames seen on the islands as several wildfires broke out on Sunday and Monday.

Sleat man Rob Ware said a muirburn above the cleared villages of Boreraig and Suinish could be seen for miles.

Speaking on Monday afternoon, Mr Ware, 57, who runs the Visit Sleat website, added: 'Another muirburn set on around five square miles of moorland above Tarskavaig in Sleat required the attendance of three fire appliances from Broadford, Kyle and Portree after the flames came close to a woman's house.'

'There was another outbreak in Torrion on the Elgol peninsula. The fire service kept themselves fairly busy last night.'

Claire Hannah of nearby Isleornsay said the blaze made for spectacular viewing.

She said: 'I saw the smoke, it was merging with the sunset so it was quite amazing.'

Fires also caused damage at Edinbane, Harloch and between Broadford and Kilbride on the island.

Another blaze at Carninish in North Uist - thought to have burned around 10 acres of land - forced police to close the A865 road between North and South Uist for a time on Monday morning.

Islander Donald MacKillop described seeing smoke and flames near his home.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It was massive, but we were quite a distance from it. I saw the

fire and afterwards, and there was quite a bit of damage to the fences. It was a big fire.'

'There has just been no rain at all for the last fortnight, it's been very dry indeed.'

A separate muirburn on North Uist on Sunday caught the attention of Lochmaddy resident Margaret Saxton, who said: 'I didn't see the flames of the fire, but we could see the smoke from Lochmaddy. It was probably about 10 or 12 miles away, but we could see a big plume of smoke.'



Above - Pictured from 15 miles away, the flames of the fires close to Connel and Oban light up the Argyll night sky. Picture - John MacTavish

Inset - Fire crews from Oban, Inveraray and Dalmally tackled a heath fire which threatened houses on the outskirts of Oban. Local fire crews were unaware of the extent of the heath fire until they reached the summit of the hill. 'It was everywhere,' said group commander Ian MacInnes

Left - Flames light up the night sky on the Isle of Skye above Boreraig and Suinish in Sleat. Picture - Rob Ware

### Strathclyde Police use Operation Myriad focus on driving offences

THE MYRIAD Operation carried out by Strathclyde Police has seen motorists charged with a range of driving offences over the past week.

The operation, one of the biggest to take place in the Oban, Lorn and Isles area, has already targeted drug users and thieves.

A crackdown took place outside schools in Kilninver, Connel and Tainuill which saw three motorists ticketed for speeding and 14 motorists receive a warning.

Two drivers were also reported to the procurator fiscal, a 31-year-old man who was allegedly travelling at 50mph in a 30mph zone in Kilninver at 8am on March 7 and a 66-year-old man for driving at 52mph in the same area later the same morning.

One driver was charged for not wearing a seatbelt while another was penalised for using a mobile phone while driving.

Part of the operation also focussed on Dalmally where a 44-year-old man was charged with driving carelessly.

Officers on the Isle of Mull were also cracking down on the roads, a 56-year-old man was charged with reckless driving after allegedly travelling at 61mph in a 30mph zone at Aros on March 7.

A 51-year-old man was also reported to the procurator fiscal for travelling at 56mph in a 30mph zone at Aros.

Two days later four drivers were ticketed for speeding and one for not wearing a seatbelt.

### Oban man admits heroin charge

AN OBAN man pled guilty to possessing heroin when he appeared in custody at the town's sheriff court on Monday.

David MacGillivray, 35, of Solas, Albany Street, Oban, had his sentence deferred until April 2 for an assessment of his suitability for a drug testing treatment order (DTTO).

MacGillivray told Sheriff Douglas Small that despite his slip he had been doing his best to get off drugs. He said: 'It is the most disgusting stuff on the planet and it was a mistake I made years ago.'

### Clothes swap for Oban Hospice

THE FRIENDS of Oban Hospice will host a clothes swapping event at the Royal Hotel in Oban this coming Sunday, March 17 at 2pm.

The public are invited to come along, enjoy a glass of wine, and exchange their pre-cherished clothing for a new look.

Express beauty treatments will also be available, as a will jewellery by Wendy MacPherson, Inveraray.

### Landowners urged to take care during muir burning

MUIR BURNING in Scotland is covered by the Hill Farming Act 1946 as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and is permitted only between October 1 and April 15.

The legislation allows farmers, crofters, land owners and managers to burn off old grass and heather which stifles new growth and restricts the grazing of livestock and/or bird species such as grouse. Fire has been part of upland environments for many thousands of years and it is probably also one of the most useful, and oldest, land management tools. However, it is a powerful tool, which needs to be used with skill if it is not to do more harm than good.

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service station manager in Inverness Gordon Morrison urged landowners to have measures in place to keep muir burning under control. He said: 'We are there to save lives. If we are out on hills fighting uncontrolled fires we are leaving gaps in other areas. If there is a domestic fire in properties that require us to save lives it may be that our response can be delayed.'

### Highland Council give thumbs up to Fort William music project

£540,000 revamp of Cameron Square starts this summer

FORT William town centre could host musical performances in a new town centre venue by the end of the year after Highland Council gave the thumbs up to a £540,000 project.

The revamp of Cameron Square is ready to be put out to tender, with officials hopeful building work will start this summer.

The plans for the square on the town's High Street include levelling out the sloped centre to create a performance area surrounded by stepped stone seating.

Final designs are not yet complete, but are also expected to include improved lighting and seating, and a statue or artwork.

The funding was agreed at a council meeting in Inverness last Thursday.

Depute chief executive and director of housing and property Steve Barron said: 'Fort William has benefited from refurbishment in the east and west end, but the centre is a little bit jaded. Cameron Square will benefit from this quite significantly.'

'The creation of an events venue in the centre of Fort William would attract increased footfall, which is likely to attract businesses to the area.'

'This will make a real difference to what Fort William has to offer, and it will make a real difference to community confidence.'

### India's Consul General finds educational opportunities in Oban

SCIENTISTS and students from India could be making their way to Argyll to help exploit the potential of Dunstaffnage's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

That was the message from India's Consul General in Edinburgh, who was visiting Oban last week during a fact-finding mission around Scotland.

Consul General Oscar Kerketta met with Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader Roddy McCuish at the Municipal Buildings in Oban to learn more about the area.

The government representative remarked on the area's tourism potential, its 'beautiful' scenery and the cleanliness of the streets.

But he took particular interest in the European Marine Science Park and the associated educational research at SAMS.

Mr Kerketta, who also visited Fort William during his tour, said: 'You have to market this facility in India to show what the marine science park would offer.'

'As India is growing, skills in marine science and aquaculture are something we hope to gain from other countries.'

'A lot of students would look at coming to this area to acquire these skills.'

'In India we have not been very good aquaculture exporters but the potential in the country is tremendous.'

**Exchange trip**

Mr Kerketta also spoke with Oban High School teachers Amy Russell and Brianna Breuer, who are organising an exchange trip to India.

Councillor McCuish told *The Oban Times*: 'Aquaculture is certainly one area in which we can co-operate but I agree we

have to market ourselves better.'

'I am determined to bring more investment to this area through aquaculture and on Mr Kerketta's next visit to this area I hope to be able to arrange a visit to the marine science park.'

Councillor McCuish presented the diplomat with a council quai and bottle of whisky, as well as a necklace, depicting the Kildalton Cross, for his wife.

SAMS director Professor Laurence Mee visited India last month and noted there may be a possibility of co-operating with The National Institute of Oceanography in Goa.

A spokeswoman for the association said: 'SAMS is delighted to hear of the Consul's interest in our institution and research. SAMS has an international profile with staff and students from all over the world and would welcome researchers from India.'



India's Consul General in Edinburgh Oscar Kerketta met Argyll and Bute Council Council deputy leader Roddy McCuish and staff at the Municipal Buildings in Oban. 15. 1110CONSUL01

### Raasay ferry car park work gets underway

FOOT passengers using the Raasay ferry will temporarily be unable to park their cars at the Sconser terminal from Monday as work to extend the car park gets underway.

Instead, a temporary free park and ride system will be introduced at Sconser Golf Club, where parking for 30 vehicles will be provided.

The contractor, McLaughlin and Harvey, will run a minibus service to link with the ferry terminal until the works end in mid-June. The journey of under a mile will only take a few minutes.

Highland Council asks foot passengers making the onward journey to Raasay to use the park and ride system.

Passengers should follow the advice given on the Caledonian MacBrayne timetable and arrive a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the sailing time to allow for the transfer.

### Oban teenager charged after buying alcohol

AN OBAN teenager is accused of purchasing alcohol for younger people below 18 years of age on March 10.

The 16-year-old boy has also been charged by police with offences in contravention of the Identity Documents Act 2010.

### Green flag for Portree

PORTREE Primary School recently received its second Green Flag after impressing the Eco-schools accreditation team.

The assessors took account of the litter-free playground and also all the playground and garden developments that had taken place over the past year.

Members of the school's eco committee celebrated with Ingrid Bruce, the parent helper who supports the garden club, Ginger Gillies the school junior and Active Schools' co-ordinator Sarah Ross.

### Police turn spotlight on private taxi regulations

A 33-YEAR-old man has been charged in Oban with offences under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act in relation to his private hire taxi licence. This was part of the current Myriad police operation which cracked down on taxi driving regulations.

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**Two Oban men found guilty of racist abuse**

TWO MEN who were found guilty of shouting racial abuse at an English man have been placed on community payback orders.

Peter McCuish and Andrew MacKenzie, both of flat 3/1, 19 High Street, Oban, denied shouting remarks towards the man last October 28 but were found guilty following a trial.

Sheriff John Herald ordered McCuish, 32, to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work and comply with a supervision requirement. MacKenzie, 31, must carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

**Church fundraisers in south Lochaber**

A FUNDRAISING day for two south Lochaber churches is being held this Saturday, with a wheel of fortune, home baking and live music.

The fun gets underway in Ballachulish Village Hall from 10am, and will also feature tombola, bric-a-brac, tea and coffee and a delicious crepe stall.

The money raised will go towards roof repairs and a new heating system for St Mun's, Ballachulish and The Good Shepherd in Kinlochleven.

**Clean up planned for A82 at Fort William**

A CALL has gone out for volunteers to help tidy up the southern approaches of the A82 into Fort William ahead of the Easter holidays.

Leading the move is the Fort William Accommodation and Marketing Group (FWAMG), which has organised a litterpick next Tuesday at 10am. The spring clean along Achintore Road will start from the West End car park. Member Drew MacSorland said: 'If you have the time, please come along and give us a helping hand.'

The group exists to promote the area and its accommodation providers.

**Tobermory wins award as schools celebrate World Book Day**



Children at Fort William RC Primary marked World Book Day in style with some weird and wonderful costumes on display. 10\_f20forcc01

CHILDREN and staff at Tobermory High School on the Isle of Mull are celebrating after winning a prize worth £1,000 for doing one of their favourite things – reading books.

The Siobhan Dowd Trust, set up by the award-winning author shortly before her death, encourages reading among young people and is running a campaign to find out how schools spread the joy of reading.

A special judging panel, chaired by Michael Rosen, decided which 10 schools had the most vibrant and lively school libraries and the most imaginative ideas to encourage reading for pleasure. The chosen schools received a prize of £1,000 worth of books.

Tobermory High School was chosen for the innovative ways in which the school nurtures a love of reading.

Sue Penny, the school librarian, said: 'We all enjoy the activities that make reading books a popular thing to do.'

'Members of the whole school community joined in to make films of The Gingerbread Man, Goldilocks and If, which you can see on our school website. They were great fun to make, and I hope other schools will be able to use our ideas.'

Head teacher Craig Biddick was pleased to win the award as it recognised the excellent contribution that Sue makes to literacy in the school and demonstrates their commitment to encouraging and supporting reading.

Siobhan Dowd wrote four novels for young people, between 2004 and 2007, all of which have won awards. For her last novel Bog Child (2009), she became the first author to be posthumously awarded the UK's premier accolade for children's writing – the CILIP Carnegie Medal.



Lochside RC Primary School pupils celebrated World Book Day last Thursday in colourful style by dressing up as characters from their favourite books. Activities included a book swap in the morning and a competition for the best costumes. Winners Lexie Lopez (Pinocchio), Abbie MacKay (one of the 101 Dalmations) and Kaleigh Howden (Nerda from Brave), front, are pictured above with some of their schoolmates who also took part. 20\_f11lochy01



Right - Tobermory High School on the Isle of Mull was chosen for an award for the innovative ways in which the nurtures a love of reading.

**The 39th Lochaber Music Festival 2013**



Lewis MacRae, aged 12, scored 87 out of 100 to win the violin solos beginner category - 20\_f11music06



Box player Liam Stewart took the honours in the accordion solo own choice - March, Strathspey and Reel - 20\_f11music03



Ivan Davies has only been playing the cello for six months, and found himself picking up the prize for cello or double bass solo (primary) after scoring 83/100 - 20\_f11music08



Megan Stewart-MacDonald's performance in the chanter solo - age 13 and over was described by adjudicator Rory Grossart as 'very enjoyable' - 20\_f11music02



Premier Scots Traditional Award winner Hannah MacRae, 15, with fellow performers Rona Nicholson, Syeda Chowdhury and Liam Stewart - 20\_f11music04

ENTRIES were up once again for the Lochaber Music Festival, with nearly 500 youngsters from across Lochaber displaying their musical talents in Fort William.

The 39th annual event kicked off on Friday with local participants singing, playing, reciting or dancing in a number of different classes in venues in and around the town.

Festival chairwoman Lilian MacDonald said the number of youngsters getting involved with both traditional and classical music bodes well for the future of the festival.

She said: 'We've had good representation from the area outside Fort William as well as the town, for example Mallaig, Arisaig and Strontian. It's really good they've made the effort to come.'

Hannah MacRae picked up the coveted Premier Scots Traditional Instrumental Award after her performances in the Scots violin open solo category on Saturday.

The 15 year-old impressed adjudicators Rory Grossart and Gillian Fleetwood and told The Oban Times she was 'really surprised' to win the award.

The other three finalists were Syeda Chowdhury on clarsach, piper Rona Nicholson and Liam Stewart on the accordion.

Mr Grossart praised the performances of all four youngsters, but said picking Hannah as the winner was a 'very, very easy decision'.

The five-day event continued this week with a variety of solo singing, speech classes (poetry), brass, woodwind and strings.

On Tuesday evening the Young Musician of the Year and the Premiere Vocal and Instrumental Awards were handed out at Lochaber High School.

The festival concludes with the ever popular Grand Festival Concert at the high school hall at 7.30pm tonight (Thursday). The night will see the top performers from across the five days performing for a packed audience before a presentation of trophies.



Novice solo bagpipe winner Martin MacKinnon with runner up Megan Campbell - 20\_f11music01



Sine Gibson (left) was awarded first place in clarsach elementary level, while Syeda Chowdhury took top spot at intermediate level - 20\_f11music07



Lochaber Pipe Band's Rona Nicholson was named top in a strong field in the bagpipe solos age 15 and under - 20\_f11music05



Spean Bridge sisters Ailsa, aged 11, and Tanya MacDonald, aged 7, won the strings solo primary intermediate and strings solo primary elementary respectively - 20\_f11music09

**The 39th Lochaber Music Festival 2013**

**TROPHY WINNERS:**

Elizabeth Findlay Memorial Trophy for Scots Violin Solo (Age 17 & Under) - Rhona MacKintosh; Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society Trophy for Fiddle Group (Under 18) - Sgoil Chuil Lochabar; Lydia Jackson Trophy for Clarsach Solo: Syeda Chowdhury; Lochaber Cup for Chanter (Age 10 and Under) - Archie Clark; William MacLeod Trophy for Chanter Solo (11 and Over) - Clare MacLellan; Kenny Nicholson Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Novice) - Martin MacKinnon; David MacGregor Cup for Bagpipe Solo (Intermediate) - Wallace Dempster; Archie Kennedy Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Age 14 and Under) - Rona Nicholson; Alexander MacDonald Cup for Bagpipe Solo (Age 15 and 16) - Rona Nicholson; Evan MacRae Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd - 1st Year) - Ruairidh Shaw; Lochaber Piping Society Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd - 2nd Year) - Finlay Cameron; John MacCallum Memorial Trophy Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd - 4th Year) - Ally Weir; Lochaber Pipe Band Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Open) - Rona Nicholson; Alec MacDonald Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Quartet (18 and Under) - Lochaber Pipe Band Quartet; Premier Scots Traditional Instrumental Award - Hannah MacRae.

**RESULTS:**

'Outstanding' performances (90+ marks) are shown with an asterisk\*  
 Chanter: Age 10 and Under: 1, Archie Clark\*; 2, Ronnie MacKintosh; 3, Millie Jackson.  
 Age 12 and Under: 1, Clare MacLellan; 2, Jordan Currie; 3, Sine MacRae.  
 Age 13 and Over: 1, Megan Stewart-MacDonald.  
 Piping: Novice - March: 1, Martin MacKinnon; 2, Megan Campbell; 3, Ben Fullford.  
 Intermediate - March: 1, Wallace Dempster; 2, Michelle MacKinnon. Age 15 and Under - March: 1, Rona Nicholson; 2, Ally Weir; 3, Ewen MacQueen.  
 Age 15 and Under - Strathspey and Reel: 1, Rona Nicholson; 2, Ally Weir; 3, Ewen MacQueen.  
 1st Year Piobaireachd: 1, Ruairidh Shaw. 2nd Year Piobaireachd: 1, Finlay Cameron\*; 2, Rona Nicholson.  
 Senior Piobaireachd: 1, Ally Weir; 2, Ewen MacQueen.  
 Age 18 and Under - Jig: 1, Rona Nicholson; 2, Wallace Dempster; 3, Laura Paterson.  
 Bagpipe Quartet - 18 Years and Under: 1, Lochaber Pipe Band Quartet; 2, Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band Quartet; 3, Cotherman Ceol Beul Aithriseath Quartet.  
 Scots Violin Beginner: 1, Lewis MacRae; 2, Erin Lawrie.  
 Elementary: 1, John Stewart-Stevenson; 2, Mairi Bell; 3, Emily Clark. Intermediate: 1, Carys Bilton; 2, Rachel Meldrum; 3, Anna Berardelli.  
 Advanced: 1, Rhona MacKintosh\*. Open: 1, Hannah MacRae. Fiddle Group Under 18: 1, Sgoil Chuil Lochabar\*; 2, Cotherman Ceol Beul Aithriseath.  
 Accordion Beginners: 1, Fergus Berardelli; 2, Robert Stewart-MacDonald; 3, Ronnie Fullford. Elementary: 1, Mark Fullerton; 2, Freddie Fullford; 3, Finlay Cameron.  
 Open: 1, Liam Stewart.  
 Scots Piano Primary: 1, Finlay Cameron; 2, Dugald MacIntyre and Ben Gregg.  
 Secondary: 1, Liam Stewart. Clarsach Elementary: 1, Sine Gibson; 2, Ayla Barr-Moir. Intermediate: 1, Syeda Chowdhury; 2, Lorna Linfield. Tin Whistle Elementary: 1, Orla Soe-Paing; 2, Declan Aitchison; 3, Ellie MacLellan.  
 Premier Scots Traditional Instrumental Award: Winner - Hannah MacRae (Scots Violin). Runners up - Syeda Chowdhury (Clarsach), Rona Nicholson (Pipes) and Liam Stewart (Accordion).



Paula presents John with his award. 20\_11paula01

## John voted Lochaber Volunteer of the Year

LOCAL entertainer Paula MacAskill had a gig with a difference on Monday - presenting Shopmobility Lochaber's Volunteer of the Year Award.

And country and western singer Paula was delighted to hand over the shield to John MacLeod.

Shopmobility committee members and volunteers overwhelmingly voted for Inverlochy man John, who joined the charity as a volunteer 10 years ago through the Shirley project.

He attends the office every week to do admin duties including the client booking sheet to register all equipment use over a weekly period.

Shopmobility co-ordinator Billy Ward told *The Oban Times*: "This is a great example of someone that even though confined to a wheelchair, can get out and provide an input into a local organisation."

"John's win as Volunteer of the Year also shows the high regard he is held in our committee by the fact that they

voted for him." Paula said: "Nobody knows when they are going to need a service like Shopmobility."

"When Billy approached us to ask for help with sponsoring this award, we had no hesitation in saying yes. We are also delighted that John is the first winner of the award."

Shopmobility provides a free hire service of wheelchairs, powerchairs and scooters for those with mobility problems.

# Cousins take another crack at football down under

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



Australia bound: footballing cousins Sean, left, and Michael Ellis. 20\_11ellis01

TWO FORT William cousins are to take another crack at Australian football after narrowly missing out winning a league title last year.

Former Fort William FC stars Sean and Michael Ellis are awaiting confirmation of visas before booking flights back to Melbourne, but are hoping to be back down under before the new season starts in April.

The pair jetted off to Oz in February 2012 to sign for amateur side Cobram Soccer Club in the North Eastern Soccer League.

They returned to Lochaber when the season finished in November but have decided to return to the south east coast of Australia for the 2013 season.

Michael told *The Oban Times* he was looking forward to getting back.

He said: "Before we left Melbourne we were talking about going back to Australia again."

"The club are really good to us and it was really enjoyable over there. We're going back for another year but we'll just see how it goes."

"We finished second in the league, which was actually a bit disappointing. We should have done better. We went into a five-team play-off league but we didn't do very well in that."

"Compared to the Highland League it's probably not as good. The standard of the pitches and things aren't quite as good but the players are at a good level."

He added: "The football is the main thing for us, but everything out there was really enjoyable."

Both 23-year-olds featured heavily for the Cobram first team last season, playing every league game as they missed out on the title by just four points.

Sean was the side's joint top scorer with 13 goals in just 18 games, while Michael hit the net six times. Another former Fort FC star Stuart Vance, who moved to Australia several years ago and helped set up the move for the pair, also plays for Cobram and scored nine times.

The cousins have been attached to Highland League side Clachnacuddin since their return to Scotland, with Michael's involvement curtailed by injury.

Sean started for the Inverness club when they visited Claggan Park to play Fort William last Tuesday, with Michael on the substitutes bench.

### Jackpot rolls over

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £700 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last weekend's numbers were 12, 16 and 17.

## Woman's lucky escape as car plunges into loch

A LOCHABER woman escaped with her life on Monday afternoon after her car plunged into the same loch in which two teenagers drowned in a similar incident 30 months ago.

The 28-year-old managed to swim ashore after escaping through the driver's window as her car sank in Loch Eilt.

She was assisted by passers-by before being taken to the Belford Hospital for treatment for minor injuries.

Sergeant David Campbell of Fort William Police said the local woman had been travelling towards Glenfinnan in a Vauxhall Vectra.

The accident happened three

miles east of Lochailort around 2.45pm, under half a mile from where Kirsty Bryden and her friend Roddy MacInnes died when their car skidded off the road and went into the loch in September 2010.

Sergeant Campbell told *The Oban Times*: "It was on a straight section of road and the vehicle

just veered off the carriageway. Conditions were good and the weather was dry and bright and there was no oil or fish swill on the road."

"The driver can't remember anything except one minute it was dry and bright and the next thing she was in the water."

Continued on page 3.

## Mallaig earthquake fails to move locals

AN EARTHQUAKE hit Mallaig on Sunday night - but didn't make the ground move for locals.

The quake was picked up on at 9.20pm and measured 1.8 magnitude at a depth of seven kilometres. But people in the

fishing port seemed unaware with local resident Jacqueline MacDonald telling *The Oban Times* she didn't feel anything.

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Argyll and Bute Council now offers free support to help local businesses supply goods and services to the public sector, through its membership of the Supplier Development Programme. This includes access to free workshops including:

**Supplier Development Programme**

**Is the Public Sector Right for You?**

- Thurs 11th April, Argyll and Bute Council Chambers, Kilmory, Lochgilphead. 10.00 to 12.30
- Fri 19th April, Queen's Hall, Dunoon. 10.00 to 12.30
- Fri 26th April, Corran Halls, Oban. 10.00 to 12.30

This workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering for public sector contracts and would like to become 'tender ready'. It will help you decide if tendering is for you and if so how to go about it, give an overview of the tendering landscape and share some tips on successful tendering.

The workshop will provide a guide on procurement topics such as:

- Understanding the public sector market place
- Why certain processes are necessary
- Deciding if your business is ready for tendering
- Key procurement issues
- The assessment of tenders and the bidding process
- Improving your company's chance of success
- The buyers perspective

After attending this workshop you will be able to decide if supplying the public sector is right for you, implement the first stages of entering this market, recognise the compliance issues that must be addressed, understand the basic requirements of the market and find and examine initial opportunities through appropriate channels.

To book a place at this workshop please register with the Supplier Development Programme at [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk). Registration is free and takes only a few minutes. You will then be able to book for this workshop or any of the other free workshops offered across Scotland.

An informal 'Meet the Buyer' networking event will follow each of the workshops above, 12.30 - 14.00. Come along to meet members of the Council's procurement team, ask questions and find out about opportunities to supply the Council.

To find out more about the Supplier Development Programme visit [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk) or contact Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team on 01546 605459.

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GLASGOW LETTER

Loss of a countryside skill?

WITH the current muirburning season in full swing, there has been numerous reports of wild fires throughout the length and breadth of the west coast of Scotland.

An unseasonably dry start to the year has left our countryside tinder-dry - ideal conditions for muirburning, however, the risks involved should not be overlooked in favour of grasping an opportunity.

Fire has been part of upland environments for many thousands of years and it is probably also one of the most useful, and oldest, land management tools known to man. However, it is a powerful tool, which needs to be used with skill and understanding if it is not to do more harm than good.

The law provides clear statutory restrictions that must be followed but there is also basic factors that need to be understood if the fire lighter is not to find themselves placed very quickly in a dangerous position outwith their control.

In some circumstances, burning may be unsafe, damaging, or a waste of time and resources. There is a well documented code which will greatly reduce risks to those carrying out the burning and to the general public and will decrease the risk of damage to agricultural, forestry, game, wildlife diversity (biodiversity), landscape and archaeological assets. However, training in understanding fire behaviour, modern safety requirements and new techniques for the control of fire is strongly recommended even for those who consider themselves to be experienced.

With a huge reduction in communities living and working on the land comes a loss of understanding and an unwillingness to accept that sometimes 'the old ways' were there for a reason.

GLASGOW LETTER

Choir celebrations

AT A time when loyalty seems to be a characteristic of the past, members and friends of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association were delighted to come together last weekend to celebrate the 30 years since Kenneth Thomson took over as conductor.

The Cottier Theatre was filled on the Friday evening for the annual concert of the choir and as well as choral items from the full choir and the ladies' choir, the soloists were Kirsteen MacDonal, Ruairidh MacIntyre, Eilidh Davies, Joannie Morrison, Amanda Millen, Gordon McKeeve and Kenneth himself.

With a change of venue this year, the format of the seating was reverted to the traditional rather than the more relaxed cabaret layout and with Jo MacDonal in charge of proceedings the audience was treated to a wide range of Gaelic songs.

The following evening another large gathering of friends and members enjoyed an excellent dinner and ceilidh in the Pond Hotel to honour Kenneth's 30 years.

Anne MacDonal, a long serving member of the choir, proposed a toast to Kenneth and the ceilidh which followed was sustained by James Graham, Joy Dunlop, Donald Murray and Duncan MacDonal and with Kenneth also singing it was an array of Mod Gold Medalists and a fine finale to a successful celebration weekend.

Clydebank ceilidh

BEING a Gold Medalist was the theme of the March monthly ceilidh of the Clydebank and District Highlander's Association held in Napier Hall.

Kirsteen Grant, her husband Iain MacLean and Duncan MacDonal all winners of the coveted singing medal were on the programme and treated the audience to a variety of solo songs, duets and humorous recitations.

They were ably assisted by young Ruairidh MacDairmid, only 12 years of age, who is also the proud possessor of a Gold Medal which he won for accordion playing for his age group at the Royal National Mod 2012 in Dunoon.

A pupil of Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu, he displayed extraordinary skill, playing a varied selection of tunes and then, to the delight of the audience, he also sang.

All those accordion players from Three are not going to have it all their own way from now on I would suggest!

Apology for use of graphic image

IT HAS been brought to the attention of The Oban Times that some readers may have been offended by a photograph used in last week's edition to illustrate an injury sustained by a young Oban man.

While the image was used to highlight the severity of the injury, The Oban Times accepts some readers may have been disturbed by its graphic detail and for this we apologise.

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.



MacGillivray Cup winners at Oban, 1962

This week's flashback photograph features the victorious Tartan Wanderers football team which won the MacGillivray Cup at Oban in 1962. Left to right, back row: Sandy Cameron, Murdo MacLeod, Brian Silkowski, Dale Robertson, Angus Beaton and Donald MacLean. Front row: Kenny Campbell, 'Chic' Douglas, Alistair Munro, Kenny Stewart and Nigel Evans. 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

Civilian workers in police offices

I was pleased to hear the new chief constable for the Scottish Police Service will very shortly dispense with the majority of civilian workers in various offices throughout Scotland.

It is infuriating when one has occasion to phone a police office to be answered by a civilian worker who has no experience or proper training in police matters or no knowledge of the law of Scotland. I recently encountered this when on phoning I was questioned by a civilian worker who did not have a clue as to how to solve my particular problem and had to tell me to phone later when a police officer would be available to deal with my complaint.

The new chief constable obviously recognises this problem does exist and in his wisdom has decided to dispense with the majority of these staff who are without doubt costing a fortune out of the police budget.

All success to him when he takes up his post in April of this year in solving some of the general public's grievances.

Hamish McDermott, Corpach.

Mull BID

The proposed BID for Mull and Iona is a unique opportunity for businesses here to create a destination marketing organisation for an economy heavily dependent on visitors.

Our visitors see the islands as one destination and it is by listening to our visitors, and answering their needs, that we will see our businesses grow.

I became involved with the Mull and Iona BID around 15 months ago. I joined a steering group and later agreed to chair that group.

I run a small business, I'm not an administrator, not a politician.

I saw an idea that I liked, was supported by a lot of other people and I got behind it. The steering group oversaw a very wide consultation exercise, developed a plan and took it, in draft form, to more than 400 businesses last September. Feedback on the draft was received from more than 200. At that point, 158 businesses stated they would vote in support of the plan and fewer than 30 said they would vote against.

In addition, the plan obtained full support from the community council, community trust, chamber of commerce, Holiday Mull, Argyll and the Isles Tourism and Argyll and Bute Council. Clear support from all directions. We made refinements to the plan and took it to a ballot.

The arrival of the ballot papers a few weeks ago has disturbed a sleeping tiger.

Many people are suddenly up in arms against it.

This includes some people who I have a great deal of respect for, some who will not be affected by the BID and some whose behaviour has been regrettable and which the majority of 'no' voters must find embarrassing.

We have all been taken aback by the strength of feeling, but much of this stems from misunderstandings of what the BID actually proposes.

The BID concerns businesses with rateable value. So we have been consulting widely within this group, and only indirectly with the wider community. Into

this vacuum, in the past couple of weeks has come misinformation and a lot of bad feeling.

Reading some of what has been written, you'd think Donald Trump was about to build a golf course through Glen More.

In fact, the BID proposals are about modest, small scale, physical improvements and about sustaining marketing activities like PR and events, a lot of which have happened before, but always lost their way due to a reliance on volunteers.

For a few pounds a week on top of our rates, we can set up a properly funded organisation, representing businesses, which will give our destination a strategic advantage in an increasingly sophisticated and competitive marketplace.

I know the steering group has worked hard, honestly and openly to achieve fairness in the plan. I am sure that if the ballot is successful, the BID company will work to continue this approach.

Neil Hutton, Dervaig Mull.

Unease over Mull and Iona BID

I feel very uneasy about who is going to run the proposed Mull and Iona BID at a cost of £125,000 raised from local businesses every year for five years.

In The Oban Times it was stated that the majority of Oban BID businesses were supporting the payment of their levy. On reading, there are 487 businesses required to pay the tax.

At present 385 have either paid in full or are entitled to relief. What is the true figure that have paid in full? 53 businesses are paying by direct debit.

Court proceedings have been initiated against 49 people. I would say this was hardly a rush to pay the tax.

These proceedings do not make for a harmonious community. Do you think things will be any different on Mull and Iona if the BID here is successful? I think not. I suppose there was good intentions for businesses working together by going down a BID route.

Sadly I think it is having the opposite effect.

For the avoidance of doubt, we have voted 'no' for the BID in its current form.

Norrie MacDonald, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

MP calls for end to Council Tax freeze

Sir, Regards last week's letters from the SNP, I did put forward a solution - the opposition councillors' budget.

The SNP can't blame Westminster for the Council's problems. The UK coalition Government gives the Scottish Government £1,600 extra for each person in Scotland compared to what is spent in England.

The reason for the council's financial problems is nine years of Council Tax freeze. The council officials warned the SNP that their cuts will see elderly people living in deteriorating conditions.

That's too big a price to pay for a Council Tax freeze.

I don't want to live in a country where elderly people live in deteriorating conditions.

I appeal to the SNP - stop these cuts.

Alan Reid MP, Dunoon.

Oban's former bowling alley

Sir, It is good news for Oban that the closed bowling alley is coming onto the market.

This presents an opportunity for Oban to seize the initiative, purchase the building and develop it into a facility which supports the local economy.

Who should lead the purchase of this facility? Argyll and Bute Council.

The general principle which should underscore the purchase is that it attracts inward investment, supports existing businesses, helps develop children both locally or nationally and promotes Oban as a leading tourist and outdoor destination.

Which planet am I writing from - this planet which has seen the successful development of Atlantis Leisure, Argyll College, Dunstaffnage marine science park and auction mart.

These along with many other projects highlight what can be achieved when inspired individuals and local agencies come together and source funding which is thereafter directed into providing extraordinary good facilities which contribute to the development of the economy and advance education.

I urge the many involved, together with those who are creative enough, to consider purchasing this building for an outdoor centre for use by national bodies such as Scouts, Guides, Sea Cadets, university clubs, private schools, state schools and any other groups.

Such a facility in Oban would attract groups of all ages who have disposable income whose trade local shops and restaurants would greatly appreciate.

Any facility could be operated round the clock and most importantly allow Oban groups access.

Lastly to suggest that a perfectly good facility is demolished and turned into a multi-storey car park is similar to crime in multi storey car parks - it's just wrong on so many levels!

Colin Johnston, Oban.

Oban Bay - public funding?

From The Oban Times we being asked to believe a revamped transit marina proposal 'will enhance the viability of the town centre'.

As a rule, men are not great shoppers, even more so if they are arriving by boat, great eaters and drinker's maybe, shoppers no.

In 2009 I made the following comments regarding the first failed funding request:

I believe this transit marina idea was too little, too late, in the wrong place and would only have served as a boat park for one or two restaurants and bars close by and did not deserve the support of CHORD funding to the tune of £900,000.

Now and for the foreseeable future there are going to be serious funding issues for the council, local businesses and organisations, house sales in the town are at an all time low, the construction industry in Oban is on its knees and getting worse.

There are shops lying empty on the main street and the bowling alley is still empty. A small and frankly unimaginative project as proposed would not have stimulated the local economy

in any meaningful way. Like many towns and businesses across the country Oban simply cannot afford to get it wrong.

Developing the waterfront is regarded by most people in the town as a very sensitive issue but at the same time one they would like to see explored and realised as something which could enhance their day to day lives and economically stimulate and benefit all the town's residents.

I cannot overstate the need to get this right. We have waited decades for a marina, on its own it will have only limited benefit. I believe the correct way forward is a plan for economic growth delivering benefit for all with a waterfront development and marina at the heart of it.

Since 2009 things have only got worse. Where is the credible plan for economic growth?

Ian Dougall, Oban.

Understanding budget options

Sir, I refer to your letters page and the production headed Council cuts from Councillor Fred Hall.

The detail requires me to write in response to the incorrect and misleading information in his communication regarding the two budgets discussed at the recent council meeting.

It is important to highlight that the budget approach by the SNP council-led administration was for a seven-year period with much of the detail based on assumptions. Within this approach financial detail was developed for this Council Administration that created a budget gap at the end of the seven-year period of £40m.

To assist with the purpose of this budget exercise, an annual saving target of £5.8m was set and agreed. This required the identification of service savings for the coming financial year to the value of that amount with cuts in services to the most vulnerable and needy to the value of £1.5m, community and culture £344k, in education £1.2m and in our roads and amenity services of £455k.

It is important to point out that many services in Oban will be impacted to their detriment not least by Atlantis Leisure, social care, roads, care homes, home care grounds maintenance and toilets. That will be for this year but what about the £5.8m cuts for the succeeding six years?

At the council's budget meeting we put forward an alternative budget despite the wails from the administration that there was no alternative. What we attempted to do was move from a position of hopelessness to a position of hope.

Despite pleas to give way to party political allegiances and to represent the real interests of our communities by preserving services and jobs, we now have a budget that has been agreed and a process that offers little hope or indeed prosperity for us for the next seven years.

For now, however, Councillor Hall maintains that it wasn't him or his party that are responsible and in Government both nationally and locally but others and now expects you to believe that there is no alternative to seven years of excessive cuts and grief.

Perhaps, however, with the media on your side it is possible to fool all of the people, all of the time.

Councillor Dick Walsh, Dunoon.



Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

SAOILIDH MI nach eil dad cho tàmaitheach ann an seadh eaconamach ri bhith a' faicinn innleachd a chaidh a dhealbhadh gu h-ealanta anns an dùthaich seo ga chall ri linn gainnead taice is airgid.

Tha e air tachairt tric ann am Breatann airson caochladh adhbharan, ach aig ceann cùise bha e ciallachadh nach robh airgead gu leòr ann gus an obair a thoirt air adhart far an deach a toiseachadh.

Nuair a bheachdaicheas tu air a' mhìneachadh is an taic a tha obair-rannsaichidh a' faotainn bho bhuidhnean-leasachaidh poblach, tha e doirbh a thuigsinn carson, an uair a thig adhartas le innleachd air choreigin, nach eil taic a' leantainn. Agus gu sònraichte ann an suidheachadh far am bheil an innleachd sin a' cur ri fear de phrìomh amasan eaconamach an Rìaghaltais agus dhùthchannan leasaichte an t-saoghail!

Bheil cumhachd ath-nuadhachail gu bhith cudromach dha eaconamaidh na dùthcha seo gus nach eil? Mura bheil, carson a tha an Rìaghaltais a' cosg fortan a' cur air adhart poileasaich airson a leithid?

Agus carson a tha sinne uile a' pàigheadh fortan tro na cumntasan cumhachd againn airson taic a chumail ri leasachadh cumhachd uaine?

Tha barrachd is barrachd mothachadh feadh an t-saoghail air cho deatamach 's a tha e gun tèid smachd a ghabhail air truaill-leadh na h-àrainneachd agus tha cumhachd ath-nuadhachail aithnichte mar phàirt chudromach den iomairt leasachaidh. Gun teagamh, tha sin a' ciallachadh gun bheil dòchas air airgead mòr a chosnadh a' innleachdan a bhios soirbheachail ann an cruthachadh cumhachd uaine, leithid cumhachd nan tonn.

Nach leamh ma-thà gun tèid na chaidh a dhealbhadh Ghàidhealtachd na h-Alba leis a' chompanaidh Wavenge a-nise a tharraing a-mach dhan Ghearmailt far am bheil a' bhuidheann a cheannach Wavenge stèidhichte agus gun bheil coltas gun tèid an teicneolas a chur an sàs agus a thoirt air adhart ann an Coria. Chan e a-mhàin gun bheil cosnadh na luachmhor gan call air Ghàidhealtachd an-drasta fhèin, ach tha cuideachd an dòchas air obraichean an lùib innealan a thogail a' dol a' sealladh.

Leis an t-seòrsa cumhachd seo na amas an seo agus am feum a th' againn air cosnadh, nach iongantach nach tèid aig Rìaghaltais air na feumalachdan sin a phòsadh nas fhèarr ri chèile gus a' bhuanmachd as motha a bhuinginn asta! Tha mi dùilich tilleadh chun an aon duan a-rithist, ach tha an dàrna rud a' magadh air an rud eile!

THE LOSS of valuable jobs at Wavenge is sad, and the loss of the entire operation from the Highlands is tragic!

A year ago Ed Davey, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, visited this world leader in wave energy and power. Wavenge claims to be delivering the wave energy technology to harness ocean power as part of the solution to energy problems.

Ed Davey saw state-of-the-art research and development facilities in Inverness, and a year later all that is to be lost to Scotland.

An economic blow and an example of deconstructed policies. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD**

Across

7 Completely devoid of air (6)

8 Take back (6)

9 Chew (4)

10 On which to place your plate (8)

11 None of the two (7)

13 Adhesive branch? (5)

15 Lump of chewed matter (5)

17 Press out (7)

20 Medical administration (8)

21 Skyfall (4)

23 Cheat (6)

24 Red dog (6)

Down

1 Cardinal (4)

2 Fox (6)

3 Lavish too much affection on (7)

4 Large amount of family (5)

5 Take as given (6)

6 Silent opinion (8)

12 Abstruse (8)

14 Cost (7)

16 Land on Lake Victoria (6)

18 Infrequent (6)

19 Industrious places (5)

22 Any thing (4)

**Last week's solution**

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

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**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.

# A82 Partnership launches website to follow major road's progress

ROAD group the A82 Partnership is marking five years of lobbying for upgrades to lifeline route with the launch of a new website.

The site at [www.a82.org](http://www.a82.org) will be regularly updated to inform the community of the partnership's work and updates on major projects on the A82.

Recent campaign successes include realignment of the

road at Pulpit Rock and the Crianlarich Bypass, with both projects starting this year.

The partnership also won support from the wider West Highlands community, including Mull and Mòvern community councils, for phase two of its drive for improvements between Tarbet and Inverarnan.

Engineering and environmental studies have already been

undertaken on the notorious 10-mile stretch.

And transport minister Keith Brown has committed £2 million for a two-year design study with the contract for the work due to be awarded in the next 12 weeks.

A82 Partnership chairman, Councillor Brian Murphy, noted successes but warned much more remains to be done.

He said: 'We need to keep up the pressure on the politicians and we need the continued backing of the people of the West Highlands to enable us to do that.'

**Support**

'We have set up a 'sign up' facility on the website for organisations, businesses and individuals to show their support for the campaign and we would

urge all our supporters to sign up on the website.'

While making Tarbet to Inverarnan its top priority, the partnership is pledging to fight for upgrades along the entire A82 and to highlight the negative economic and social impacts of countless closures and restrictions.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, deputy leader of Argyll and

Bute Council and a member of the A82 Partnership steering group, said the website would be 'a valuable tool'.

He added: 'The Tarbet to Inverarnan upgrade is vital to the economies of the west coast of Argyll and the Highlands.'

Councillor John Semple, chair of HITRANS, the statutory regional transport body for the Highlands and Islands said the

A82 Partnership has done 'a great job' of uniting a wide range of people and organisations behind its efforts.

He said: 'The new A82 Partnership website will help the campaign to engage with the wider community and get across our message of the importance of the A82 in delivering economic growth throughout the North.'



Rosie Curtis: blazing a trail as the only female fish farm manager in Scotland.

## Fish farm manager Rosie blazes a trail

THE ONLY female fish farm manager in the country is celebrating reaching a major milestone in her career with Marine Harvest Scotland in Ardnamurchan.

Rosie Curtis was presented with £500 by managing director Alan Sutherland for clocking up 15 years with the aquaculture company, Scotland's largest.

Rosie joined the business in 1997 and is now manager of the salmon farm at Loch Sunart – a role almost exclusively an all-male preserve given the physical labour involved.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Fish farms are wonderful places to work. But it is out in the open air in all weathers – and we certainly do have "weather" here so it can be a very tough job.'

'So historically working on the farms has rather been the premise of men.'

'I am certainly the only female manager of a fish farm for Marine Harvest – and to my knowledge, there are no other lady fish farm managers in all of Scotland.'

**Manager**

Besides the day job, mother of three Rosie is chairwoman of West Ardnamurchan Community Council, crew manager of the Kilchoan retained fire service and DSO of Kilchoan Coastguard.

She is also Crofting Commission area assessor for Ardnamurchan and Sunart as well as being a crofter herself, and serves on many local committees.

A trained chef, Rosie still finds time for cooking – with salmon from her own farm often on the menu.

Alan Sutherland, Marine Harvest Scotland managing director said: 'Congratulations to Rosie on 15 years as manager at Loch Sunart.'

'Rosie is not only a vital part of what we do – producing high-quality salmon – but at the heart of her community.'

'Her values are those of the company, and we look forward to many more years of her hard work.'



Gillian Wink, left, and Helen Wink were delighted to receive their free flowers from Julie Wileman. 20.11women01

## Fort William ladies mark Women's Day with flowers

CHARITY workers brightened up the day for ladies on Fort William High Street by handing out free flowers to mark International Women's Day (IWD) on Friday.

Volunteers from Lochaber Women's Aid (LWA) gave away 77 sprays of flowers,

with the number chosen to show support for the 77 Lochaber residents who came to LWA seeking support and advice over the past year.

Flowers are seen as the symbol for International Women's Day, a holiday which is widely celebrated across Europe

and Asia and has seen growing popularity in the UK in recent years.

LWA administrator Anita Maclean said they wanted to raise awareness of the day.

She said: 'These 77 local women have survived the experience of domestic

abuse and are being supported to reclaim their self-esteem and re-build their lives.'

'As we have a growing number of migrant women in Lochaber, it is increasingly important to recognise IWD and celebrate it, in addition to Mother's Day.'

environmental impact assessment on Kylerhea and submitted a marine licence application to Marine Scotland.

Sea Generation (Kyle Rhea) Ltd, the company set up by MCT to develop the project, will hold public exhibitions on its plans next Tuesday at The Broadford Hotel, Broadford, and at Glenelg Community Village Hall next Wednesday, both from 3.30pm-8pm.

The public consultation runs until April 5.

Meanwhile, the Welsh government has approved MCT's 10-megawatt Skerries Tidal Stream Array off the Anglesey coast. The five 10-turbine scheme will power 10,000 homes.

## Ski and snowboard freeriders descend on Glencoe

THE BEST ski and snowboard freeriders from the UK and Europe will be descending on Glencoe this weekend to compete in the Coe Cup.

An international field of 40 men and six women is coming from as far afield as Spain and Croatia, event director Andy Meldrum said.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We can't wait for the event to start now, we currently have great conditions on the mountain and new snow is forecast this week.'

'As a Freeride World Tour qualifying event this year we cannot wait to showcase to the European competitors what a stunning location Glencoe and Scotland is for such an event.'

Skiers and snowboarders are judged on style, speed and cliff drops as they descend a near vertical snow face. The spectacular action over Saturday and Sunday is free to watch.

## Association awarded pier study cash

SOUTH Sleat Community Moorings Association has received £9,000 from Awards for All Scotland for a feasibility study into re-developing the Old Pier in Armadale Bay.

Local MSP Dave Thompson said upgrading the pier 'would be a boost to the community'.

## Lucky escape

Continued from page one: He added: 'Police inquiries are continuing.'

Morar man John Gibb campaigned alongside Kirsty's parents Jan and John Bryden for improvements to the A830 following the teenagers' deaths.

When informed of Monday's crash by *The Oban Times*, Mr Gibb, a fishery manager said: 'I am deeply shocked and very, very uncomfortable that this very close call happened again.'

'It brings up some horrendous memories for everyone and really reiterates the seriousness of the situation and that this road needs to get fixed.'

He added: 'At the time immediately after the accident with the kids we were asking for crash barriers where the fatalities happened at Craiglea [Mr Bryden's home] and for anti-slip surfacing.'

'To be fair Transport Scotland responded, but when you are still getting people crashing and ending up in the loch clearly more needs to be done.'

## Caol girl gets Red Nose Day off to a flying start

TOMORROW'S Red Nose Day is off to a flying start in Lochaber – thanks to a 10 year-old girl from Caol.

Katie Standen staged a charity cycle, cup cake and coffee day ahead of the main event to raise cash for needy kids in Africa – and raised over £700.

Ages of those taking part ranged from from Zander MacDonald and his sister Daisy who are just four and five, to Katie's great-granny Helen Blackmore - who is 76.

Katie's gran Alyson Stewart, who heads out to Sri Lanka in September for the latest of her Women for Women charity cycle rides in September, was delighted with her granddaughter's achievement.

Lochside paramedic Alyson, 56, told *The Oban Times*: 'Katie's total is £762 in just over a week so she has done so well.'

'We are very proud of her and it looks like she will be joining me when she is old enough on the charity cycles!'

'We had a great day and 19 people cycled with her round the Blar Mhor and back to my house for coffee and red nose cup cakes.'

'In the afternoon over 50 people came to the house and a great laugh and good food was had by all.'

She added: 'Can Katie take this chance to thank all those friends of mine who purchased red noses and sent them to her to re-sell and all those who supported her in her first fund raising attempt.'

Red Nose fundraiser: Katie Standen, right, in white, with some of her local charity team before their cycle round the Blar Mhor.



## Kylerhea: locals stake claim

Continued from front page. A Scottish Government spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'We are working closely with the Glenelg and Arnisdale Trust and supporting its efforts to invest in the tidal energy development proposed at Kyle Rhea.'

'This includes funding for a study looking at ways in which such an investment could take place and the best options for the Trust.'

The Scottish Government has set up a £103million renewable energy investment fund to provide equity or loans – but not grants – to increase community ownership of green power schemes.

MCT has published its environmental impact assessment on Kylerhea and submitted a marine licence application to Marine Scotland.

Sea Generation (Kyle Rhea) Ltd, the company set up by MCT to develop the project, will hold public exhibitions on its plans next Tuesday at The Broadford Hotel, Broadford, and at Glenelg Community Village Hall next Wednesday, both from 3.30pm-8pm.

The public consultation runs until April 5.

Meanwhile, the Welsh government has approved MCT's 10-megawatt Skerries Tidal Stream Array off the Anglesey coast. The five 10-turbine scheme will power 10,000 homes.

## Spean Bridge vandals identified

THREE youths have been interviewed and are the subjects of reports to the relevant authorities in connection with a spate of vandalism in Spean Bridge, police have revealed.

Local people outraged at the destruction caused during the January 25-27 wrecking spree helped officers track down the culprits. Inspector Donald Campbell said: 'Fort William police would like to thank members of the local community in Spean Bridge whose assistance has led to the

identification of persons responsible for recent vandalism in the area.'

'This included the daubing of graffiti on doors, windows, and a bike shelter at Spean Bridge Primary School, the upturning of several flower tubs planted by the local tourist association and the upturning and emptying of a number of roadside grit bins, causing substantial inconvenience as well as financial cost to the school staff, members of the tourism association and the local council.'

## Residents hold ballot on hydro scheme cash

MORVERN residents are choosing which local body should dole out potentially lucrative community benefit money from future hydro schemes.

A postal ballot with a deadline of noon today (Thursday) gives two options – Morvern Community Council (MCC) or Morvern Community Trust (MCT).

Highland Council wards manager Dot Ferguson said: 'This is an opportunity for the community to decide

where these monies should be held until such time decisions are made in respect of using them.'

MCC currently receives funds from an SSE scheme at Kingairloch, while MCT gets money from Glensanda Quarry. Ardnornish Estate has agreed to meet Highland Council's recommended community benefit of £5,000 per installed megawatt in full for its two hydro schemes commissioned so far.

# Glencoe horror as friend falls to his death

HILLWALKERS watched in horror as their friend slid down an ice field before plunging to his death in Glencoe on Friday.

The 39 year-old tried to use his ice axe to stop his fall but careered over the edge of a vertical 1,800-foot drop on Stob Coire nam Beith.

The man was with four companions near the summit when he slipped on the glass-like surface around 3pm and hurtled past the lead walker down the increasingly steep ice slope.

He disappeared into mist and fell around 200 metres onto rocks at the top of a winter climb known as Arch Gully.

The mountain is part of 3,773-foot Bidean nam Biam where four people were killed in an avalanche in January.

Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team leader John Grieve said the victim, one of a party of 15 that had split into groups to climb the mountain, was killed instantly.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'They were descending in mist on a slope. One was in front and looked round to see his mate sliding past trying to stop himself with his ice axe – but he failed and disappeared into the mist.'

'Conditions were pretty unforgiving – the snow was frozen solid like concrete. If you slip you have about two seconds to stop yourself. It would be like a toboggan – you are not going to stop until you hit something hard lower down.'

'None of the group was in a position to get to the body. All they knew was that he disappeared. I said to them 'you are going to have to make your way down

yourself. Our responsibility is to find your mate.'

Glencoe MRT found the man caught behind a rock around 6.30pm but opted not to attempt recovery via airlift because of the exposed location and buffeting winds.

Team members climbed down on Saturday and lowered the body on a stretcher 1,200 feet to corrie floor, where a Royal Navy rescue helicopter from Prestwick picked him up around 3pm.

Mr Grieve said: 'To get to him we had to walk past where the avalanche was in January – it's only a few hundred yards.'

'He was in a very difficult position to get him out of there. Normally people would fall right to the bottom.'

'We could not fly in the helicopter because weather conditions were so bad – the wind was blowing you off your feet.'

'So we took the decision to leave the body on the hill overnight and go back in the morning, something we have not done since the 1970s.'

Mr Grieve described the two-day recovery operation as 'quite dangerous' but said the party 'were very well equipped and experienced hillwalkers.'

Oban student Christopher Bell, 24, junior doctor Rachel Finnegan 25, Dr Rachel Marmar, 29 and her boyfriend Tom Chesters, 28, all died in the January 19 avalanche tragedy.

'If you slip you have about two seconds to stop yourself.'

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**Volunteer of the Year 2013**

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**Friday 31st May 2013**  
**10.30am – 2.30pm**

*Nominations are open now – a great opportunity to put forward members of your community who you think should be recognized for all the voluntary work they do and the impact they have on our towns and villages.*

Contact your local  
Argyll Voluntary Action on **01631 564839**  
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[www.argyllcommunities.org](http://www.argyllcommunities.org)  
[argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk](http://argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk)

Nomination forms now available in AVA offices or online!  
Deadline: Friday 26th April 2013

Argyll Voluntary Action, 21 High Street Oban PA34 4BG

# Boost as Chinese textile giant takes stake in Harris Tweed

THE HARRIS Tweed industry has received another boost with news that one of China's biggest textile companies has taken a stake in Carloway Mill on Lewis.

The new joint venture with Shandong Ruyi Technological Group Ltd will open up new sales opportunities in China and across the globe.

The company has a sales presence in 52 countries while China is the world's second biggest economy.

The move could see an increase in Carloway Mill Harris Tweed's current 25-strong workforce and means security of work for around 35 self-employed weavers.

and grown appreciably over the past three years, this new association with a global textile company is a first for Harris Tweed and will allow the Carloway Mill access to a potentially massive platform to expand its volumes and profitability.'

**Proud**

Bahman Mostaghimi, managing director of Shandong Ruyi UK said: 'Harris Tweed has been a key player in the history of fashion and indeed you cannot separate Scotland from Harris Tweed or Harris Tweed from Scotland. We are very proud to be working with this heritage and introduce it to China.'

Political reaction was swift. Western Isles Council leader Angus Campbell, who is also chairman of the Harris Tweed Industry Forum, said it was 'a very significant day.'

He added: 'The establishment of a joint venture

between the Carloway Mill and Shandong Ruyi opens up huge market potential. We will actively work with the company to support its future expansion.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar parliamentarians, Angus Brendan MacNeil MP and Alasdair Allan MSP welcomed the news.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I know the owners of Carloway Mill have been working very hard to develop their business and bring jobs to the island.'

'This is a potentially fabulous reward for their efforts and gives a great opportunity to Harris Tweed, our islands and indeed Scotland, to make a mark in the huge Chinese market.'

Mr Allan said: 'The Chinese market represents a huge potential for Harris Tweed and it's great that the Carloway Mill is looking to develop in this area.'

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Kris Drever, left, and Eamonn Coyne will kick off the Sound of Jura events this year.

# Drever, Coyne and Culley bring their distinctive sounds to Isle of Jura Hall gig

JURA-based music studio Sound of Jura will host the first of its 2013 events at Jura Hall on April 13 when Kris Drever with Eamonn Coyne and Karl Culley bring their distinctive sounds to the island.

Kris Drever is widely known as the guitarist and singer in LAU, which picked up its third BBC Folk Award at Celtic Connections last month.

**Acclaim**  
His duo with Eamonn Coyne is a well-established pairing, which won huge critical acclaim for the 2007 album Honk Toot Suite.

In February, they announced the release of their new album Storymap on Reveal Records. Songwriter Karl Culley is making a welcome return to Jura having won over the islanders with his virtuoso acoustic guitar stylings, as well as recording two albums at the Sound of Jura studio.

There are cut price tickets on the Jura Passenger Ferry which goes from Tayvallich to Jura Hall and the Jura Hotel is offering special rates on rooms.

Jura Island Tours will make sure illich can get home with a return mini coach service between the gig and the Isle-Jura ferry.

## Musicians of the future take the stage at Oban Fiddle and Accordion Club night

SPECTATORS at this month's Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club concert got a chance to see the players of the future, as well as an established guest artist, Roy Hendrie from Troon.

The meeting, held last Thursday in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, was chaired by Michael Garvin who welcomed everyone and started the evening with Ruairidh Morrison, Kilmore, on accordion.

Next on stage were three of Michael's Oban-based pupils playing solo: Caitlin Curran, Fiona MacLean, both piano accordions, and Calum Garvin on keyboards.

All three were given great applause by the audience.

Michael congratulated all the youngsters on their performances, admitting his own first 'gig' as a youngster ended in tears after he fell off the stage.

Other supporting players on accordion were Robert Brown, Oban, Alec MacKinnon, Carradale, and Alex Ross, Edinburgh.

Michael, on accordion, accompanied his pupils Robert and Alex and his wife, Joanie, playing fiddle.

Guest artist Roy Hendrie, a past British accordion champion in classical music, uses a wireless midi system that delighted the audience who appreciated this unique sound and variety of tunes.

Next month's guest artist is the Graeme Mitchell Trio.



Accordion player and Oban club chairman Michael Garvin supported his young pupil Caitlin Curran on stage. 15\_t11accor01

## Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club enjoys large turnout for Marian Anderson Trio

THE ROYAL Hotel in Portree echoed to the sounds of music when there was a large turnout at the monthly meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club last Thursday.

Club chairman and MC Jim Campbell gave his usual warm welcome to the assembled company and got proceedings under way with a number of sets from the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club Band.

**High school band**  
A variety of local players entertained throughout the evening and the audience was delighted by a return visit from Portree High School Band.

Local musicians were accordionists Aly 'K' MacPherson, David Morton, John Cameron, Braes, John MacGilvary, Ceitidh Douglas, Elaine MacDonald, Emma Beaton, Hannah McDiarmid, John 'The Box'

Mackerlich and Blair Douglas, who also played keyboard. Fiddlers were Caerina Campbell, Ellie MacPherson and Mairi MacKinnon. On pipes and whistle was Eilidh Beaton and on drums Donald MacRae.

**Young talent**  
The audience was delighted to be entertained so well by the many local musicians and were heartened to witness so many young players in whose hands the future of traditional music lies.

The Marian Anderson Trio were guests for the evening and treated spectators to a great variety of the finest music, topping off a tremendous evening.

The Andrew MacDonald Trio will be guests at the next club night on April 4.

John Grundy.

## Oban High School Pipe Band in concert tonight

SEVERAL accomplished Argyll musicians will join Oban High School Pipe Band on stage at the Corran Halls, Oban, tonight for a showcase concert.

The school's two talented pipe bands, led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, will perform tonight (Thursday) alongside pupils taught by guitarist Finlay Wells and accordion player Sileas Sinclair.

Singers Mary Catherine MacNeill and Peter Sinclair will also perform with the youngsters.

The annual fund-raising concert, which was a sell-out last year, will feature more than 60 young pipers and drummers in both the novice and novice juvenile pipe bands associated with the school. Young chanter players will also be involved.

Proceeds from tonight's concert will be used to help fund the bands for the coming competition season.

**WYVEX MEDIA** *Photo of the year*  
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# THE GRAND FINAL - A photo finish

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

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

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

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

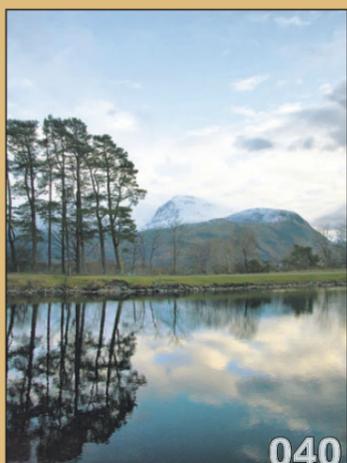
You can vote for your favourite entry by sending us a text to 88010 using the key word POY followed by the code beneath your picture of choice. For example, if the number below your photograph is 123, your message would read POY 123.

You can also vote by completing the voting form on page 13. Photocopies will not be accepted.



023

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



040

Elspeth Gordon, via email: Ben Nevis looking over the Caledonian Canal in January snow. T02elspethgordon1no 040



051

June Macintyre, Campbeltown: Time off for Bob and Jim at Glenehrvie Shore. T03junemacintre1no 051



017

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



022

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



062

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



006

Hazel Moran, Appin: Pine Martin in the wild Argyll, summer 2012. t49hormoranpine1no 006



028

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

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



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**On Call 24/7**



Aideen and Martin are opening the island tea garden on March 29.

# Little slice of Kerrera paradise draws couple in

Island tea garden and bunkhouse give young couple new start in 'a truly stunning place'

A YOUNG couple have abandoned city life and taken over their own little slice of paradise on the island of Kerrera.

Aideen Gallagher and Martin Shields will be opening the Kerrera Tea Garden and Bunkhouse on March 29.

The couple have been hard at work cleaning and refurbishing the premises since moving in at the end of January.

'The bunkhouse is looking gorgeous - fresh and clean,' said Aideen, 31. 'We've been trying to put our personal touch on the place.'

For Martin and Aideen, who have been together for two and a half years but known each other for 10, the experience of living on an island is a new one.

Martin, 34, is from Glasgow and stumbled on Kerrera during a chance visit five years ago - he has been coming back ever since.

'I used to live in the Czech Republic and sang in a band there. When we toured Scotland I decided to show the band Oban - the town has always been the place I would take visitors, it has always been a town close to my heart,' he said.

'People in Oban might not realise it but when you're from Glasgow it really has got the wow factor, it is a beautiful town.'

When the band arrived in Oban they found the friend they had planned to stay with, Fiona Rowan, was unavailable but she said they could stay with her then boyfriend (now husband) Chris on Kerrera.

*"Neither of us have ever lived somewhere like this and it is very exciting."*



Kerrera Tea Garden and Bunkhouse.

'We spent three days there, fishing, living off the land as much as possible, the dog was catching rabbits, it was a real eye opener for me. It was love at first sight with the island,' said Martin.

'This is truly a stunning place, it is an absolutely gorgeous island,' added Aideen, who hails from near Dublin but has spent six years travelling with an international theatre company.

'This is a welcome change, my patience with city living was tested,' says Aideen of her time travelling with Stomp.

The couple now plan on dedicating

their time to producing hearty home cooked meals for visitors to the tea garden, which is near Gylen Castle, on the south of the island.

The charming tea garden which has outside tables for walkers in summer, will be offering local produce at the heart of its menu.

'We'll be using the daily specials board to highlight produce that is available locally. Everything on the menu is healthy and wholesome but very tasty with a nod to the traditional in there too. Cullen skink and stovies might feature along with Kerrera beef,' Martin said.

Meanwhile the refreshed bunkhouse sleeps between seven and nine people. 'It is ideal for groups of friends and if local people fancy a different night away it is a great stop,' added Aideen.

The couple will have the tea garden open seven days a week, some may think this a big commitment but the pair couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

'It is very hard to eke out a living on any island so many people are forced into commuting but we would hate to have to commute when we have all this right here.'

'Even arriving in the middle of winter we can really see the beauty in the place,' says Martin. 'I've spent all my life living and working in a city and Aideen has travelled to near every city in the western world with her work.'

'Neither of us have ever lived somewhere like this and it is very exciting.'

'People in Oban might not realise it but it really has the wow factor, it is a beautiful town'

## Barra youngsters get their wish as CalMac aim to install wireless internet access on ferries

WORK to install wireless internet on ferries is progressing well, according to Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac).

A spokesman for the company said: 'We are very keen to make a reliable and consistent wifi signal available on our ships and have undertaken a number of trials of several different delivery methods to do so, including satellite, point-to-point wireless and 3G.'

'The geography in which we operate presents some challenges and we may have to apply different solutions in different areas, but these trials have allowed us to determine which technology is most suited to which area.'

'This work is being carried out

within the context of a major revamp of all onboard communications and we are working towards providing an 'always on' connection, allowing the ship to be permanently connected to the corporate network, which will allow us to operate safely and efficiently in delivering our services.'

'Where there is sufficient capacity and network coverage this will allow us to deliver wifi services to passengers. We hope to tender and transition to a new service model during 2013 and the formal procurement process for this has started.'

'We share everyone's frustration that we cannot progress this as quickly as we would all like but we hope that everyone will appreciate

that there are significant technological challenges and costs associated with it and we have to get it right.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan and MP Angus MacNeil have welcomed the announcement.

Mr Allan said: 'It's great to hear that CalMac have accepted the need for wifi on their vessels, and this will certainly make the travel experience a better one for everyone who wants to work or communicate while on the move.'

'Having met with the Barra Youth Council, it is clear that their campaign for this service has been a successful one and I congratulate them for this. It's a great example of young people being persistent and making a real

difference.'

Angus MacNeil added: 'I am delighted to hear that wifi is to be available on Western Isles Ferries. Barra Youth Council led the way on this issue and successfully secured a pilot on the MV Lord of the Isles and lodged a petition to the Scottish Parliament.'

'Access to wifi will make travel more enjoyable and crucially people will be able to work while travelling. Credit to CalMac who have seen the wisdom of this and who have not shied away from difficult economic times but showed that they understand the needs of islands when travelling.'

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# Twenty years ago

Thursday March 18, 1993



'Wee Burnie' of Rab C Nesbitt fame would bring a smile to anyone's face and Oban traffic warden, Krys Knepl was no exception. She thought that actor Eric Cullen was just the ticket when she came across him as he visited the town on a short break last week. t11twenty01



## Comic relief

OVER £400 was raised by Lochaber High School pupils and one person who was glad to see the end of the school day was physics teacher Ed Grindley, who was kidnapped and held for ransom. Seen with the hostage are Fiona MacQuarrie, Joanna Small, bryony Kirk and Alanna Will. t11twenty03



ATLANTIS Leisure, which operates Oban's swimming pool, is at present making improvements to the facility. One such improvement is the installation of a flume, and men from the Liverpool-based firm R J Edwards are seen erecting the pillars which will hold the flume. t11twenty06



## Meet Mull's TV stars

MULL schoolchildren Stuart Fairbairns and Rhona Morrison will become television stars tomorrow. Stuart and Rhona, both pupils at Dervaig Primary School, appear along with Kirsty Baker and Stuart's brother Ruari, in the Really Wild Show. Ruari is a pupil of Tobermory High school and the others, all aged 10, are pupils of Dervaig Primary School. Television presenter Terry Nutkins talks to the children about wildlife and conservation matters and follows the Whalewatch project which Stuart and Ruari's parents are involved in. t11twenty02



## Alisdair coins it!

A TINY Indian coin, dated 1882 and showing the head of Queen Victoria as Empress, has been found under the floorboards of a house in Oban. Alisdair Barnett, branch manager of NWS Bank in Stevenson Street, found the coin during renovations to the home he bought last July. He is thinking of showing the coin, a one-twelfth anna, to an expert but doesn't hold out much hope for its value. Alisdair Barnett with the old Indian coin he found under the floorboards. t11twenty05

## Isle of Barra pupils engineer a success

SOME of the pupils of Castlebay School, Barra, who came out tops when they tested their skills against other schools at the Young Engineers Club meeting, held recently at Millburn Academy, Inverness. t11twenty04



Send in your stories and photographs to editor@obantimes.co.uk

# Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk  
01631 568021

## Rural careers initiative aimed a giving the young a future within Argyll and Bute

AN AMBITIOUS initiative that aims to bolster Argyll's declining population by attracting young people to a career in rural industries was established last week.

The AYE (Argyll's Young Experience) initiative, the brainchild of MSP for Argyll and Bute Michael Russell, aims to get young people excited about their environment and equip them with the skills needed to work in industries prevalent in the area.

AYE is inspired by the Queensberry Initiative, which gets children out of the classroom and working on projects on a country estate. The initiative runs a rural skills course, the equivalent to an Intermediate 1, and has seen an increase in the number of young people choosing to stay in the area.

### Launch

The AYE initiative will see Mr Russell work with the National Farmers Union Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll College and representatives from the farming, aquaculture and forestry industries to create a similar model in Argyll.

Addressing the launch party of the AYE initiative, attended by representatives from 50 organisations, Mr Russell said: 'We have a declining population in Argyll, there is no doubt about it. There are more people in the east than there are in the west. One way we can keep people in rural communities is making sure they understand the opportunities in rural areas and ensure they are able to take those opportunities.'

'From tourism opportunities on the estate through to forestry, farming and gamekeeping there were lots of things for young people to find out about. Perhaps some didn't want to take it further, but there was an understanding created that there were important activities within rural Scotland and that these activities were attractive in terms of jobs.'

A working group has been established to create the model in Argyll. It will aim to identify an organisation to host the initiative and appoint a co-ordinator to liaise between schools, colleges and industry bodies.



Representatives from the farming, aquaculture and forestry industries will join forces with private landowners and education bodies to equip young people with the skills needed to work in rural industries



Jake Handley from Portree joins tutor Murray Stark and Marine Harvest's Bill Wright after he was announced as the runner up in the aquaculture category. Jake is a farm technician with Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd. He completed his SVQ Aquaculture Level 2 and is currently working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Aquaculture Level 3.

## Skye-based fish farm technician gains Lantra recognition at awards ceremony

'The judging panel was very impressed with the entries this year'

A FISH FARM technician from Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd on Skye was announced as the runner up in the aquaculture category when Lantra's held their 10th Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year Awards ceremony recently.

### Winners

The awards recognise the achievements and success of learners in the land-based and environmental sector across Scotland. Winners and runners up from 15 categories, plus an overall winner and runner up, were announced at the prestigious ceremony at the Crieff Hydro Hotel in Perth.

Among the many highlights of the ceremony and gala dinner was the presentation of the aquaculture award, sponsored by Marine Har-

vest, Dawnfresh, the British Trout Association, Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation and the Scottish Salmon Company.

The overall winner was Jamie Hesketh from Parkgate in Dumfries. Jake Handley from Portree was announced as the runner up in the aquaculture category.

Jake is a farm technician with Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd. He completed his SVQ Aquaculture Level 2 and is currently working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Aquaculture Level 3.

Jake said: 'I really enjoyed working with one of the key companies in the salmon farming industry. The SVQ has improved my understanding and knowledge of fish husbandry.'

'Work-based training has comple-

mented my Modern Apprenticeship too.'

### Enthusiasm

Jake's tutor, Murray Stark, who nominated him, said: 'Over the years of nominating candidates for this award, Jake has probably been the most deserving nomination I've made. His enthusiasm and willingness to learn has made him a model student. He has shown that the aquaculture industry and the Modern Apprenticeship offer real career opportunities for those with motivation and determination.'

Other awards were presented in areas such as fisheries management, equine, agriculture and horticulture and the standard of entries this year was particularly high.

Head judge Peter Alexander said:

'Lantra has been celebrating learners' achievements in the land-based and environmental sector since 2003. These awards are vitally important in recognising the success of learners from across Scotland, and also act as a source of inspiration for those considering a career in this diverse and rewarding sector. I would like to congratulate all of the entrants on their hard work.'

Mary Mitchell, Lantra's Regional Partnership Manager, praised the high standards at the awards: 'The judging panel was very impressed with the entries this year and selecting the winners wasn't easy. Everyone who entered has really worked hard to make a significant difference and raise the profile of the sector across Scotland.'

## FARMING

### Ardbeg heifer calves sell to £1280 at Islay sale

Record entry for UA March sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual March sale of all classes cattle at Islay Auction Mart on Saturday when they had a record entry for this time of year of 794 head.

An excellent show of top quality bred grazing type cattle met with a sound trade selling to all the regular attendees of mainland buyers.

Sale averages fell slightly short of last year's extremely high values but compared favorably with principal mainland centre's nevertheless.

Bullocks sold to average £868.88 per head

or 229.31 per kilo against £884.93 last year. Heifers sold to average £744.68 per head or 215.65 per kilo against £749.04 last year.

The top priced bullock per kilo came from the Eorabus consignment of 100 head when their Limousin crosses sold to £1245.00.

Ardbeg's consignment of 65 head led the prices per head and kilo in the heifer section when their Limousin crosses sold to £1,280 and 386pence per kilo respectively.

Leading the bullocks per kilo was Brybruih when a tremendous pen of five Charolais bullocks sold at 286pence.

### Highlanders sell to £1,320 at Dingwall rare breed sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 25 cattle, 8 horses, 9 goats, 79 sheep, 512 lots of poultry, eggs and poultry equipment at their poultry, rare and traditional breeds of livestock sale at Dingwall last Saturday.

Cattle sold to £1,320 twice for two in-calf Highland cross cows from 46 Blairmore, Rogart and to £910 for Highland heifers from Colaboll Farm, Lairg. In-calf Shorthorn cows from 37 and 55 Sangomore, Durness sold to £860.

Bulls sold to £860 for a Highland from Rainbows End, Isle of Skye. Horses sold to £520 for a Highland gelding from Auchlethel Steading, Peterhead.

Goats sold to £420 for a Pygmy female in kid, from Camard, Isle of Skye.

Sheep sold to £310 for a Dorset ewe with two lambs at foot, from Smallburn Farms, Elgin and to £230 (twice) for Dorsets from Smallburn Farms. In-lamb Kerry Hill ewes from Redpoint Farm, Gairloch sold to £135. Kerry hill lambs from the same home fetched £150, with Zwarbles from Achlaschoille House, Balnatoich to £105.

Poultry sold to £200 for pair of Indian Runner ducks from Cantraybridge College, Croy.



Limousins from Upper Largie, Kilmartin sold well at Oban last week Picture - Kevin McGlynn

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## Upper Largie Limousins sell to 288p per kilo at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 168 store, breeding and OTM cattle plus 875 store hoggies, grit ewes and feeding ewes at Oban last Tuesday.

Bullocks averaged 245p per kg and sold to 288p for three Limousins from Brechin, Upper Largie,

Kilmartin and to £885 for five 330kg Limousins from MacMillan, South Ardnacloch, Appin. Heifers averaged 210p per kg and sold to 241p for a 220kg Limousin from Taychreggan, Appin and to £900 for a 380kg Limousin from Achnaba, North Connel.

Bulls averaged 199p per kg and sold to 213p for a 230kg Limousin from House of Keil, Duror and to £610 for two 315kg Limousins from the same home. OTM cattle sold to average 116p per kg and sold to 147p for a 465kg Limousin from Annet, Appin and

to £1130 for an Aberdeen Angus bull from Treshnish, Isle of Mull. Breeding cattle sold to £1,060 for a Limousin bulling heifer from Kengharair, Mull. Hoggies sold to £65 for Suffolks from G Brechin, Upper Largie. Grit ewes sold to £70 for

Cheviots from R Horne, Keepers Cottage, Taynult and to £66 for Blackfaces from Ardochoire, Kerrera. Feeding ewes sold to £74 for Texels from Troughton, Ardachy, North Connel and to £70 for Texels from Strongorm.

## Market report

### ISLAY United Auctions

**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £1065 Craigfad 975(4), £975(4) Craignis 965 Craigfad 965(4), £945(4) Craignis 875 Grulibeg 820 Ardfarnal, Jura 815 Knockrome (Boyle) 805(2) Grulibeg.  
British Blue X: £1135 Brybruih 815 Ardbeg, £1105 Craignis 815 Ardbeg, £1025 and £1015 Ardbeg 875(4) Octofad 895(3) Craignis 805 Brybruih 895 Lössit 815 Ardbeg.  
Charolais X: £1165(5) Craignis 1095(8) Eorabus 1085 Tallant and Brybruih(5) £1055 Eorabus and Craignis 1045(2) Sunderland 995 Eorabus(2) and Craignis(5) 985 Octofad and Sunderland 955(4) Craignis 925 Tallant(2) and Eorabus(4) 990(2) Eorabus 895 Starchmill 865 Brybruih 845(3) Craignis 805 Octofad 800 Tallant(6) and Brybruih(2).  
Limousin X: £1245, £1175 and £1155 Eorabus 1135(2) Ardbeg 1135 Eorabus and Lössit 1115 Ardbeg 1105 Eorabus 1085 Octofad(3) and Kilchiaran 1075 Ardbeg 1065 Octofad(2), Lössit(3) and Craignis(2)

£1055 Lössit and Craignis(2) £1045(4) Blackrock 1025(4) and £1015(2) Ardbeg 1005 Sunderland 985 Octofad(6), Eorabus and Kilchiaran(2) 975 Octofad(4) and Lössit 965 Octofad(5) and Ardbeg 945 Ardbeg(5), Eorabus(13), Lössit and Sunderland(4) 935 Octofad(6). Ardbeg and Blackrock(2) 925(2) and 905(2) Eorabus 895 Starchmill(3) and Eorabus(2) 885 Blackrock(8), Eorabus(4) and Sunderland 875 Ardbeg(3) and Eorabus(9) 865 Octofad(4) and Starchmill 855 Carrabus and Ardbeg(6) 845(9) Tallant 835(2) Starchmill 825(7) Eorabus 815(2) Carrabus 805(9) Octofad. Simmental X: £1065 Octofad 995 Brybruih.  
**Heifers**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £955(2) Craignis.  
Charolais X: £995(6) Craignis 875(3) Eorabus 865 Tallant(6) and Craignis(2) 855(5) Eorabus 845(12) Craignis 835 Octofad and Craignis(3) 825 Eorabus(4) and Craignis(6).  
Limousin X: £1280 Ardbeg 1100(2) Lössit 1055(2) Blackrock 995 Lössit and Craignis 965 Lössit 950 and 945(3) Ardbeg 945 Eorabus 905 Sunderland 895 Ardbeg(4)

and Lössit 885(2) Craignis 855(2) Eorabus 845(5) and 835(6) Octofad 825 Ardbeg and Eorabus 805 Ardbeg(5) and Blackrock(3).  
Luings: £960(4) RSPB Oransy.  
Prives per kilo  
**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: 234p Grulibeg 233p(4) Craignis 232p Cruach(Brown) and Craignis(8) 229p(2) and 218p Grulibeg. British Blue X: 269p and 256p Ardbeg 245p Bruichladdich 230p(3) and 229p Ardbeg 226p Brybruih 220p Lössit.  
Charolais X: 286p(5) Brybruih 272p(6) Tallant 254p Brybruih 249p(2) Tallant 246p Carrabus 243p(4) Eorabus 240p(2) Brybruih 239p(3) and 238p(2) Craignis 235p Octofad 234p Tallant 233p Carrabus 232p(8) Eorabus 230p(5) Craignis 228p Sunderland and Craignis(5) 227p Starchmill 225p(2) Sunderland 223p(2) Craignis.  
Limousin X: 272p(5), 269p(4), 266p(2) and 265p Ardbeg 260p(2) Lössit 258p(4) Tallant 256p(2), 254p(5) and 248p Ardbeg 244p(8) Blackrock 243p Starchmill(2) and Eorabus(2) 242p(7) Eorabus 241p(2) Starchmill 240p Tallant(11) and Blackrock(4) 239p(3) Eorabus 238p(3) Ardbeg

237p RSPB Kinnabus, Tallant(2) and Eorabus(9) 236p Sunderland 235p Octofad(10) and Blackrock(2) 234p Octofad(7), Ardbeg and Achnacloch 233p Octofad(3), RSPB Kinnabus(2), Carrabus and Eorabus(6) 232p and 231p(3) Carrabus Luings: 242p(3) Duich 225p(3) Cruach(Brown).  
Simmental X: 222p Brybruih.  
**Heifers**  
Aberdeen Angus X: 248p(2) Cruach(Brown).  
British Blue X: 236p Ardbeg Charolais X: 234p(4) Brybruih 233p(6) and 230p(4) Tallant 230p(2) Craignis 227p(8) Eorabus 224p(6) Craignis 222p(9), 221p(2), 218p and 217p Eorabus.  
Limousin X: 386p, 285p(4), 270p, 255p and 247p(3) Ardbeg 247p(2) Lössit 241p(6), 239p(5) and 236p Ardbeg 235p(3) and 232p(3) Blackrock 227p Eorabus and Blackrock(2) 226p Starchmill(2) and RSPB Kinnabus(2) 224p and 223p Lössit 222p Starchmill(6), Tallant(6) & Lössit 221p(2) Starchmill.

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# Business

## Fish feed problem hits salmon firm

### Scottish Salmon Company takes legal action over feed issue

POOR quality fish feed may be to blame for a salmon company posting end of year results which are over £10 million less than in 2011.

The Scottish Salmon Company's (SSC) annual figures for the 'challenging year' of 2012 were £79.5 million but in 2011 they posted £90 million.

Stewart McLelland, Chief Executive Officer of SSC said: '2012 has been a challenging year and our results, in line with company expectations, mirror wider industry trends.'

'At all times, The Scottish Salmon Company has remained resolute in resolving these challenges while maintaining a focus on the long term, which is bringing rewards through new customer relationships and industry collaborations.'

'The company continues to see growing market demand for high quality, sustainably farmed Scottish salmon and is on course to develop the volume of premium salmon to 29,000 tonnes in 2014.'

This extra tonnage will be granted as a new licence has been achieved at the Gometra site on the Isle of Mull to deliver up to 3,000 tonnes of additional production, as well as a new site at Loch Torridon in the western

**"Our results, in line with company expectations, mirror wider industry trends."**

**Stewart McLelland.**

Highlands. The total harvest for 2012 was near 24,000 tonnes, a 1,000 ton increase on 2011, with stock available for the first time from the company's Loch Roag sites in the later part of the year.

But higher than anticipated costs on harvested fish have had a negative impact on the year-end figures.

SSC, which has 59 sites in the Hebrides and Argyll, says this is 'primarily as a result of a biological issue caused by sub-standard feed that impacted growth, survival and stock's ability to resist expected environmental challenges'. They say the 'unprecedented situation' resulted in stock which was lower in weight and quality and consequentially more difficult and costly to process. The company is taking legal action over the matter.

Alongside the pressure on the

company's own costs, market prices remained low for the most part of 2012.

A spokeswoman said: 'This was in part due to harvesting dynamics across Europe along with high incidences of Amoebic Gill Disease (AGD) across the Scottish industry which has resulted in earlier harvesting.'

The company's own challenge with AGD and associated biological issues led to the loss of around 2,000 tonnes of salmon which would have been harvested in the second half of 2013.

Salmon from Loch Fyne and other southern region sites, due for harvest in 2013, is performing normally with no major losses due to disease and no impact of feed issues.

Last year saw SSC secure contracts with leading UK retailers and expand its exports to more than 20 countries. The spokeswoman added: 'The company is still actively seeking new sites to increase production. Research and evaluation for new sites in the Western Isles continues with the view to correcting the production imbalance which continues to put pressure on production costs, local job security and the company's ability to build its brand with reliability for customers.'



Stewart McLelland says the company continues to see growing market demand for high quality Scottish salmon.

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The work is physically demanding and will need to be able to demonstrate the ability to work in a variety of outdoor environments, use IT field systems and achieve high standards of safety and technical competence.

A current driving licence is also essential.

You will be expected to live in the Oban area and work variable hours. You will also participate, as required, in a high frequency standby rota. You must be adaptable and flexible, have good inter-personal skills and leadership qualities.

To apply, please download an application form from our website [www.sgn.co.uk](http://www.sgn.co.uk) or request one from [jobs@sgn.co.uk](mailto:jobs@sgn.co.uk). Completed forms should be e-mailed to [jobs@sgn.co.uk](mailto:jobs@sgn.co.uk) or returned by post to Human Resources on the top of the application form. Please quote reference number 1310EXT.

Applications must be received by closes of play on Friday 22 March 2013.

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Applications (covering letter and C.V.) should be submitted to: [neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk](mailto:neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk)  
(For more information and/or an informal chat, contact Neil on 01546 602182 or email: [neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk](mailto:neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk))

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**dawson energy**

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A full job description is available on request. Applicants should apply in writing including their CV, preferably online to [Julie.Lockhart@dawson-energy.co.uk](mailto:Julie.Lockhart@dawson-energy.co.uk) or by post to J.Lockhart at the address below. Closing date for applications is 28th March 2013.

**Dawson Energy Limited, Glenshellach House, 76 Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG**

**Part-time Administrator** **WaterSide Property**

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To apply, please send your CV to:  
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The successful candidate will have excellent numeration and communication skills and must be a good team player. Experience of Working in a similar role is essential. This is a varied and challenging role so candidates must be able to prioritise their own workload.

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# 's figures £653,225 grant takes Jura store into community ownership

## Full and part-time jobs created



Higher than anticipated costs on harvested fish have had a negative impact on the year-end figures.

A GRANT of £653,225 will allow Jura residents to officially take over the island shop as a community venture.

The four-year grant from the Big Lottery means Jura Stores Community Interest Company can press ahead with its plans, which will begin with the appointment of a shop manager.

As well as helping to buy the building, the money will contribute towards a refurbishment of the building in Craighouse, the purchase of a delivery vehicle, the salary costs of two new full-time staff and two new part-time staff.

John Potts, chairman of the Isle of Jura Development Trust, said: 'We are delighted to receive the funding needed to make this project a reality.'

'The shop will be run for the benefit of the community and with the ongoing support over the first few years we will be able to grow it into a successful and sustainable business which will provide essential goods and services to the island for years to come. Ownership will not simply 'save the shop' but will empower the community; increasing its ability to control and influence events and to become confident to take on other challenges and more resilient to future changes.'

In an island ballot last November, 77 per cent of the population voted to buy the local shop for the market value of £95,000. Argyll and Bute



Grant money will contribute towards a refurbishment of the building in Craighouse.

MSP Michael Russell said: 'This is very good news for Jura and its future sustainability.'

'This is a great example of a community coming together and positively taking responsibility and control of its own needs. In

addressing a challenge in terms of future sustainability amongst a range of activities, the residents of Jura are working for themselves and in doing so maintain the vibrancy of a rural island life that is almost unique to the west of Scotland.'

## Fish farms and wild fisheries need to live side by side, claims MSP

AQUACULTURE and wild fisheries sectors must co-operate and learn to live side by side in the interests of Scotland's economy, it's been claimed.

Speaking during a debate on the Scottish Government's aquaculture and fisheries bill, Scottish Conservative environment spokesperson Jamie McGrigor said the industries were of equal importance.

He said: 'As a Highlands and Islands MSP, I am hugely aware that both farmed fish and wild fishery businesses are crucial elements of our economy, providing significant numbers of valuable jobs.'

'Aquaculture is a very big part of Scotland's growing food exports and wild salmon and sea trout fishing attract substantial tourism income into our communities with spin-offs for hotels and shops.'

'Both fishery sectors need to be profitable to help the Scottish economy and, as I have said before, a prosperous salmon farming industry is much better equipped to care for



Scottish Conservative environment spokesperson Jamie McGrigor.

environmental issues than an industry which is hanging on by its fingertips. 'In that context, we must remember that the salmon farming industry is afflicted not only by sea lice but more recently by amoebic gill disease - £10million of treatment is being spent on this new salmon plague which is part of the £26 million spent annually on fish treatments within the industry.'

'I am disturbed by news that Slice is no longer working as well as a sea lice preventative but encouraged by the use of wrasse as a non-chemical agent.'

## Energy company wants your views to help them improve

A NATIONAL energy company is looking for your opinions and ideas to help them improve and plan their network.

Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) held a depot doors open day last week to show Oban residents what goes on behind the scenes.

Mo MacDougall, community liaison manager, told *The Oban Times* the company is investing £4.5 million in the coming year in Scotland on major projects and want customers' input.

She said: 'We are trying to talk to people, there is a lot going on that people don't know about.'

'We are holding open days and we're taking thoughts and ideas back to our planning people.'

'We have a lot of free advice we can give to people who are planning projects but we need to know ahead of time.'

'There is a lot of government grants and incentives to put in community systems now and we are asking communities what their plans are.'

'They have maybe been funding raising for two years and then they come and tell us and we need to

reinforce the network which causes a delay.' SSEPD is also making plans to help communities when things go wrong. There are care lines set up and workers will be making sure vulnerable residents are okay.

Mo added: 'We are creating a plan that is individual to each community. When we know things are going wrong we hope to position a generator to suit the community at an agreed place of refuge where electricity can be provided.'

There is a Power Track app which is free to download and will keep customers informed of what is likely to happen in the event of a power cut.

Mo said: 'We see this as an ongoing process, it is a small start on what we want to do.'

'We are looking for ideas, opinions and plans.'

'If we have a big job planned we want to know when it is convenient to do it and we are acting on what we are actually hearing.'

'There is a survey available at www.ssepd.co.uk/HaveYourSay/EDI and it would be great if people would go on and do that. They can benefit greatly from it.'

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You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis. If you are interested in this position, please respond by emailing your CV quoting reference number 486-5B no later than 20 March 2013 to: vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk, or mail to

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**Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008**  
Planning Application Pre-Application Consultation

Highland Council Education, Culture & Sport Service are conducting a pre-application consultation on the following development proposal:

Construction of a New Joint Campus Community Primary Schools and Community Facilities upon the combined sites of the existing Caol Primary School and Community Centre. Both are located at Glenkingie Street, Caol, Fort William.

Further information can be obtained from Highland Council, Housing & Property Service, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL. Opening hours are 9:00am to 5:00pm; Monday to Friday.

Public exhibitions will be held at the following locations:

Caol Community Centre, Glenkingie Street, Caol, Fort William on Wednesday 27th March 2013, Alexandra Hotel, The Parade, High Street, Fort William on Thursday 28th March 2013.

The exhibitions will be open between 11:00am and 7:00pm.

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposals after the events should do so by writing to Mr Ron MacKenzie, Highland Council, Education, Culture & Sport Service, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX by the 12th April 2013. Drop boxes will be available at both exhibitions.

**PLEASE NOTE: No application has been submitted to the Highland Council in relation to this proposal. Any comments made to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the council and would not be considered as part of any future application. If the prospective applicant subsequently submits a formal application for planning permission there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Council.**

www.highland.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/00557/FUL	Lime Tree, Achintore Road Fort William	Alterations and extension to building
13/00649/FUL	21, 25 Ben Nevis Drive Ben Nevis Industrial Estate Fort William	Extension to existing industrial unit
13/00765/PIP	Land 60M West of 3 Stronaba, Spean Bridge	Erection of two houses
13/00828/FUL	Heathercroft Development Site, Connochie Road Fort William	Temporary use of land as contractors compound including siting of 3no. portacabins

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00037/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with attached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North West of Crannaig Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
13/00307/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Dereach Penninghale Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA20 6HQ	Sub Post Office Bunnellan Isle of Mull
13/00358/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 09/00725/DEI (Erection of 2 dwellings and leisure building, formation of access and associated works)	Plots 1 and 2 Land South West of Dunstaffnage Marina Dunbeg Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dunbeg
13/00401/PP	Alterations and change of use of garage to form class 1 retail unit (renewal of planning permission 07/00786/COU)	Hazelbank Motors Mill Lane Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4HA	Oban Area Office
13/00440/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Scabank Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Ledarg

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00332/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of mobile catering trailer	The 1745 House Dunollie Ganavan Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5TT	Oban 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 Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://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.

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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**THE CROFTING COMMISSION COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD**

**CROFT OCCUPANCY INITIATIVE**

The Crofting Commission is proposing to terminate the tenancy of the following as absentee crofter under the terms of Section 22 of The Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

Mr John H Lamont at Crofts 11 and 16 Moss, Tiree (Case Nos: 1.22.25126 and 1.22.25127).

Comments on the cases can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 21 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW duties@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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**Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft**  
Mr David M Colthart is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of part of the croft at BarranCultan, Kilmore & Kilbride, Argyll to Mrs Sandra Colthart of Barran Callum House Appin Argyll PA38 4BB

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW. (e-mail [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

**Oban Times Sales Team**  
01631 568000

**Argyll Animal Aid Annual General Meeting**  
To be held On  
Thursday 26th  
March 2013  
At The  
Community Fire  
Station, Oban  
At 7.30pm

<p><b>HONDA CRV AUTO</b></p>  <p>Sport version 2 litre petrol. 47,000 miles, Excellent condition, MOT to Nov taxed April. Call 01770 302843</p> <p><b>£5750</b></p>	<p><b>MAZDA BT50 4X4 DOUBLE CAB PICK UP</b></p>  <p>Silver, First Reg Sept 2007, MOT Oct 2013, 85000 miles Locking canopy, Towbar, Good condition. Tel: 07813 676748</p> <p><b>£5500 No Vat</b></p>	<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>All types of light commercial vans, pickups, etc. We also buy rough or high mileage, non-runners considered. Also all types of 4x4 vehicles, land rover, Toyota, etc...</p> <p>Telephone : 01250 884306 or mobile: 07885 203020</p>	<p><b>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i CLUB ESTATE</b></p>  <p>40k miles, 2 lady owners, 3 months tax, 6 months MOT.</p> <p>Telephone: 01866 822129</p> <p><b>£1300 o.n.o.</b></p>	<p><b>RENAULT LAGUNA ESTATE</b></p> <p>54 plate, 6 months Tax, Full year MOT, 37,000 miles on clock.</p> <p>Telephone: 07789346020</p> <p><b>£3500</b></p>	<p><b>2005 BMW 320CD M SPORT</b></p>  <p>Tax, MOT, 68K miles, 18" M sport alloys, FSH. HPI clear, very clean car. Call Gordon: 0780 335 3024</p> <p><b>£6150</b></p>	
<p><b>2008 RENAULT MEGANE ESTATE</b></p>  <p>5 door Dynamique Sport Tourer, Economical 1.6 petrol engine, 40+ mpg, 70,000 miles, just had major service and MOT Service history, CD player, air con, alloys, roof bars Good condition inside and out. Tel: 01586 830478</p> <p><b>£2850 o.n.o.</b></p>	<p><b>SUZUKI LTZ 90CC KIDS QUAD BIKE</b></p>  <p>Bike is in very good condition and only for sale due to lack of use. Electric start and fully enclosed foot wells. Call for more info Tel: 07523 757640</p> <p><b>£1600 o.n.o.</b></p>	<p><b>PEUGEOT 307 RAPIER HDI 2LTR</b></p>  <p>69,559 miles on clock Taxed July 2013, MOT Feb 2014. Telephone: 01880 820548</p> <p><b>£1450 o.v.n.o.</b></p>	<p><b>3 BED STATIC CARAVAN</b></p>  <p>1995, Carnaby Crown 35'x12', good condition throughout. Separate toilet and shower room, sited at Castle Sween, buyer must transport. Telephone: 07789 988368 email: alison.fullton2@ntlworld.com</p> <p><b>£1500 o.n.o.</b></p>	<p><b>HONDA CR-V</b></p>  <p>2.2 i-CDTI Executive, 56 Plate Diesel, 6 speed manual, 101k miles, FSH. Tel: 07788 580086</p> <p><b>£5500</b></p>	<p><b>PEUGEOT 307 HDI</b></p>  <p>52 plate, diesel, 65mpg, cheap road tax, MOT end December. Telephone: 07789597092</p> <p><b>£1300 o.n.o.</b></p>	<p><b>KTM 125 MOTOCROSS BIKE</b></p> <p>£1,750 also 3 bike trailer for sale, sell individually or together. Tel 07799 061357 (Oban) or 07514 088043 (Aviemore)</p> <p><b>£1750</b></p>
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**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.  
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Sue Deacon - an appreciation

THE MUCH loved woman in charge of running Oban Marina passed away last week following a short illness.

Susan Deacon, 43, held the post of operations director at the marina where she had worked for more than six years.

Sue was loved by all: berth-holders; colleagues; regular visitors and her many friends and business contacts in and around Oban.

She will be remembered for her ever-present enthusiasm and wit, as well as her tireless energy, big welcoming smile and non-stop hard work to make sure she looked after all aspects of running the popular marina on the Isle of Kerrera.

Having taken on the role of marina manager five years previously, the marina went into receivership and the new owners made Sue the director of operations last February.

She worked hard with the new owners to ensure its continued success and development, always striving to offer the best customer service and to welcome sailors from all over the world, as well as those closer to home.

She was responsible for the day-to-day running of the marina and boatyard under Oban Marina and Yacht Services Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of The North Ledaig Co Ltd.

Owner, Peter Weir, wife Katy and son Tim all expressed their sorrow and gratitude to Sue for all her hard work and selfless



Laughing and happy, Sue Deacon in yellow. This photograph shows Sue as she was, says Peter Weir, owner of Oban Marina. 'Mixing with visitors to ensure they enjoyed their stay.'

commitment to the marina.

Peter said: 'We have known Sue and her former husband Neil Price for many years as they worked for us at the caravan park before we bought Oban Marina.'

'Both continued to work at the marina and Sue had the full responsibility for running it on a daily basis when we took over.'

'She ensured the continued popularity and success of the business with her enthusiasm and sheer physical hard work.'

'The investment has been welcomed by the distillery, which

Certificates presented at Oban Lorn Resource Centre Students' success at James Watt College

MEMBERS of Oban Lorn Resource Centre have been celebrating after receiving certificates for successfully completing a variety of courses.

**Presentation**  
The 25 students completed courses including computing, local history and film production from James Watt College in Greenock.

They were presented with their certificates by Janice Boyle, the college's curriculum

manager, at the resource centre in February.

Mhairi Still, one of the students, said: 'I was overwhelmed. My family came to see me get my certificates. I got them for computing, filming and magazine.'

James Watt College has worked in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council for several years to provide an outreach service offering quality courses for people with learning

disabilities who live in the Oban area.

Anne Horn, lead councillor for adult services, said: 'I would like to congratulate the Lorn Resource Centre students on their achievements.'

'A great deal of effort and hard work by the students assisted by their tutors goes into completing these courses. We appreciate the continuing commitment to this valuable service by James Watt College.'



Oban's Lorn Resource Centre students proudly display their certificates

Islay distillery moves ahead with storeroom expansion plan

ISLAY'S newest working distillery is beginning to emerge from the shadows of its larger neighbours following the confirmation of a £450,000 bank loan to build a new store room.

Kilchoman Distillery, which went into production in 2005 and now produces around 120,000 litres of alcohol annually, secured the loan from the Clydesdale Bank last week.

Its new store is currently being built at Conisby.

The investment has been welcomed by the distillery, which

is currently loaning cask space at three other sites on Islay and had been struggling to obtain a bank loan to meet its increased production.

**'Growing rapidly'**  
Distillery manager John MacLellan said: 'With the help of the Clydesdale Bank we can build an asset that will completely change the way we run things.'

'The investment moves us up to a stage where we are more in control of our own destiny.'

'We have stock at distilleries all over the island: Port Ellen, Bowmore and Bruichladdich. We are grateful to these companies for being so helpful because the industry is booming and everyone is crying out for more

storage space.

'But we are looking forward to getting all our stock under our own roof. Kilchoman is growing rapidly and we are looking to increase our output by up to 6,000 cases this year.'

Kilchoman Distillery had a turnover of £1.6million last year and employs 16 permanent staff, along with some seasonal staff during the spring and summer months.

Its whiskies are now sold in 30 markets worldwide, including Canada, the US, Taiwan and Japan.

Anthony Wills, managing director of Kilchoman Distillery, said: 'Launching a new distillery is a big challenge financially. One of the difficulties is that you

constantly need to invest in storage because the spirit must be matured for several years before it can be sold as single malt.'

'Even though the business is growing, some banks ran a mile when we sought investment. Clydesdale Bank, on the other hand, was willing to listen to our needs and was prepared to support us.'

Hamish Boag, Clydesdale Bank's head of business and private banking for the Highlands and Islands, said: 'As a newcomer to the industry, Kilchoman Distillery may be a small player but it punches above its weight, earning a number of plaudits for its wonderful single malts, and achieving growing sales both at home and overseas.'

Travelling bridal shop success

BUDDING brides-to-be were ushered into Oban's Congregational Church Hall on Saturday - but not for nuptials.

**Debut appearance**  
Travelling bridal shop Blue Garter Bridal made its debut in the town in the church's hall, taking with it a range of dresses and accessories for those lucky women soon to tie the knot.

But after a superb response from locals on Friday and Saturday, the company admits it could be tempted to have a permanent presence in the town.

Travelling to the town from Teeside were Karen Armstrong and Erica Thompson.

**Encouraging**  
Karen admits the response was encouraging, but admits frustration at not being able to secure commercial premises for the event, with estate agents failing to respond to a request to hire a shop for three days.

She said: 'We had a really busy morning.'

'From what we gather there's nothing like this in the local area at all so lots of people dropped in.'

'We had actually tried to get a shop but none of the local estate agents got back to us which was a bit disappointing.'

'High Streets are changing but how do you attract business if you don't welcome it? Maybe someone tries something like this and wants to turn it into a permanent shop?'

'It could help fill empty shops.'

Such was the response from the company's two days in Oban - and a day on Seil on Sunday - that Karen and Erica are already set to return.

Karen said: 'We will come back again in July and we're going to do a Jingles-style fashion show in the future.'

'No delay' with broadband

THERE is 'no delay' on the project to roll out next generation broadband across the Highlands and Islands, according to the body set to roll the scheme out.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) says it is in the final stages of agreeing a contract with BT to roll out the £120million upgrade, with work due to start this year.

HIE has also received a £10million boost from Broadband Delivery UK for a pilot project to roll out the scheme.

HIE's comments come after Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid criticised what he says is a fresh delay between BT and HIE signing a deal for the work, claiming it was supposed to have been done in August last year.

A spokeswoman for HIE said: 'There is no delay on the potential start date for this project, our aim has always been to begin next generation broadband rollout in 2013 and we remain on course to achieve this.'



Cricketers host race night

Fort William Cricket Club members and friends enjoyed a night of horse racing, drinks and laughs at a fundraising race night on Friday. The event, held in the Volunteer Arms, was organised to raise funds for both the club and the Belford Hospital with well over £1,000 pulled in. As well as the horse races, a raffle was also held. Club chairman Derek Spencer and captain Kevin O'Meara are pictured placing their bets with 'bookie' John Ferguson

Oban High School former pupils hold annual reunion

THE ANNUAL dinner for former pupils of Oban High School took place last weekend with old pals catching up over some fond memories.

**Guest speaker**  
This year's event was the 46th dinner organised by the Oban High School Former Pupils Association and was held in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Guest speaker on the evening was Bob McCulloch who shared his tales of 'Old Oban' including insights into how the old school building developed. Mr McCulloch also displayed photos of pupils and teachers from his era at the school.

Ruth Oliver, from the Former

Pupils Association, said: 'We had a very successful evening; great food, good company, dancing and a fantastic talk from Bob McCulloch about 'Old Oban'.'

'The years were well represented on the night and everyone enjoyed catching up and making new connections.'

As in previous years, the association will donate a sum of money to the school for an academic prize.

Next year's dinner will be on March 8 and anyone who is interested should contact Ruth Oliver on rutholiver@rutholiver.plus.com so they are included in the circulation list.



Some of the Oban High School former pupils who gathered in Glasgow

Coping with Bereavement



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.

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**BIRTHS**

**GRANT** - Duncan and Lynn Grant are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Cameron Kenneth, a little brother for Freya. Born on February 25 at R.A.H. Paisley. Another grandchild for Hughie, Kathleen, Kenny and Emma. Many thanks to Oban and R.A.H. midwives.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**DUNCAN** - Anne, daughter of John and Gill Bachelor (Warrington, Northants), congratulations on our ninth wedding anniversary, from your loving husband William, son of the late Thomas and the late Anne (Lyons) Duncan, (Dunbeg, Oban). Married in Warrington Church on 12/03/04.

**DEATHS**

**CLARK** - Sadly on March 10, Alice, in her 67th year, passed away at the Lynn of Lorn Care Home. Daughter of the late Oona and Pete, sister of the late Isa, Jean, Oozie and Pal, and loving sister of Amy, Duncan and Alex. A loved and treasured wee lady. XxX

**DEACON** - Suddenly on March 6, 2013, at The Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Susan Lisa, (Oban Marina), beloved partner of Robin, loving daughter, sister and friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all, especially in the yachting community. A celebration of her life will take place in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban, on Tuesday March 26, 2013 at 10.30 am. followed by cremation at Carrross Crematorium at 3.15 p.m. to which all friends are invited.

**HILL** - May died at the RAH Paisley on March 7, 2013, wife of the late Robert Hill. Sadly missed by her family and her partner Dougie. The funeral will be held at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley on Friday, March 15 at 3pm and a memorial service at Inveraray Church on March 22 at 1pm. All welcome.

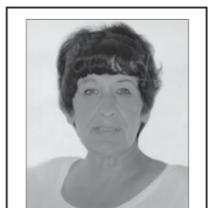
**JORDAN** - Suddenly at Lorn & Islands Hospital on Monday March 11, 2013, Joseph Jordan aged 87 years, Cairnban, North Connel, beloved husband of Dolly (nee Livingstone), dear father of Neil, Lorna and Ian, a loving father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather. Sorely missed.

**MACINTYRE** - Suddenly, at his home, 11 Sinclair Drive, Lochgilphead, James (Jim) MacIntyre, aged 50 years, much loved dad of Allan, cherished son of Nan and the late Eichen MacIntyre and dear brother of Iain and Margaret, loving uncle and cousin to all the family, a good friend, dear neighbour and work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Kilchrean Parish Church, at a date and time to be announced.

**MALLOY** - Peacefully at home on March 5, 2013 after a short illness James Lyons Malloy (Jimmy), of Tobermory, aged 72 years, beloved husband of Eileen, proud dad of Jacqueline, Amanda and Alan, devoted Seanair and 'Shipmate' of Caitlin, Tansy, Guthrie, Alfe and Lori-Lou. Funeral service was held at Beadoun Cemetery on the March 12. 'Here he lies where he longed to be; Home is the sailor, home from the sea'.

**SMITH** - On March 8, 2013, suddenly but peacefully, at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne, Dugald Mitchell Smith, in his 85th year, beloved husband of the late Jessie Munro, much loved father of Lorna, Maureen, Sheena and the late Iain, a dearly loved grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service at Tarbert Free Church on Friday, March 15 at 12 noon, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, for British Heart Foundation.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**



**BRAIDWOOD** - On Wednesday, February 27, 2013 our mum Mabel lost her fight with Pancreatic Cancer. Mum struggled really hard with her painful illness and in the end it was too much for her. Mum's service was held on March 4, 2013 at St. Columba's Cathedral. We would like to say thank you to all family, great neighbours and friends, Hilary Brown, community nurses, the Catholic Community and especially Fr James who was with mum throughout her illness. We don't think mum would have been able to cope without your spiritual words and also for giving our mum such a dignified Requiem Mass. To all who attended mum's service and went to the graveside, all who sent cards and flowers, Torquil Telfer again for playing the pipes for mum as he did for dad 18 weeks ago and the Hoey family. Thank you.

**CAMERON** - The family of the late Sheena Cameron would like to thank family and friends for their kindness and support during the last few weeks. Special thanks to Rev. Margaret Miller and Rev. Robert Brookes for their kind words. Also to D & A Munn for all their help and professionalism during a difficult time. The sum of £742.69 was very generously donated for the A & E Department at The Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

**KNOWLES** - Gary Knowles and family would like to thank everybody for their kindness and overwhelming support following the very sudden death of Sarah on February 12, 2013. A special thanks to the emergency services who attended, for their kindness and professional manner. A special thanks and gratitude to Ian and all at D&A Munn, the Rev Donald MacKinnon for a very moving service, and thank you to all who came to show their respects at the church and graveside. Thank you also for the wonderful flowers and for the donations to the British Heart Foundation which raised £805.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BLACK** - 16/5/1990 - 13/3/2009. Cherished, happy and loving memories of my precious son Fraser. Forever in my heart. Miss you more than ever. Lots of love always. - Mum xxx. Miss you Fraser. Lots of love. - Gregory and Ruaridh xx.

Forever in our thoughts Miss and love you. - May, Gagae, Grumpy and Auntie Lesley xxx. **BLOOR** - In loving memory of Margaret, who passed away on March 12, 1999. - Jimmy, Cathy and family.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of our dear mother Mary, who died March 16, 2007 also our dear father James (Jimmy), who died January 21, 1999. Loved and remembered always. - Gordon and Hazel.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of Helen, who so sadly died before her time on March 15, 2012. So truly missed by all who loved her so dearly. Never forgotten and forever in our thoughts. - Cookie, Martin, Kirsty and family.

**CLARK** - In precious memory of our much loved daughter, sister, mum and aunt, Margaret Macdonald, who was taken from us on March 9, 1997. Your presence we miss. Your memory we treasure. Loving you always. Forgetting you never. - Love Mum, Dad, Aileen, Marilyn, Matthew, Natalie, Carrie-Anne, Caroline, Robert, Craig, Sharree and Darren.

**COUTTS** - Treasured memories of my dear mother, Isabel, who died on March 8, 1992, my dear father, Alex died on June 17, 1976, my aunt Jean, died on October 26, 1988 and my brother Alistair died November 2, 2007. Precious memories never fade away. - Cathie, Inverness.

**DUFF** - In loving memory of Allan Duff, beloved husband, father and grandfather, who died March 14, 2003. You will always live in our hearts and minds. **FORSYTH** - In loving memory of my dear wife Mary (Calac), who passed away March 17, 2012. Always remembered and very sadly missed. R.I.P. - Jimmy x

**FORSYTH** - In loving memory of a dear sister and aunt Mary (Calac), who passed away March 17, 2012. Always in our hearts and thoughts. R.I.P. - Margaret, Kirsteen, Stephen and Zander. **FORSYTH** - In loving memory of a dear sister Calac, auntie and great auntie May, who died March 17, 2012. Loved and remembered every day. - Ronnie, Kathleen and family, Ballachulish, East Kilbride and Bridge of Earn.

**HOGG** - 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. Loved and remembered always. - Denise and Kerry.

**MACDONALD** - Cherished memories of my darling husband Andrew, died March 13, 2010. Sorely and sadly missed. - Your loving wife Margaret.

**MACEACHERN** - Always remembering our dear cousin Morag, who passed away March 15, 2012. So many happy memories Missed so much. - Nancy, John and families.

**MACGILLIVRAY** - In loving memory of Hector a dear husband and father, who died March 18, 2007. Always in our thoughts. - Mora and Joy.

**MACKENZIE** - Twentieth anniversary. In loving memory of Iain, a dear father and papa, who passed away March 13, 1993. Loved and remembered every day. - Catherine, Christine, Jim, Jamie and Gavin.

**MACPHAIL** - In memory of Allan, March 11, 2004. Forever in my thoughts. - Maureen.

**MACPHAIL** - Precious memories of John, who died so tragically on March 15, 1995. Loved and missed always. - Dad and Mary x. **NICHOLSON** - In loving memory of our dear mum Jessie who died March 11, 2000. Loved and remembered every day. - From all the family.

**OMAND** - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious nana Cathie, Isle of Tiree, who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008. We miss you in so many ways. We miss the things you used to say. And then when old times we do recall. It's then we miss you most of all. - Rosemary, Iain, John, Murray, Norma and families, Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.

**REFFIN** - In loving memory of Annie Reffin, loving wife, mum and granny who died March 16, 2011. We love you and will miss you forever. - Peter and family.

**RENNIE** - In loving memory of dearest mum Mary Elizabeth Rennie (nee Robertson), one time of Oban. Always in our hearts dear mum. - Inserted by her loving daughter Angela and son-in-law David.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of my dear husband Jimmy, father and granddad, died March 14, 2005 who will never be forgotten. - Family home and away.

**WEATHERALL** - In memory of Jack a dear uncle, who died March 6, 2010. You left a place no one can fill. Always in my thoughts. - Baldy.

**WYLIE** - Willie. In loving memory of a dear husband, dad, grandad and great-grandad. "Called Home" March 16, 2012. Lovingly missed every day by wife Lillian and all the family. "Till we meet".

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 17th March 2013  
Passion Sunday  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion.....08.00  
Family Sung Eucharist...10.15  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Nicki McNelly, Provost.  
(01631) 562323  
St. James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich  
Holy Eucharist.....15.00  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Matins.....11.00  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist.....09.30  
Thursday 21 March 2013  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Morning Prayer and Eucharist.....09.30

**GRADUATIONS**  
Ann M MacDonald, Lochboisdale, Isle of South Uist, recently graduated from the University of Edinburgh with Master of Education (M.Ed) in School Leadership and Management.

**COMMUNION at Kyle Free Church**  
COMMUNION was dispensed in Kyle Free Church on Sunday, February 24. Visiting minister Rev. Alex Stewart from Maryburgh, who was born in Kyle. Preaching in Kyle Church of Scotland the same Sunday was Rev. Maudean MacDougall from Falkirk, whose father was minister in Kyle in the '50s. The panel were Dr Murdo MacDonal, policy officer with the society, religion and technology project of the Church of Scotland; Moira Lane, who works for Families First; Rev Gordon Matheson, minister of Sleat and Strath Free Church and Mairead MacDonald, director of Tobar an Dualchais.

**Thought for the week**  
**In the Beginning?**  
HAS the universe existed forever? The big question has vexed the greatest scientific minds. Einstein, believing in a stable, eternal universe, invented a mysterious force of cosmic repulsion to counteract gravity. Edwin Hubble overturned Einstein's theory when he showed that the universe is not stable but rapidly expanding, like shrapnel from an exploding 'big bang'. Science has no knowing because at the point of particularity, all scientific laws become invalid. True there are many theories; one envisages universes bubbling up from an inflating high energy vacuum. But that theories author, Vilenkin, recently acknowledged that even a vacuum must have a beginning. Science and theology are coming together to point to a deep mystery, the creation of a universe which did not exist before its creation. Christians believe that the revealed Word, Jesus, the Son of God created the universe. This is beyond our human understanding; it is a mystery before which we can only stand amazed with awe and wonder. David James

**Obituary**

**Roderick MacRae, Plockton 1946 - 2013**  
THE DEATH of Roderick MacRae, 6 Ceann and Uib, Plockton, in Broadford hospital on 17th February just a week after being diagnosed with cancer, cast a gloom over the village and shocked and saddened his many friends. Dick, as he was known to all, was born at Tigh Beag Rhu Plockton on 12th August 1946 along with his twin sister Ann, the last of six children. Despite having a congenital hip defect, Dick was keen on sports and although wearing a leg brace in his early years he often discarded it so that he could play football, badminton and sail, and even shinty. He also refereed and was a linesman. Dick learned to weave while quite young, firstly in the craft house in Cooper Street, Plockton and later at various places, including Lewis Castle College Stornoway, in Alexandria with Antartex and also Morar and Galashiels. He was the first disabled person in the country to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which included swimming and running. He also joined the Royal Observer Corps at 15 and served in it until its disbandment in the 1980s. Dick was a member of the Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club for 25 years, being assistant timekeeper and vice commodore and was the club's commodore in 1974. He also co-wrote a book to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary and donated the Islay Trophy named after his daughter, to the club to commemorate the event. Dick was also a member of the Lochalsh Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, who

laid a poppy wreath on his grave. He was also an active member of Plockton Bridge Club. At the age of 14, Dick became interested in traditional and Scottish dance music after attending the Usher hall to see the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Mackem. Dick became Plockton Hall keeper for some years and enjoyed the dances with the leading bands at the time who played at the venue. In 1975 at the age of 32 he met Liz and within 10 weeks they were married. They had two girls, Islay in 1979 and Rona nine years later. After two years in Alexandria, where Dick was working as a weaver with Antartex, they came back to Plockton. Dick worked firstly as a petrol pump attendant in Kyle before securing employment at the naval base in Kyle, firstly as a helicopter baggage man and then as a storeman for 20 years. Major hip surgery forced him to retire at 59. Not that Dick ever retired from weaving and he continued to work in the hut behind his house with music blaring out loud and clear. It wasn't easy for him but due to his amazing determination and stoicism, overcoming constant pain and disability, he made hundreds of tartan rugs with the label 'Designed and hand-woven in Plockton by Dick.' Latterly he visited John Don MacKenzie, osteopath in Dornie every month. In the past few years Dick made many rugs for various groups and charities to raffle and many of these groups are associated with music, including Ceolas, Feis an Eilean, the Frankie Kennedy Music Festival in Donegal and the Wil-

liam Kennedy Piping Festival in Armagh, which Dick and his two daughters have attended for the last few years. He even went last November, which was a great effort on Dick's part. Dick loved it - the festival is organised by Brian Valley, the talented Irish piper, who flew over for Dick's funeral along with several others from Armagh. Such was Dick's popularity in that part of the world. In 2006 he was invited over for the 40th anniversary of the festival. That year the special guest piper was Dougie Pincock of the Plockton Music School who played at Dick's funeral. Dick made many rugs for his musician friends, including Alan Henderson who wrote a tune called 'Dick MacRae the Weaver'. Alan also attended the funeral. Even at Victoria Park Dingwall, the home of Ross County Football Club, Dick's rugs are on show in the boardroom and at the main reception in a tartan that Dick created. Dick spent the last three weeks of his life in Broadford Hospital,

place he knew well having been there many times over the last few years, and he appreciated the care, love and compassion he received there. He was a very popular patient. His popularity was evident by the fact that over 300 people crowded into Plockton Free Church on a lovely sunny morning with several standing outside, making it one of the largest funerals ever seen in the village. The eulogy by Rev. Angus Adamson from Arran, who had met Dick in Ireland, was enjoyed and Rev. Roddie Rankin officiated. A trio of musicians from the Music School played a lament at the end of the service. The collection shared between the Music School and Broadford Hospital totalled £1,700. Burial took place at Balmacara Cemetery. Sympathy is expressed to his wife Liz, daughters Islay and Rona, brother Charlie in Plockton, twin sister Ann (Mrs Mitchell in Plockton) and Helen (Mrs Malloch in Paisley). CM MacRae

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**NEWSDESK**  
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**ST BRIDE'S**  
The POPULAR St Bride's Primary School race night attracted a good number of locals to the Four Seasons Hotel in Onich on Friday night. A wide range of prizes donated from local businesses were on offer during the eight races, including free meals and a boat trip. A raffle was also held, with MC David Ogg of Nevis Radio handing out the honours to the lucky winners. All proceeds will go to the school's parent forum to pay for trips, outings, projects, equipment and activities for the youngsters. The night also marked the final time Katie Daynes will organise the event, after helping set up the race night for a number of years.

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In memory of Dawn Joyce

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**National Trust for Scotland welcome back old friend**  
OBAN'S Regent Hotel hosted the Argyll Members' Group of the National Trust for Scotland on Saturday - and it welcomed a familiar face. Allan Maclean, one of the current members of the Clan MacLean, current president of the clan association and the former provost of St John's Cathedral, returned on Saturday to talk about the clan's work. Now of Edinburgh, Allan arranged last year's gathering of the Clan MacLean at Duart Castle, attracting some 1,000 people. It was the first time Allan had returned to the Argyll Members' Group for 14 years.

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Plockton weaver Dick MacRae at work on his loom

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Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB

**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  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Faith Orr  
forr@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Richard Haddock  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

**Web Co-ordinator**  
Marian Miller  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
Fiona Bennett  
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
Mairi Auld  
mauld@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**  
Fort William  
Tel 01397 703003  
Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilphead  
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Improving performance raises hope ahead of busy schedule

# Penalty call ruins Fort's chances

'It was never a penalty in a month of Sundays. The referee was the only person in the ground who saw a foul' - says Fort's Conlon

FORT William go into this Saturday's cup clash with Clachnacuddin with renewed confidence after a string of improved displays.

Danny Conlon's side will take on the Inverness side in the Breckon Aggregates Highland League Cup at Grant Street Park just over a week after the sides met in the league, with Clach winning 2-0 at Claggan.

The game follows a midweek trip to Nairn last night (Wednesday).

Fort are hopeful left back Darren Duncan will be available for Saturday after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Conlon told *The Oban Times*: 'The games are coming fast and furious just now. We've probably had the hardest run of games of any team in the league. If I had a bigger squad I'd be resting some players.'

'It's going to be a really difficult game. We know what to expect, they are right up there, a top three or four side. They play at a really high tempo, so it'll be a hard and fast game.'

Conlon said a controversial penalty award 'ruined' their game against reigning Highland League champions Forres Mechanics last Saturday.

Deep into first half injury time with Forres holding a narrow 1-0 lead, the ref pointed to the spot after adjudging Darren Quigg to have fouled Scott Moore, much to the dismay of the home players and supporters.

Simon Allan took the kick and sent Fort keeper Kyle Robertson the wrong way.

**FOOTBALL**  
Highland League  
FORT WILLIAM 0  
FORRES MECHANICS 3

Conlon said: 'It was never a penalty in a month of Sundays. The referee was the only person in the ground who saw it as a foul.'

'There was a lot of angry people in the dressing room at half time, a lot of frustrated people. It ruined the game for us.'

Conlon also questioned the amount of injury time played.

He said: 'There was no substitutions, and no injuries, so I've no idea where he found four and a half minutes to add on.'

Moore had earlier given his side the lead with a fizzing left footed shot from the edge of the box which flew over the head of Robertson.

Fort were giving as good as they got, but struggled to create chances. Scott Hunter had their best opportunity in the 37th minute but saw his shot well saved.

Forres effectively sealed their victory seven minutes after the break when Ryan Mackintosh made the score 3-0.

But Fort kept battling and pulled one back two minutes later when Martin Groat's ball into the centre was slotted home by Andy Maclean from six yards.



Fort's Iain Foggo makes a last ditch tackle on the edge of his own box to deny Forres' Lee Fraser a shot at goal - 20\_111fort01

## Campbell double earns Fort William share of premier points

'Overall the draw was probably a fair result'



'Shiel's Keith MacRae battled with Fort defender Chris Bamber throughout the match - 20\_111shinty05

FORT William and Kinlochshiel both picked up their first points of 2013 after a 2-2 draw in tricky conditions at An Aird on Saturday.

A bitter breeze was blowing through An Aird, with the home side having the wind advantage in the first half.

Neither side was able to create much until 'Shiel marksman Finlay MacRae added to his goal against Kingussie last week with a strike in the 25 minute.

Conceding seemed to spur Fort into action, and within two minutes forward Ryan Campbell hit an unstoppable shot from the left side of the goal to make the score 1-1.

And just 60 seconds later Campbell struck again, with another ferocious hit from a similar spot to give his side the lead.

As they game went on, both sides created chances, with the visitors increasing the pressure in the second half with the wind at their backs.

With just nine minutes left to play, MacRae took his tally to three goals in two games and earned his side a share of the points.

Fort co-manager Adie Robertson said he felt a share of the points was a fair result for both sides.

**ALLEYCATS STAY TOP**  
10 PIN BOWLING

ALLEYCATS have maintained their place at the top of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues scratch division after 13 weeks of play at the Nevis Centre.

The leaders are on 59 points, followed by Council in second place with 49 points with Splitheads in third place on 41 points.

Council are the new leaders in the handicap division with 43 points after previous leaders Alleycats went down 5-0 to Rotavators. Alleycats are now in second place on 39 points.

Ardtoe/Nevis Radio are third, also on 39 points.

The top individual scratch game came from Brian Stewart (Council) with 198. Other games of note were a 180 from Sean MacPherson (Splitheads), 179 from Colin Pinkett (Council) and 173 from Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats).

The top handicap game was 246 from Robbie Robertson (Rotavators). The highest two game scratch series went to Brian Stewart with 342 and the top two game handicap series went to Robbie Robertson with 465.

Council swept the board for this weeks best team performance with a scratch game of 618, handicap game of 823, two game scratch series of 1,199 and two game handicap team series of 1,609.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 162, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 149 and Colin Pinkett (Council) on 147.

**SHINTY**

Orion Premier Division  
FORT WILLIAM 2  
KINLOCHSHIEL 2

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We were under a fair bit of pressure in the second half, but saying that, I don't think they created a huge amount.'

'Overall the draw was probably a fair result, although obviously we would have liked to have taken two points since we were at home.'

'There was a cold wind, and in the second half we were up against it. We had a fairly inexperienced centre line and I thought they did well.'

Cameron Grant, 16, and Calum Shepard, 16, played alongside the more experienced Stevie Stewart in the middle of the park.

'Shiel boss Johnston Gill said he felt his side improved as the game went on, and could have nicked the win in the second half.'

He said: 'I thought we were a wee bit unlucky not to win the game.'

'Our guys are playing very well as they showed in the first half against Kingussie and continued that against Fort William.'

**Lochaber drop points at home**

**RUGBY**

LOCHABER missed the chance to move back up the RBS Caledonia Regional league Division 2 North with a narrow 21-17 loss at home to Aberdeen University Medics on Saturday.

The Banavie club now face three tricky away ties, starting with a visit to Lewis to take on bottom club Stornoway on March 23.

**Lampkin to defend Six Days title**

**MOTORCYCLING**

DOUGIE Lampkin, the winner of the 2012 Scottish Six Day Trial is already preparing to defend his title in this year's event.

Lampkin secured a historic and record-breaking sixth SSDT victory last May when the competition saw its closest climax in its 101 history. The Englishman will be one of 270 riders competing in the trial, which takes place in and around Fort William from May 6-11.

The entry list comprises both amateur and professional riders who travel from all over the world to take part in the unique endurance test.

**Summer season starts at Fort**

**GOLF**

FORT William Golf Club members are gearing up for the opening competition of the year on Saturday March 30.

A three man Texas scramble will officially get the summer season underway, and will be followed by the monthly medal competition.

**Table tennis invite for everyone**

**TABLE TENNIS**

FORT William Table Tennis Club is inviting players of all levels to join its Monday night training sessions.

The 2013 season is well underway, but anyone is free to come along to the evenings, which run from 6.30pm to 9pm.

For more information ring James on 01397 708827.

**Runners get ready for this Saturday's Glen 10k road race**

**ATHLETICS**

LOCAL runners are preparing for Lochaber Athletic Club's Glen 10k road race in Glen Nevis this Saturday.

The event will be the final winter league event of the season, with trophies handed out in the Nevis Centre in the evening.

Gary MacDonald can't be caught in the men's league, while Elaine Liddell and Kirsten Airrie are fighting out for the women's title.

Home runners dominated the Glen 10k last year, with John Binnie finishing 52 seconds ahead of club mate Allan Ross to take the win.

Nicola Meekin had a strong race to take first in the women's race.

The field of runners will head off from Claggan Park at 11am.

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## South of Scotland Indoor 5-a-side tournament returns to Atlantis

**INDOOR SHINTY**

OBAN teams made up the majority of entries to the South of Scotland Indoor 5-a-side tournament, which returned to the shinty calendar after a year's absence.

Held at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, on Sunday, a modest seven teams played a round robin format that involved two teams from both Oban Camanachd and Oban Celtic, as well as Inveraray, Ardnalassies and Ardnamurchan.

Eventually it was Celtic A that cruised through the group winning all their games, with Camanachd A earning their right to play them in the final on goal difference from Inveraray and Celtic B, who then played third place.

Celtic B, Ardnamurchan and Ardnalassies exited at this stage after giving a good showing of themselves.

Camanachd B won the third place play-off after a second phase of extra time to win probably the most exciting and tense match of the afternoon.

Eventual player of the tournament Lewis Buchanan had his say in the final game inspiring his team to third place.

Celtic A must have gone into the tournament final as favourites but some tactical changes in the Camanachd A line up had

themselves.

Celtic A wondering what might have been.

Ross McMillan cruised around the pitch finding space to punish Celtic at will and some early goals had Celtic chasing the game from the start.

Camanachd's superior firepower saw them run away 6-1 winners in the end and take the title of best south indoor team.

Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer Euan McMurdo said: 'I was delighted with the

standard of play throughout the afternoon from all the teams.

'What is more important is that the event took place this year after not being played last year.'

It is vital that we have a regular programme of shinty that allows our players a platform to compete and improve their skills - this event certainly adds value to the programme of shinty in the south of Scotland.'



Tournament winners Oban Camanachd A. 15\_111shintyfv0504



Above - third placed Oban Camanachd B. 15\_111shintyfv0502

Top left - Inveraray. 15\_111shintyfv0501



Left - Tournament runners-up Oban Celtic A. 15\_111shintyfv0503

# Lochaber head north for tough test

## Taynuilt warm to thought of Glenorchy derby match

REIGNING league champions NEWTONMORE will be expecting a tough test when newly promoted Lochaber visit The Eilan this Saturday.

The sides met twice in the cups last season, with 'More coming out winners both times. But Lochaber showed enough in the two ties to suggest they can cause problems to PJ MacKintosh's side.

The Badenoch side will be keen to get the win to avoid losing early ground on their title rivals.

Lovat were 'More's bogey team last year, beating the champions home and away, and they again proved a tough nut to crack.

Fraser MacKintosh put the visitors ahead after eight minutes, but by half time Lovat found themselves 2-1 up thanks to strikes from Calum Macaulay and youngster Greg Matheson.

However Danny MacRae's 72nd minute strike gave the sides a share of the spoils.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** have started the league campaign with two wins from two and host an unfamiliar Fort William side on Saturday but the Scottish Cup holders will not be underestimating their Lochaber opponents.

The Tighnabruach men won two of the toughest away points available in the Orion Group Premiership in Drumadrochit last weekend, keeping on course their league title challenge despite a number of squad members suffering from flu.

Trainer James Perlich said: 'I will never underestimate a team in this league. Fort William got a draw against Kinlochshiel last weekend, proving they will make it a tough encounter for us. I am hoping I will have all the boys back from illness to help us get both points.'

Perlich described last week's 1-0 win against Glenurquhart as 'brutal'.

'It was a very physical game,' he said. 'Roddy MacDonald scored for us but he came off injured for much of the game.'

'It was great to look along the bench and see Andrew King, last season's Camanachd Cup winning captain, who is back from injury. He came on to add some experience and physicality.'

'We also gave young Cammy Keith a run out and he played very well.'

Kyles missed a handful of good scoring opportunities in the second half but Perlich is not concerned.

'We have four points from two games, so I am not worried about the chances we didn't take,' he said.

'You have to remember Glenurquhart has a very well organised and strong defence and I think that later in the season we will hopefully look back on this result and realise that was a valuable two points.'

**FORT WILLIAM** face a tough trip to Tighnabruach this weekend to take on joint Orion Group Premiership leaders Kyles - but will be buoyed by a fighting 2-2 home draw against Kinlochshiel.

Co-manager Adie Robertson should have more or less the same squad at his disposal - barring any late call-offs for work commitments - although Arran MacPhee will still be missing from the centre line as he continues to recover from shoulder surgery.

Robertson told The Oban Times: 'Nobody has indicated they are unavailable so hopefully we will travel with as near to a full squad as possible.'

'Arran is maybe four to five weeks away from playing. He had an operation at the end of December but it's one of those injuries you can't rush because you don't want him out for another six months.'

'It's going to be a difficult game - we are under no illusions about that and it will be a case of going down there and trying to take points.'

He added: 'Our defence is one of our major strengths and is packed full of experienced players.'

'It's a sloping pitch at Tighnabruach so it will be as much as having a game plan for that as handling Kyles.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** manager Gussie Campbell says this weekend's opponents, Kingussie, have proven there is life after Ronald Ross and will

prepare his team for a tough game at Mossfield.

Ross, arguably the best player in the history of the game, has made way for the next generation of Kingussie stars and the Badenoch club top the Orion Group Premiership after two games.

Campbell said: 'I don't think this Kingussie team is as good as the teams of the recent past but mark my words, they are a threat to any team in this league.'

'Ronald was always going to be a big miss but they have proved they can win without him.'

Campbell said he was proud of his team, who came back from a disastrous start in their match last weekend against Inveraray to almost snatch a point.

'Aray were three goals up in the opening 10 minutes but Camanachd scored two goals through Gavin Stobart and Iain 'Sally' MacMillan but, as they pushed for an equaliser, Inveraray broke away to score a decisive fourth goal.'

Campbell said: 'It was a brilliant game for the neutrals. Apart from that opening 10 minutes I would say we were the better team. At 3-0 down we had a mountain to climb and we very nearly did it; at 3-2 down it really did look like we could go on to win the game.'

'I am disappointed with the result but I am not despondent. We have proven we have the fight, the skill and the fitness to compete in this league and, if we get a bit more luck, the results will come.'

Campbell is assessing the fitness of Gary Lord and Craig MacMillan, who both went to hospital with injuries last Saturday, and Scott MacMillan and Gareth Evans, who were suffering from flu.

**GLENURQUHART** manager Fraser Mackenzie has played down the significance of picking up a win in this weekend's game with Kinlochshiel.

Both sides are winless after two games, but Mackenzie said he wasn't treating Saturday's match as a must win.

He told The Oban Times: 'I think a lot of teams are going to be taking points off each other, I don't think anyone is going to burst away from the others.'

'It would be great to get a win, but Kinlochshiel will be feeling the same way.'

Influential player Andrew Corrigan is set to return to the side after sitting out last weekend's 1-0 loss at home to Kyles Athletic. Mackenzie said: 'Probably a draw would have been a fair result, both keepers didn't have that much to do.'

'Kyles were no doubt on top in the first half, but we were on top in the second and there wasn't much between the teams.'

'Considering we conceded six home and away to Kyles last year, hopefully this is a sign we're moving forward.'

'We competed well, and I think we're going in the right direction. But there's still a lot of work to do.'

**LOVAT** claimed major plaudits after holding champions Newtonmore to a 2-2 draw last Saturday at Balglate Park - now the Kiltarity men must do it all again at joint top Inveraray.

Both teams are undefeated in the Orion Group Premiership but Lovat will have to pull out a special performance to earn any kind of reward for the long trip south.

Allan MacRae's team will be boosted by the return of Daniel Grieve from holiday but forward Jamie Matheson is still waiting to find out how serious is the knee injury he sustained in the league opener against Lochaber and will not feature.

Another doubt is midfielder Duncan Davidson, who was sidelined by a back injury for the Newtonmore game and is struggling to be fit.

MacRae was happy to take a point against Newtonmore - and will be asking for the same kind of commitment this weekend.

He told The Oban Times: 'I think Inveraray are quite a bit different this season and under new management but from what I have heard they are exciting to watch.'

'They are up at the top just now and Inveraray is always a difficult place to go to. They beat us down there last year and they had a good fast forward line and

were really sharp.

'It can get ourselves right and play to our strengths we will have a chance.'

Lovat went 2-1 up against 'More on Saturday through Callum MacAulay and Greg Matheson after Fraser Macintosh had opened the scoring for the visitors, but incessant pressure told and Danny MacRae levelled with 17 minutes left.

**LOCHABER** face a tough task to bounce back from their first league defeat in 18 months, with a visit to Newtonmore this Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side went down 2-0 to Kingussie, and have yet to find the back of the net in 2013.

Delaney said: 'Newtonmore is going to be a tough one, but it's just another game. There's no easy games, but these are the teams we want to play week in, week out so we can test ourselves.'

'The goals will come, the boys just need some games. They need to be a bit quicker up front, they don't get the kind of time they got in the first division.'

Experienced pair Lachlan Campbell and Hughie Innes will return to the squad for the Newtonmore game.

Two goals in the final five minutes from Kingussie's Thomas Borthwick decided last weekend's match, despite Lochaber being on top for long periods.

Delaney said: 'The only thing that was lacking on Saturday was the goals. There keeper made some good saves. We created plenty of chances but we just couldn't score.'

Youngster Jack Dignan made his first Premiership start for Lochaber, with Delaney describing his performance as 'very good'.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** welcome Glenurquhart to Kirkton seeking to build on a resolute performance at Fort William last weekend, which earned the Lochalsh men a point in a hard-fought 2-2 draw.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill could be without talented young forward Duncan 'Ach' MacRae who got injured at the end of the first half at An Aird.'

'If he does not make it he will be a big loss to us,' Gill told The Oban Times. 'Young Jordan Fraser is the obvious choice to come in but he had the flu last week and hopefully he will have recovered.'

Glenurquhart have played the two best teams in Scotland so far in the league and only lost by the odd goal.

'I have said right from day one that they will be there or thereabouts both in the cup competitions and the league this season.'

'So they will be a stern test for us and if we can take anything from the game I will be delighted. They have a big pool of players, they have Neil Reid up front and they will be very dangerous.'

'But our guys are playing very well as they showed in the first half against Kingussie and continued that against Fort William, where I thought we were a wee bit unlucky not to win the game.'

**KINGUSSIE** manager Russell Jones has said he doesn't expect his side to challenge for the title despite sitting top of the Orion Premiership after two games.

Kings scored two late goals to defeat Lochaber at The Dell last weekend, and will be looking to make it three wins out of three away to Oban Camanachd this Saturday.

Jones told The Oban Times: 'There'll be no title challenge, we're just taking it one game at a time. Like I said at the start of the season, on our day we can challenge any team, but both games so far could have gone either way.'

'It's another game we'll be looking to win, but we know how hard it's going to be. We'll need to show the same grit and determination again.'

Thomas Borthwick grabbed goals in the 85th and 88th minute against Lochaber to secure a second win in a row for Kings. The 19 year old missed the 2012 season after leaving Badenoch to travel round Australia.

Jones said: 'It's a huge bonus for us to have him back, and they were two fantastic finishes.'

'Lochaber were very good, very difficult to break down.



Inveraray's David Robertson and Oban Camanachd's David MacInnes were locked in a midfield battle at Mossfield. Picture - John MacFavish

I thought the teams cancelled each other out.'

**INVERARAY** were made to dig deep for their win at Mossfield after strolling to a 3-0 lead within 10 minutes through Garry MacPherson, Lewis MacNicol and Euan McMurdo.

However, a determined comeback from the Oban side made for a nervy second half before McMurdo added his second goal 10 minutes before full time.

The Royal Burgh face Lovat at Winterton Park this Saturday.

### Marine Harvest South Division One

**OBAN CELTIC** president David Hamilton is hoping for a better refereeing performance this weekend at Kilmory, claiming poor decisions contributed to his side's defeat at Taynuilt.

The green and whites were on the wrong end of a 4-3 scoreline in Taynuilt but Hamilton believes his team were hard done by.

'A lot of refereeing decisions went against us,' he said. 'We had two penalty claims turned down and I really think these decisions affected the outcome of the game.'

A David Hill brace and a goal from youngster Rory Bruce, who was a standout for the visitors, kept Celtic in the tie but Taynuilt had the final say with their fourth goal.

Hamilton added: 'I am proud of the way the players coped with these decisions going against them.'

Rory Bruce is only 15 but he played out of his skin. Taynuilt had to foul him to stop him.'

Hamilton said his side had learned lessons from a heavy defeat to Kilmory last season and would travel to Lochgilphead looking to take at least a point from the tie.

**TAYNUILT** will be missing manager Willie Gillies and at least two players for this weekend's Cruachanside derby in Dalmlally because of a family wedding.

But Gillies believes his side, who are unbeaten after the opening two games, are still strong enough to compete with Glenorchy.

Gillies said: 'I don't think Glenorchy is any more a derby than Oban Celtic or Lochside Rovers but I would say Glenorchy are a level above them and I expect them to be challenging at the top of the table with Bute and GMA.'

'However, I would like to think we are not far behind them and will give them a good game.'

Taynuilt won an entertaining home game against Oban Celtic last Saturday with goals from David Campbell, Willie Neilson and a Stuart Scott double securing a 4-3 victory.

But while Gillies was effusive in his praise of his forwardline he

was concerned by the number of mistakes made by his defence.

The goals we conceded were the result of silly mistakes. We never looked like losing the game but because of our defending Celtic could have scraped a draw.'

'I thought the likes of David Campbell and Willie Neilson up front were excellent and to score four goals against a defence of Daniel Madej, Gary McKerracher, John Hill and Kenny Witherspoon was very pleasing. Last season's manager Davy Thompson will run the team this weekend.'

**GLENORCHY** coach John Smith admitted Glenorchy were out for revenge in this weekend's Cruachanside derby with Taynuilt at the Mart.

Taynuilt won the same fixture last season 2-1 but Smith says the Dalmally team's experience would be the difference on Saturday.

'We are definitely out for revenge,' he said. 'The derby defeat in Dalmlally last year was a hard one to take but we are the more experienced team and would expect to win the game.'

'Taynuilt have some good players and we will not be complacent but you have to remember we have a team with premier league experience.'

Smith would have taken a point before his team's trip to The Meadows last Saturday but after seeing the Dalmally men coping well in wet and windy conditions, he had hoped for both points against Bute.

With the wind in their favour, Lochside Rovers went two goals up and had a penalty saved in the first half.

Scorers were Kieran McKay and Grant MacPherson, who was moved to half forward to take advantage of the favourable wind and he responded with a pldriver into the roof of the net from 50 yards.

Smith said: 'You have to have skill in shinty to use the elements to your advantage and we did that in the first half.'

'I am happy with the draw but we all feel we could have done more in that first half to put the game out of Bute's reach.'

**BUTE'S** first game of the season saw fellow title contenders Glenorchy visit The Meadows and the sides could not be separated after a 2-2 scoreline and one missed penalty each.

Bute's Iain McDonald revelled in his new forward role and scored both his side's goals in the second half, as Bute used the advantage of the wind at their backs.

But the islanders had to come back from two goals down, as Glenorchy adapted quickly to the wet conditions and McDonald missed a penalty five minutes before half time.

Smith said: 'You have to have skill in shinty to use the elements to your advantage and we did that in the first half.'

'Iain missed a penalty but redeemed himself with the two goals in his first proper game up front. Hopefully he can get better every week but he told me he hadn't realised how often the forwards get hit!'

Bute were missing four players for the game and Hector Whitelaw was recalled to marshal the defence. Leighton Reid provided the energy in the middle of the park, as Bute gave a strong first outing overall.

Fisher admitted the trip to Aberdeen this Saturday will be a journey into the unknown.

He said: 'We played them a couple of years ago but the only indicator we have is their result against Glenorchy.'

'I hope to have Gordon MacMillan, David Whitelaw and Robert Ferguson back for the match.'

Shell-shocked **LOCHSIDE ROVERS** co-manager Andrew Pearson was frank in summing up the reasons for his side's 8-0 hammering at the hands of South Division One title hopefuls GMA.

'Saturday was just horrendous. We were terrible and they were very good,' he said.

With no game this weekend, Lochside Rovers will be left to lick their wounds for another week but have arranged an extra training session this Saturday to try and work through some of their shortcomings.

A Craig Anderson hat trick and two goals from former Oban Celtic player Mark Bain helped put Lochside to the sword.

Pearson said: 'You can sometimes have an off day and get away with it but Glasgow played really well. I haven't seen them play like that for a long time.'

'I heard they missed a lot of chances in their 0-0 draw against Taynuilt, so maybe we suffered a backlash from that frustration. The boys knew themselves they just didn't turn up and were not sharp enough. They were yards off the pace.'

'I can't see us playing that badly again.'

### Marine Harvest North Division One

**SKYE CAMANACHD** will look to bounce back from their disappointing 1-1 draw at Strathglass by accounting for Marine Harvest North Division One leaders Kilmallie at Canal Parks on Saturday.

The islanders should have Gibbs MacDonald back in the starting 12 after a family bereavement ruled him out last weekend.

But even with the considerable talents of the full centre at his disposal, coach Willie MacRae will do well to engineer a result

against the high-flying Caol men.

He told The Oban Times: 'Kilmallie are looking pretty strong - I think Duncan Kelly has been doing a lot of work with them.'

'We are going to have to play at the top of our game and battle for every ball to have a chance.'

'Our defence is pretty solid with our captain Stevie Morrison at full back, but we are going to have to shackle their forwards. That will be the big battle - and our boys are going to have their shooting eyes in as well.'

Against Strathglass, Skye did everything but score until Neil MacVicar stepped up with less than five minutes to go to fire home a deserved equaliser.

**KILMALLIE** coach Duncan Kelly will be roaring on his team against Skye Camanachd on Saturday - from the sunny warmth of a Tenerife beach.

Kelly is enjoying a well-deserved break after guiding Kilmallie to two wins out of two in Marine Harvest North Division One and will be keeping in touch with action on the pitch by text.

He told The Oban Times from Glasgow Airport on Monday: 'Hopefully they won't need me there to get the win. If the boys play the way they can do there's no reason why we can't get the two points.'

Kilmallie will be boosted by the return of forward Liam MacDonald to the squad while Martin Graham is also back in training after suffering a knee injury in the 2-0 win over Lochaber in the BSW Cup - although Saturday will come too soon for the midfield dynamo to play any part in the proceedings.

The Blues eased to a 4-1 win at Caberfeidh last weekend without playing at their best and were two goals up after three minutes through Mark Graham and Sebby MacMillan.

Mark MacPherson restored Kilmallie's two-goal cushion before the break after Blair Morrison had cut the deficit, but had only a 76th minute Grant Mackenzie strike to show for their second half dominance.

Kelly said: 'The whole second half was pretty much all Kilmallie but we just got the one goal.'

### Marine Harvest South Division Two

**BALLACHULISH** may have hit seven goals past ColGlen last Saturday but manager Craig Munro described the match as 'frustrating' and bemoaned missed chances in the first half.

After seeing two Lorne Brown 'goals' disallowed in the opening eight minutes, Balla' went behind to a Stuart MacKellar goal on 35 minutes - the visitors' first real attack - but pulled one back through Duncan MacDonald before half time.

The second half continued to

## Results

Results March 9

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Fort William 2 Kinlochshiel 2  
Glenurquhart 0 Kyles Ath 1  
Kingussie 2 Lochaber 0  
Lovat 2 Newtonmore 2  
Oban Cam 2 Inveraray 4

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Beauly 8 Inverness 1  
Caberfeidh 1 Kilmallie 4  
Strathglass 1 Skye 1

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Bute 2 Glenorchy 2  
GMA 8 Lochside Rovers 0  
Kilmory 0 Aberdeen 0  
Taynuilt 4 Oban Celtic 3

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Aberdeen Uni 2 Beauly 0  
Glenarrary 1 Glenurquhart 2  
Kinlochshiel 0 Fort William 0  
Newtonmore 7 Lovat 0  
Skye 3 Kingussie 1

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour 5 GMA 1  
Ballachulish 7 Col Glen 1  
Kyles w/o Inveraray  
Points to Kyles  
Tayforth w/o Bute  
Points to Tayforth

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Inverness 0 Caberfeidh 3  
Lochaber 4 Boleskine 3  
Lochbroom 3 Strathspye 0  
Kilmallie 6 Lochcarron 4  
Strathglass 3 Lewis 3

## Fixtures

Fixtures 16th March

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Inveraray v Lovat  
Billy Witherspoon  
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart  
Evan MacRae  
Kyles v Fort William  
Ted MacDonald  
Newtonmore v Lochaber  
Deek Cameron  
Oban Camanachd v Kingussie  
David Mitchell

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Caberfeidh v Beauly  
Innes Wood  
Inverness v Strathglass  
John Matheson  
Kilmallie v Skye  
Lachie Wood

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour v Bute  
Daniel MacRae  
Glenorchy v Taynuilt  
Graham Cameron  
Kilmory v Oban Celtic  
Duncan Kerr  
Strachur v GMA  
Ronnie Campbell

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Beauly v Lovat  
JA Gillies  
Fort William v Glenarrary  
Colin MacDonald  
Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel  
Neil Ferguson  
Kingussie v Aberdeen Uni  
John MacLeod  
Skye v Newtonmore  
Donald MacRae

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute v Kyles  
Euan Pearson  
Col Glen v Inveraray  
Alex MacVicar  
GMA v Ballachulish  
Jim Innes  
Tayforth v Aberdeen  
John MacGregor

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Boleskine v Caberfeidh  
Callum Girvan  
Lochbroom v Lochaber  
Rab Douglas  
Lochcarron v Lewis  
John Slaggie Ipm  
Strathglass v Kilmallie  
Al Hunter  
Strathspye v Inverness  
Archie Ritchie

be one-way traffic as the home team's fitness proved significant and goals from Lorne Brown (2), Scott Henderson (2), David Grant and a composed finish from 14-year-old Cian MacPhee concluded an overall successful day at Jubilee Park.

Ballachulish face their first away fixture of the season against Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday.

Asked whether South Division Two would be enough of a challenge for his vastly improved team, manager Craig Munro replied: 'Is is good to build up a winning mentality every week.'

Ballachulish face their first away fixture of the season against Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday.

### Marine Harvest North Division Two

**GLENARRARY** will be looking to pick themselves up against Fort William this Saturday after a frustrating loss to Glenurquhart last weekend.

The two sides have only found the back of the net three times in four games between them, so a goal-fest at An Aird is not being expected.

Glenarrary forward Kenny Henderson will miss the trip due to work commitments.

'Garry manager Ewen Cameron said he would be travelling to Fort William looking for a win.'

The Invergary side fell behind against Glenurquhart in the 35th minute, but drew level through a strike from Arran Clark in the 58th minute. Glen struck the winner with 20 minutes to play.

Cameron said he was happy with how his side performed on the day. 'We played really well but their keeper was outstanding. He made four or five fantastic saves. In the first half we had all the pressure but they got a goal against the run of play.'

'We had lot of pressure towards the end but we couldn't get the goal.'

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## Red card ends Saints' cup dream



Saints' Keith Millar makes contact with the ball - and a Colville player - with this overhead kick. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

## 'Red card seemed very harsh to me,' says manager Jackson

THE MUCH anticipated seventh round Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup replay against cup favourites Colville Park took place at Glencruitten before a big crowd, but a harsh red card for Craig MacEwan after 24 minutes killed off any chance the home side had of making the quarter finals.

The Oban side struggled a bit in the first game to put the Colville defence under pressure, but they were pressing the ball much quicker and getting players up the park as often as possible in this match, always with an eye on defence to cope with the slick-moving Motherwell side. Saints took the lead in the 12th minute when Willie Gemmell fired over a corner from the left which was met by Craig MacEwan at the front post who despatched a great header past the helpless Jordan Longmuir. This goal was no more than the home side deserved as they were the better team in the opening period of the game.

The visitors' main tactic was to knock the ball into the corners for their two wide men Tommy Murray and James Miller to run on to, but the home defenders were coping reasonably well with this play.

The turning point of what would have been a cracking game happened in the 24th minute when Daniel Cassells fumbled a shot on goal. The ball spilled from his grasp and was rolling

### FOOTBALL

Scottish Amateur Cup  
7th Round Replay  
OBAN SAINTS 1  
COLVILLE PARK 3

free in the penalty area. Craig MacEwan and Alex Clearie went for the ball with Craig knocking over the Colville Park striker in the process - penalty, which was the correct decision, but to everybody's amazement referee Tommy Gilchrist, incidentally from Motherwell, showed Craig the red card.

Tommy Murray stepped up and slammed the ball home much to the relief of the Colville Park players. The game was killed off as a contest just before the interval when the visitors scored two goals in as many minutes, the first when David McKay deflected an Alan Litster shot past Daniel Cassells and two minutes later James Miller scored a well taken goal with an overhead kick.

Saints knew their Scottish Cup dream was over for this season as there was going to be no way back, but they battled away, putting the visitors under pressure on several occasions, although not really troubling Colville keeper Jordan Longmuir.

The visitors were hungry for more goals, but the Oban boys

were defending well with Marc MacCallum putting in a man of the match performance with a great second half display, winning tackles and headers time after time and urging his team mates forward at every opportunity.

Daniel Cassells made up for his earlier mistake with a couple of excellent saves to keep the eager Colville Park strikers at bay.

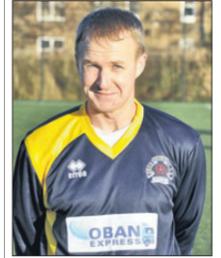
It was a gutted Saints squad that trudged off the park at the end of the 90 minutes wondering what might have been if MacEwan had remained on the pitch.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'I was proud of the lads, they played well against one of the best teams in the country and I thought we were the better side until the referee took a hand in the proceedings and showed Craig the red card which seemed very harsh to me.'

'It would have been interesting to see what the result would have been if it had been 11 v 11. I think we might just have caused a big cup upset, but unfortunately we'll never know. I now know how Sir Alex Ferguson felt when Nani was shown the red card against Real Madrid!'

'Big cup games are coming thick and fast for the Oban side as this Saturday they take on Pollok in the third round of the West of Scotland Cup. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee Jim Laird from Prestwick is in charge.'

## Saint Millar lifts SAL award



Keith Millar.

### FOOTBALL

FOLLOWING their cup defeat, 20 players and committee members of Oban Saints travelled to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow for the Scottish Amateur League Dinner and Achievement Awards night where club captain Keith Millar received an award for his services to Oban Saints, the SAFL Select and the Scottish Amateur International team.

The award was presented to Keith by league president Frank McCann.

Guest speakers at the evening were John McKelvie, Tosh McKinlay and Sandy Strang.

## Atlantis Leisure Indoor League

### INDOOR FOOTBALL

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atlantis	9	8	0	1	24
Oban Times	10	7	0	3	21
Carpet Fitters	8	7	0	1	21
RM Builders	8	7	0	1	21
Oban HS	10	5	1	4	16
Handy Men	9	4	0	6	12
Glenorchy	9	3	0	7	9
Royal Hotel	9	1	0	8	3
OES	9	0	0	9	0
Stoddarts T&T	0	0	0	0	0

**Results**  
Glenorchy 4, O.E.S 1, MOTM Euan Dewar; Oban Times 15, Oban High School 5, MOTM Sean Grant; Handy Men 11, The Royal Hotel 3, MOTM Martin Bonar.

**Fixtures**  
Sunday, March 17:  
5.10pm Carpet Fitters v RM Builders;  
6pm The Handy Men v OES;  
6.50pm Atlantis Leisure v Oban High School;  
7.40pm Glenorchy v Royal Hotel.

## Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth results:  
Under-13s won 10-2. Scorers: Daniel McCuish (3), Kenny MacDonald, Couper Munt, Cammy Scott (2), Scott Rowley, Bepe Lopez and Lewis Buchanan.  
Under-14s won 4-1. Scorers: Jay Cooper (2), Lomond MacPherson and Liam Higgins.  
Under-15s had no game.  
Under-16s drew 1-1. Scorer: Alan Buchanan.  
**This weekend's fixtures:** Under-13s v Westerton; Goldenhill v Under-14s; M'ingavie v Under-15s; Allander v Under-16s.

## Oban Lorne ready for table-top clash at Bonhill

OBAN head back to the venue of their West Bowl victory for a table-topping clash at Bonhill against Loch Lomond on Saturday.

The league game between the sides in November saw Oban seal a last-minute 18 - 17 win, courtesy of a Craig Wright penalty.

Oban Lorne must recover from their 30-26 home defeat against Paisley two weeks ago with captain Robin MacQueen and coaches Corrie Louw and Andrew Johnson hoping for a positive reaction to the unexpected defeat.

A win at Bonhill will see Oban reclaim top spot with a game in hand and set the team up well for their National Bowl semi-final at home to Broughton on March 30.

### GOLF

**Glencruitten Golf Club**  
JOHN Plunkett (6) led the way in the weekly Stableford at Glencruitten with a score of 40 points.

Steven McCuish (16) and Philip Murphy (1) had 38 points, Hugh McIvor (17) and Steven Murphy (20) had 37 points.

Alan Jamieson (11) and James Muir (4) both had 36 points.

### RUGBY

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright, who plays for Oban Lorne, said: 'This

could be the most important few weeks in the history of the club with a league championship and final place at Murrayfield all up for grabs.'

Sandwiched between these

two games is another important league game at home to Lanark on March 23. Oban Lorne are hoping for all rugby fans in the area to show support for the side at these important games.

## MacIntyre is high gun at Lorn Clay Target Club's 50-bird shoot

### MacAlistair wins pool trap with straight 8

ENTRANTS travelled from as far as Tobermory and Dunoon to compete in Lorn Clay Target Club's 50-bird down-the-line clay pigeon shooting competition.

Held on Saturday, at the Moss Road, North Connel, the competition attracted 23 competitors.

High winds gave challenging conditions for the shooters and many a frustrated cry was heard as the targets lurched unpredictably in the gusts.

High gun was J MacIntyre on 138 out of 150 possible points, second place on 137 was D MacColl and third place on 136 was H MacFadyen.

S Wilson, on 134 points, finished fourth, ahead of G Crawford (133) and H MacLean (130).

### CLAY PIGEON

The pool trap was won by E MacAlistair, who was the only person to hit all eight targets.

The club's first open practice night is on April 11 at the shooting ground on the Moss Road from 7pm.

Visitors of any standard, including complete beginners, are welcome down to give clay pigeon shooting a go.

Email info@lornclaytarget.com or contact the club via the website www.lornclaytarget.com for more information.

The club is also planning a fortnightly summer league on Saturdays, starting April 20.

## Cellar on track to securing first Oban Pool League championship

### Markie Dans crash in title race big match

THERE have been six previous unsuccessful attempts at defending The Oban Pool League title and once again it looks like a poisoned chalice this season.

Markie Dans A, who were leading the title race by a point over nearest rivals The Cellar before last Thursday's contest, knew even a draw would have seen them firmly in the driving seat with a couple of league

### POOL

games to go. Unfortunately for the current champions, The Cellar had their own agenda and aspirations and Markie Dans' proud undefeated run at home was blown away as The Cellar ran riot, losing only one singles match and all but securing their ever championship.

Elsewhere, The Lochnell just

about edged the Connel derby against The Gluepot and can claim bragging rights for the next few months.

The Kelvin ended their long run without a win against The Claredon, The Lancaster 'B' finally saw off Markie Dans 'B' in a close encounter and The Lochavullin and Lancaster 'A' shared the spoils in the concluding fixture.

### Cup final

This week The Lochavullin and Markie Dans 'A' contest The Oban Filling Station Cup final and the re-arranged Lancaster derby finally goes ahead to take all teams level on matches played.

Results:  
The Kelvin 6-4 The Claredon;  
The Lochnell 6-4 The Gluepot;  
Markie Dans A 1-9 The Cellar;  
Lancaster B 6-4 Markie Dans B;  
The Lochavullin 5-5 Lancaster A.

Fixtures today (Thursday):  
Lancaster A v Lancaster B; OFS Cup Final - Markie Dans A v The Lochavullin.

### League

	P	PTS
1 The Cellar	16	28
2 Markie Dans A	16	27
3 Lancaster B	15	22
4 Lancaster A	15	17
5 The Lochnell	16	16
6 The Lochavullin	16	15
7 Markie Dans B	16	11
8 The Claredon	16	10
9 The Kelvin	16	8
10 The Gluepot	16	4



Prizewinners from Lorn Clay Target Club's down-the-line competition, from left: winner MacIntyre, H MacLean, H MacFadyen, G Crawford, S Wilson, D MacColl.

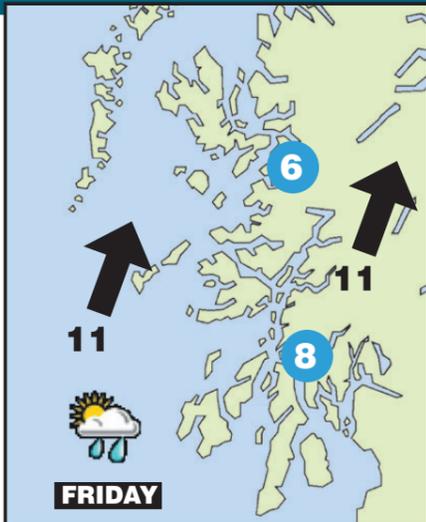
## Weather

**Thursday** Light rain  
Winds moderate, north easterly  
Temperatures 4C to 6°C

**Friday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Increasing chance of rain  
Winds increasing north easterly  
Temperatures 1°C to 7°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist  
Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree  
Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 21, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 06.54	2.1 14.17 2.7	19.15 1.9 *** **
Fri 02.08	2.8 09.23 1.9	15.10 2.9 20.29 1.7
Sat 03.09	3.1 10.02 1.7	15.48 1.1 20.10 3.6
Sun 03.50	3.3 10.32 1.4	16.22 3.4 22.12 1.1
Mon 04.27	3.6 11.02 1.1	16.56 3.6 22.49 0.9
Tues 05.03	3.8 11.32 0.9	17.28 3.8 23.25 0.6
Wed 05.36	4.0 12.02 0.7	17.57 3.9 *** **

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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Paula presents John with his award. 20\_111paula01

## John voted Lochaber Volunteer of the Year

LOCAL entertainer Paula MacAskill had a gig with a difference on Monday - presenting Shopmobility Lochaber's Volunteer of the Year Award.

And country and western singer Paula was delighted to hand over the shield to John MacLeod.

Shopmobility committee members and volunteers overwhelmingly voted for Inverlochman John, who joined the charity as a volunteer 10 years ago through the Shirlie project.

He attends the office every week to do admin duties including the client booking sheet to register all equipment use over a weekly period.

Shopmobility co-ordinator Billy Ward told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a great example of someone that even though confined to a wheelchair, can get out and provide an input into a local organisation.'

'John's win as Volunteer of the Year also shows the high regard he is held in our committee by the fact that they

voted for him.' Paula said: 'Nobody knows when they are going to need a service like Shopmobility.'

'When Billy approached us to ask for help with sponsoring this award, we had no hesitation in saying yes. We are also delighted that John is the first winner of the award.'

Shopmobility provides a free hire service of wheelchairs, powerchairs and scooters for those with mobility problems.

## Cousins take another crack at football down under

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

TWO FORT William cousins are to take another crack at Australian football after narrowly missing out winning a league title last year.

Former Fort William FC stars Sean and Michael Ellis are awaiting confirmation of visas before booking flights back to Melbourne, but are hoping to be back down under before the new season starts in April.

The pair jetted off to Oz in February 2012 to sign for amateur side Cobram Soccer Club in the North Eastern Soccer League.



Australia bound: footballing cousins Sean, left, and Michael Ellis. 20\_111elli01

They returned to Lochaber when the season finished in November but have decided to return to the south east coast of Australia for the 2013 season.

Michael told *The Oban Times* he was looking forward to getting back.

He said: 'Before we left Melbourne we were talking about going back to Australia again.'

'The club are really good to us and it was really enjoyable over there. We're going back for another year but we'll just see how it goes.'

'We finished second in the league, which was actually a bit disappointing. We should

have done better. We went into a five-team play-off league but we didn't do very well in that.'

'Compared to the Highland League it's probably not as good. The standard of the pitches and things aren't quite as good but the players are at a good level.'

He added: 'The football is the main thing for us, but everything out there was really enjoyable.'

Both 23-year-olds featured heavily for the Cobram first team last season, playing every league game as they missed out on the title by just four points.

Sean was the side's joint top scorer with 13 goals in just 18

### Jackpot rolls over

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £700 is up for grabs in this week's Fort William FC lotto draw.

Last weekend's numbers were 12, 16 and 17.



### Woman's lucky escape as car plunges into loch

A LOCHABER woman escaped with her life on Monday afternoon after her car plunged into the same loch in which two teenagers drowned in a similar incident 30 months ago.

The 28-year-old managed to swim ashore after escaping through the driver's window as her car sank in Loch Eilt.

She was assisted by passers-by before being taken to the Belford Hospital for treatment for minor injuries.

Sergeant David Campbell of Fort William Police said the local woman had been travelling towards Glenfinnan in a Vauxhall Vectra.

The accident happened three

miles east of Lochailort around 2.45pm, under half a mile from where Kirsty Bryden and her friend Roddy MacInnes died when their car skidded off the road and went into the loch in September 2010.

Sergeant Campbell told *The Oban Times*: 'It was on a straight section of road and the vehicle

just veered off the carriageway. Conditions were good and the weather was dry and bright and there was no oil or fish swill on the road.'

'The driver can't remember anything except one minute it was dry and bright and the next thing she was in the water.'

**Continued on page 3.**

### Mallaig earthquake fails to move locals

AN EARTHQUAKE hit Mallaig on Sunday night - but didn't make the ground move for locals.

The quake was picked up on at 9.20pm and measured 1.8 magnitude at a depth of seven kilometres. But people in the

fishing port seemed unaware with local resident Jacqueline MacDonald telling *The Oban Times* she didn't feel anything.

### Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

**Fort William** Thu 14 - Sat 17  
**Strontian** Mon 18  
**Lochaline** Tue 19  
**Craignure** Wed 20



**Wreck-it Ralph** (PG)  
Nine foot tall Ralph has had enough of being the bad guy and now wants to be a hero - and save the games arcade...

**Life of Pi** (PG) **Winner of 4 OSCARS!**  
Based on the Booker prize winning novel, this is Ang Lee's magical film about a zoo-owner's son shipwrecked along with a tiger.

**Les Misérables** (12A)  
Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution and based on Victor Hugo's epic story. From the director of *The King's Speech*.

**Quartet** (12A)  
Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtney are four retired opera singers planning a fundraising concert.

Book in advance at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk) or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50



### Kylerhea: Glenelg and Arnisdale stake their claim

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A REMOTE West Highland community is warning unless it can buy into a planned tidal power scheme others will lose out.

Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust (GADT) wants to claim a stake in the Marine Current Turbines (MCT) project earmarked for Kylerhea, the narrows between Skye and the mainland.

The £44million, eight-megawatt development would see four SeaGen turbines built on the seabed in 100-foot deep water.

The tidal array would generate enough power for 8,000 homes and an estimated annual revenue of £5.5million - £13.5million over the expected 25-year lifespan.

The scheme, Scotland's biggest so far of its kind, is likely to be followed by many more along the west coast of Scottish Government targets to generate 100 per cent of the country's energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.

For over a year, GADT has been involved in complex negotiations with government officials

and potential funders on how community involvement could be financed. A report on possible options is imminent.

First Minister Alex Salmond has already ruled that Kylerhea should become a 'pilot' for community shareholding in tidal renewables.

But GADT chairman John MacLean claims if no mechanism is found to allow that to happen, local people will gain little or nothing - just as with the great hydro schemes of the 1950s and windfarms today.

'It is still our objective to take a majority stake in this,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'Our major prerogative has to be to set a precedent for other communities up and down the west coast.'

'But that requires the Scottish Government to afford communities the chance to invest in these projects - or find some legal means to force developers to provide a community benefit.'

'There is a strong potential here that the whole tidal energy thing could get sold down the river. The Scottish Government has to get its finger out and do something - I'm sure Alex Salmond would not like to be seen to be dragging his heels over this.' He added: 'If we lose out, it will become the norm for these companies to walk in and do anything they want. It is vitally important that the precedent of community benefit from offshore projects is established now. If it is not, we will never get anything out of it later.'

The Scottish Government has set up a £103million renewable energy investment fund to provide equity or loans - but not grants - to increase community ownership of green power schemes.

Mr MacLean said: 'We are still getting reasonable good support from the Scottish Government and people from the Scottish Investment Bank, but there seems to be restrictions being put on them about what they can lend.'

**Continued on page 3.**

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# A82 Partnership launches website to follow major road's progress

ROAD group the A82 Partnership is marking five years of lobbying for upgrades to lifeline route with the launch of a new website.

The site at [www.a82.org](http://www.a82.org) will be regularly updated to inform the community of the partnership's work and updates on major projects on the A82.

Recent campaign successes include realignment of the

road at Pulpit Rock and the Crianlarich Bypass, with both projects starting this year.

The partnership also won support from the wider West Highlands community, including Mull and Mòvern community councils, for phase two of its drive for improvements between Tarbet and Inverarnan.

Engineering and environmental studies have already been

undertaken on the notorious 10-mile stretch.

And transport minister Keith Brown has committed £2 million for a two-year design study with the contract for the work due to be awarded in the next 12 weeks.

A82 Partnership chairman, Councillor Brian Murphy, noted successes but warned much more remains to be done.

He said: 'We need to keep up the pressure on the politicians and we need the continued backing of the people of the West Highlands to enable us to do that.'

**Support**

'We have set up a 'sign up' facility on the website for organisations, businesses and individuals to show their support for the campaign and we would

urge all our supporters to sign up on the website.'

While making Tarbet to Inverarnan its top priority, the partnership is pledging to fight for upgrades along the entire A82 and to highlight the negative economic and social impacts of countless closures and restrictions.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, deputy leader of Argyll and

Bute Council and a member of the A82 Partnership steering group, said the website would be 'a valuable tool'.

He added: 'The Tarbet to Inverarnan upgrade is vital to the economies of the west coast of Argyll and the Highlands.'

Councillor John Semple, chair of HITRANS, the statutory regional transport body for the Highlands and Islands said the

A82 Partnership has done 'a great job' of uniting a wide range of people and organisations behind its efforts.

He said: 'The new A82 Partnership website will help the campaign to engage with the wider community and get across our message of the importance of the A82 in delivering economic growth throughout the North.'



Rosie Curtis: blazing a trail as the only female fish farm manager in Scotland.

## Fish farm manager Rosie blazes a trail

THE ONLY female fish farm manager in the country is celebrating reaching a major milestone in her career with Marine Harvest Scotland in Ardnamurchan.

Rosie Curtis was presented with £500 by managing director Alan Sutherland for clocking up 15 years with the aquaculture company, Scotland's largest.

Rosie joined the business in 1997 and is now manager of the salmon farm at Loch Sunart – a role almost exclusively an all-male preserve given the physical labour involved.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Fish farms are wonderful places to work. But it is out in the open air in all weathers – and we certainly do have 'weather' here so it can be a very tough job.'

'So historically working on the farms has rather been the premise of men.'

'I am certainly the only female manager of a fish farm for Marine Harvest – and to my knowledge, there are no other lady fish farm managers in all of Scotland.'

### Manager

Besides the day job, mother of three Rosie is chairwoman of West Ardnamurchan Community Council, crew manager of the Kilchoan retained fire service and DSO of Kilchoan Coastguard.

She is also Crofting Commission area assessor for Ardnamurchan and Sunart as well as being a crofter herself, and serves on many local committees.

A trained chef, Rosie still finds time for cooking – with salmon from her own farm often on the menu.

Alan Sutherland, Marine Harvest Scotland managing director said: 'Congratulations to Rosie on 15 years as manager at Loch Sunart.'

'Rosie is not only a vital part of what we do – producing high-quality salmon – but at the heart of her community.'

'Her values are those of the company, and we look forward to many more years of her hard work.'



Gillian Wink, left, and Helen Wink were delighted to receive their free flowers from Julie Wileman. 20.11women01

## Fort William ladies mark Women's Day with flowers

CHARITY workers brightened up the day for ladies on Fort William High Street by handing out free flowers to mark International Women's Day (IWD) on Friday.

Volunteers from Lochaber Women's Aid (LWA) gave away 77 sprays of flowers,

with the number chosen to show support for the 77 Lochaber residents who came to LWA seeking support and advice over the past year.

Flowers are seen as the symbol for International Women's Day, a holiday which is widely celebrated across Europe

and Asia and has seen growing popularity in the UK in recent years.

LWA administrator Anita Maclean said they wanted to raise awareness of the day.

She said: 'These 77 local women have survived the experience of domestic

abuse and are being supported to reclaim their self-esteem and re-build their lives.'

'As we have a growing number of migrant women in Lochaber, it is increasingly important to recognise IWD and celebrate it, in addition to Mother's Day.'

# Glencoe horror as friend falls to his death

HILLWALKERS watched in horror as their friend slid down an ice field before plunging to his death in Glencoe on Friday.

The 39-year-old tried to use his ice axe to stop his fall but careered over the edge of a vertical 1,800-foot drop on Stob Coire nam Beith.

The man was with four companions near the summit when he slipped on the glass-like surface around 3pm and hurtled past the lead walker down the increasingly steep ice slope.

He disappeared into mist and fell around 200 metres onto rocks at the top of a winter climb known as Arch Gully.

The mountain is part of 3,773-foot Bidean nam Biam where four people were killed in an avalanche in January.

Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team leader John Grieve said the victim, one of a party of 15 that had split into groups to climb the mountain, was killed instantly.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'They were descending in mist on a slope. One was in front and looked round to see his mate sliding past trying to stop himself with his ice axe – but he failed and disappeared into the mist.'

'Conditions were pretty unforgiving – the snow was frozen solid like concrete. If you slip you have about two seconds to stop yourself. It would be like a toboggan – you are not going to stop until you hit something hard lower down.'

'None of the group was in a position to get to the body. All they knew was that he disappeared. I said to them 'you are going to have to make your way down

**"If you slip you have about two seconds to stop yourself."**

ourselves. Our responsibility is to find your mate.'

Glencoe MRT found the man caught behind a rock around 6.30pm but opted not to attempt recovery via airlift because of the exposed location and buffeting winds.

Team members climbed down on Saturday and lowered the body on a stretcher 1,200 feet to corrie floor, where a Royal Navy rescue helicopter from Prestwick picked him up around 3pm.

Mr Grieve said: 'To get to him we had to walk past where the avalanche was in January – it's only a few hundred yards.'

'He was in a very difficult position to get him out of there. Normally people would fall right to the bottom.'

'We could not fly in the helicopter because weather conditions were so bad – the wind was blowing you off your feet.'

'So we took the decision to leave the body on the hill overnight and go back in the morning, something we have not done since the 1970s.'

Mr Grieve described the two-day recovery operation as 'quite dangerous' but said the party 'were very well equipped and experienced hillwalkers.'

Oban student Christopher Bell, 24, junior doctor Rachel Finnegan 25, Dr Rachel Marmar, 29 and her boyfriend Tom Chesters, 28, all died in the January 19 avalanche tragedy.

## Ski and snowboard freeriders descend on Glencoe

THE BEST ski and snowboard freeriders from the UK and Europe will be descending on Glencoe this weekend to compete in the Coe Cup.

An international field of 40 men and six women is coming from as far afield as Spain and Croatia, event director Andy Meldrum said.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We can't wait for the event to start now, we currently have great conditions on the mountain and new snow is forecast this week.'

'As a Freeride World Tour qualifying event this year we cannot wait to showcase to the European competitors what a stunning location Glencoe and Scotland is for such an event.' Skiers and snowboarders are judged on style, speed and cliff drops as they descend a near vertical snow face. The spectacular action over Saturday and Sunday is free to watch.

## Association awarded pier study cash

SOUTH Sleat Community Moorings Association has received £9,000 from Awards for All Scotland for a feasibility study into re-developing the Old Pier in Armadale Bay.

Local MSP Dave Thompson said upgrading the pier 'would be a boost to the community'.

## Lucky escape

Continued from page one: He added: 'Police inquiries are continuing.'

Morar man John Gibb campaigned alongside Kirsty's parents Jan and John Bryden for improvements to the A830 following the teenagers' deaths.

When informed of Monday's crash by *The Oban Times*, Mr Gibb, a fishery manager said: 'I am deeply shocked and very, very uncomfortable that this could have happened again.'

'It brings up some horrendous memories for everyone and really reiterates the seriousness of the situation and that this road needs to get fixed.'

He added: 'At the time immediately after the accident with the kids we were asking for crash barriers where the fatalities happened at Craiglea [Mr Bryden's home] and for anti-slip surfacing.'

'To be fair Transport Scotland responded, but when you are still getting people crashing and ending up in the loch clearly more needs to be done.'

## Caol girl gets Red Nose Day off to a flying start

TOMORROW'S Red Nose Day is off to a flying start in Lochaber – thanks to a 10-year-old girl from Caol.

Katie Standen staged a charity cycle, cup cake and coffee day ahead of the main event to raise cash for needy kids in Africa – and raised over £700.

Ages of those taking part ranged from from Zander MacDonald and his sister Daisy who are just four and five, to Katie's great-granny Helen Blackmore - who is 76.

Katie's gran Alyson Stewart, who heads out to Sri Lanka in September for the latest of her Women for Women charity cycle rides in September, was delighted with her granddaughter's achievement.

Lochside paramedic Alyson,

56, told *The Oban Times*: 'Katie's total is £762 in just over a week so she has done so well.'

'We are very proud of her and it looks like she will be joining me when she is old enough on the charity cycles!'

'We had a great day and 19 people cycled with her round the Blar Mhor and back to my house for coffee and red nose cup cakes.'

'In the afternoon over 50 people came to the house and a great laugh and good food was had by all.'

She added: 'Can Katie take this chance to thank all those friends of mine who purchased red noses and sent them to her to re-sell and all those who supported her in her first fund raising attempt.'



Red Nose fundraiser: Katie Standen, right, in white, with some of her local charity team before their cycle round the Blar Mhor.

## Kylerhea: locals stake claim

Continued from front page.

A Scottish Government spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'We are working closely with the Glenelg and Arnisdale Trust and supporting its efforts to invest in the tidal energy development proposed at Kyle Rhea.'

'This includes funding for a study looking at ways in which such an investment could take place and the best options for the Trust.'

'The Scottish Government has set up a £103million renewable energy investment fund to provide equity or loans – but not grants – to increase community ownership of green power schemes.'

MCT has published its envi-

ronmental impact assessment on Kylerhea and submitted a marine licence application to Marine Scotland.

Sea Generation (Kyle Rhea) Ltd, the company set up by MCT to develop the project, will hold public exhibitions on its plans next Tuesday at The Broadford Hotel, Broadford, and at Glenelg Community Village Hall next Wednesday, both from 3.30pm-8pm.

The public consultation runs until April 5. Meanwhile, the Welsh government has approved MCT's 10-megawatt Skerries Tidal Stream Array off the Anglesey coast. The five 10-turbine scheme will power 10,000 homes.

## Spean Bridge vandals identified

THREE youths have been interviewed and are the subjects of reports to the relevant authorities in connection with a spate of vandalism in Spean Bridge, police have revealed.

Local people outraged at the destruction caused during the January 25-27 wrecking spree helped officers track down the culprits. Inspector Donald Campbell said: 'Fort William police would like to thank members of the local community in Spean Bridge whose assistance has led to the

identification of persons responsible for recent vandalism in the area.'

'This included the daubing of graffiti on doors, windows, and a bike shelter at Spean Bridge Primary School, the upturning of several flower tubs planted by the local tourist association and the upturning and emptying of a number of roadside grit bins, causing substantial inconvenience as well as financial cost to the school staff, members of the tourism association and the local council.'

## Residents hold ballot on hydro scheme cash

MORVERN residents are choosing which local body should dole out potentially lucrative community benefit money from future hydro schemes.

A postal ballot with a deadline of noon today (Thursday) gives two options – Morvern Community Council (MCC) or Morvern Community Trust (MCT).

Highland Council wards manager Dot Ferguson said: 'This is an opportunity for the community to decide

where these monies should be held until such time decisions are made in respect of using them.'

MCC currently receives funds from an SSE scheme at Kingairloch, while MCT gets money from Glensanda Quarry. Ardnort Estate has agreed to meet Highland Council's recommended community benefit of £5,000 per installed megawatt in full for its two hydro schemes commissioned so far.

# Boost as Chinese textile giant takes stake in Harris Tweed

THE HARRIS Tweed industry has received another boost with news that one of China's biggest textile companies has taken a stake in Carloway Mill on Lewis.

The new joint venture with Shandong Ruyi Technological Group Ltd will open up new sales opportunities in China and across the globe.

The company has a sales presence in 52 countries while China is the world's second biggest economy.

The move could see an increase in Carloway Mill Harris Tweed's current 25-strong workforce and means security of work for around 35 self-employed weavers.

Carloway Mill spokesman Bruce Armitage said the link-up was 'very important' for the mill, the Harris Tweed industry and Western Isles economy.

He said: 'Although the industry has developed

and grown appreciably over the past three years, this new association with a global textile company is a first for Harris Tweed and will allow the Carloway Mill access to a potentially massive platform to expand its volumes and profitability.'

### Proud

Bahman Mostaghimi, managing director of Shandong Ruyi UK said: 'Harris Tweed has been a key player in the history of fashion and indeed you cannot separate Scotland from Harris Tweed or Harris Tweed from Scotland. We are very proud to be working with this heritage and introduce it to China.'

Political reaction was swift. Western Isles Council leader Angus Campbell, who is also chairman of the Harris Tweed Industry Forum, said it was 'a very significant day'.

He added: 'The establishment of a joint venture

between the Carloway Mill and Shandong Ruyi opens up huge market potential. We will actively work with the company to support its future expansion.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar parliamentarians, Angus Brendan MacNeil MP and Alasdair Allan MSP welcomed the news.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I know the owners of Carloway Mill have been working very hard to develop their business and bring jobs to the island.'

'This is a potentially fabulous reward for their efforts and gives a great opportunity to Harris Tweed, our islands and indeed Scotland, to make a mark in the huge Chinese market.'

Mr Allan said: 'The Chinese market represents a huge potential for Harris Tweed and it's great that the Carloway Mill is looking to develop in this area.'

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## Argyll and Bute councillor resigns



FRESH questions have been asked of the stability of Argyll and Bute Council's ruling administration following the resignation of one of its most senior members.

Michael Breslin, until last week the authority's lead councillor for education, said he could no longer be a part of the SNP following disagreements within the alliance administration.

Explaining his decision, Mr Breslin blamed the council voting to progress a closure of Du-noon's Struan Lodge care home - a move he declined to vote on - 'duplicitous' and disagreements within the administration and 'poor behaviour' among councillors when former leader Roddy McCuish fell ill and announced his decision to stand down.

He also described new council leader James Robb as the 'wrong person for the job'.

But the SNP/independent/Argyll First administration will later this month come under fresh scrutiny after failing to persuade the Scottish Government to consider building a new road at the Rest and Be Thankful on the A83 and to postpone the new Campbelltown-Ardrossan ferry service for a year to allow for infrastructure upgrades.

Campbeltown councillor Rory Colville said: 'There's no point being in administration if it's not going to be a strong one. There's a motion that's been accepted for next week's meeting questioning the practices and traditions of the council.'

Responding, Mr Robb, said: 'I'm confident this administration will continue to put the interests of the people of Argyll and Bute first. In doing that I'd hope to have the support of the opposition councillors.'

He declined to comment on the exact content of the opposition's motion until it was in the public domain.



Flames lit up the night sky above Oban this week as fire raced across a large area of grassland between Glenclruitten and Connel - See more Page 7 Picture - Kevin McGlynn

# Airport to now work for Oban

## Targets achieved on island flights

A RELAUNCH of Oban Airport will aim to make it work for the benefit of the town after fulfilling its objective of supporting the region's islands.

Station manager Tom Eddleston made the statement as Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the airport recorded its highest passengers figures last year, with some 3,224 making use of the facility - nearly 700 more than the previous year.

'Lifeline service' Of those, more than half were for NHS, council or public body staff - making the airport a 'lifeline service' for the isles.

Moya Ingram, the council's strategic transportation manager, has now confirmed a new stakeholder group will be formed this summer as the council looks to redouble its efforts and market the facility effectively to ensure the airport works for the benefit of Oban and not just the isles.

While there's no concrete news on expansion of services, it is hoped the efforts will lead to an expansion of services to the airport - including the previously mooted potential for air links to Glasgow.

Speaking exclusively to *The Oban Times* at the airport on Tuesday, Ms Ingram said: 'Speaking from experience, I stayed in Inveraray recently and I was looking through the information in the hotel and there were details about Glasgow and Edinburgh airports - but it didn't say anything about Oban.'

'That's where we're failing. We need to drive more business to the airport and let people know it's there.'

Mr Eddleston added: 'Oban Airport was initially set up to support the islands - mission accomplished. Now it's about supporting Oban.'

Work to market the airport has started already, with the facility appearing on national television and newspapers in recent weeks. Local businesses, community representatives, tourism bodies, hoteliers and neighbours of the site are among those to be invited to join the new Oban Airport stakeholder group, with a meeting to be held in the Corran Halls in May to discuss ways to make better use of the airport.

# Islay High School pupils outperform FTSE 100 share index

Investing students' team is one of the most successful in the UK-wide competition

FOUR budding investors from Islay High School have made £20,000 in virtual shares in just three months as part of a national competition - outperforming the FTSE 100 share index in the process.

**Regional final**

The Miskits team of James Morrison, Keith MacNeil, Gavin Cameron and Anna McArthur could soon be giving

London's city boys a run for their money. But first they must represent Islay High School in the regional final of the Student Investor Challenge, run by *i/s* School of Finance, in Leeds next Wednesday.

The pupils, under the tutelage of business studies teacher Michael Mitten, were given £100,000 of virtual money to buy and sell shares in FTSE 100

companies. The shrewd Miskits managed to make nearly £20,000 on their shares, making them one of the most successful in the UK-wide competition.

One of seven teams from Islay High School to enter the competition, The Miskits finished 87th in the UK out of 10,000 teams and will be one of 21 teams from Scotland, Northern

Ireland and the north of England in the regional final. Only three Scottish schools have made the regional final.

If successful at this stage, the youngsters will have the chance of making it through to the national final in April where an all expenses paid educational trip to New York and £2,000 for their school is up for grabs.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael

Russell, the Scottish Government's education secretary, said: 'The next time I am on Islay I will be seeking tips because it seems these pupils could manage my money better than I can.'

'I am very enthused by practical education like this and I am delighted to hear of the pupils' success, which shows the range of skills around and that young

people on Islay can compete with the best.'

The competition, supported by Bloomberg, gives teams of four students aged between 14 and 19 years old the opportunity to experience shares dealing and investing in the stock market.

Now in its 20th year, the competition is the largest of its kind in the UK and is also open to international students.

## Oban High School strikes gold

OBAN High School has become the only school to be recognised with a gold status from Investors in People Scotland.

Investors in People status is a standard which encourages business excellence through staff development. Only three per cent of UK institutions achieve the gold accreditation.

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Argyll and Bute Council now offers free support to help local businesses supply goods and services to the public sector, through its membership of the Supplier Development Programme. This includes access to free workshops including:

**Supplier Development Programme**

**Is the Public Sector Right for You?**

- Thurs 11th April, Argyll and Bute Council Chambers, Kilmory, Lochgilphead. 10.00 to 12.30
- Fri 19th April, Queen's Hall, Dunoon. 10.00 to 12.30
- Fri 26th April, Corran Halls, Oban. 10.00 to 12.30

This workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering for public sector contracts and would like to become 'tender ready'. It will help you decide if tendering is for you and if so how to go about it, give an overview of the tendering landscape and share some tips on successful tendering.

The workshop will provide a guide on procurement topics such as:

- Understanding the public sector market place
- Why certain processes are necessary
- Deciding if your business is ready for tendering
- Key procurement issues
- The assessment of tenders and the bidding process
- Improving your company's chance of success
- The buyers perspective

After attending this workshop you will be able to decide if supplying the public sector is right for you, implement the first stages of entering this market, recognise the compliance issues that must be addressed, understand the basic requirements of the market and find and examine initial opportunities through appropriate channels.

To book a place at this workshop please register with the Supplier Development Programme at [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk). Registration is free and takes only a few minutes. You will then be able to book for this workshop or any of the other free workshops offered across Scotland.

An informal 'Meet the Buyer' networking event will follow each of the workshops above, 12.30 - 14.00. Come along to meet members of the Council's procurement team, ask questions and find out about opportunities to supply the Council.

To find out more about the Supplier Development Programme visit [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk) or contact Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team on 01546 605459.

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## VisitScotland may use Luing as a showcase island for others

A SMALL west coast island could become a showcase for the best of the Scottish isles, according to VisitScotland.

### Virtual gateway

The organisation's regional director, David Adams McGilp, recently visited the Isle

of Luing and met members of its community trust.

The trust is currently working on the Atlantic Islands Centre, which will act as a community hub and heritage, cultural, business and social centre for both islanders and

visitors.

Mr McGilp said: 'There are plans for it to function as a virtual gateway to the remaining Argyll islands group, including some of the busier and better-known.

'Luing has the advantage of

being only a very short crossing from the mainland, but has limited opportunity to encourage longer stays by visitors at present - something which we hope to change.

'For example, this new centre would provide a cafe/restaurant

for the first time.' He added: 'There are also plans to re-open the slate quarry specifically to supply Historic Scotland with conservation-grade slate, which could become an attraction linked to the industrial heritage of the island and its

neighbours, famous for slate production during the 18th and 19th centuries.

'The ongoing work surrounding the creation of this new centre could see Luing become a showcase island and heralds a very exciting time

for the area.

'It gives everyone involved in the tourism industry the chance to demonstrate what a beautiful part of the world this is and to attract as many visitors as possible to experience that for themselves.'

## Survey on Rockfield's future begins

SURVEY work to find out whether the old Rockfield School in Oban needs to be demolished started last week.

The car park at the site was shut to the public last Friday in what could be the beginning of the end for the old building.

There are currently architects on site carrying out a study on behalf of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to determine the future of the building.

Work is expected to be complete in mid April and ACHA hope to construct affordable housing on the site for use by the elderly.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'The association is carrying out a feasibility study on the site at Rockfield in relation to its future use.'

'This is a technical options appraisal to determine whether the building can be economically saved or whether it has to be pulled down.'

'This work is being carried out in conjunction with the council and the report will be submitted to Historic Scotland. That is required before they can take a view.'

## Hotel worker remanded in custody

A HOTEL worker accused of breaching his bail conditions in relation to a rape charge appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Alan Radcliffe, 28, of staff quarters, Portsoinachan Hotel, Dalnally, made no plea or declaration during the private hearing. He was committed for further examination and remanded in custody.

## Mary's Meals film on television

A DOCUMENTARY film, produced by Dalnally charity Mary's Meals, will air on STV tomorrow (Friday).

Child 31, a powerful documentary about the charity's work in Malawi, Kenya, and India, will be broadcast at 10.35pm.

Following founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Child 31 offers a glimpse into the charity's simple, yet groundbreaking, approach to feeding the world's poorest children.

## Man admits Dunbeg thefts

BREAKING into houses in Oban and Dunbeg and stealing tools landed one Glaswegian man in court.

Paul Ogilvie, 26, of 151 Muirfoot Road, Glasgow, admitted stealing tools from two properties when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. He will be sentenced on April 2.

# Islay students are part-time school cleaners

## 'Working' pupils now finding added pride in their school

PUPILS at an Argyll high school have swapped their school ties for tabards in a novel move by the head teacher to overcome a cleaning staff shortage.

Struggling to recruit casual cleaning staff, Islay High School head teacher Joanna Holmes last month offered the work to her senior students.

She now has a team of eight pupils, who each work around three hours per week keeping the school clean and tidy, gaining a wage and work experience into the bargain.

Mrs Holmes told The Oban Times: 'We really struggled to get casual cleaners, so I asked all the pupils who were over 16 years old if they wanted part-

time work in the school.

'I didn't tell them it was a cleaning job at first but that didn't seem to bother them.

'They get paid exactly the same as any casual cleaner and the work is after school, at a convenient time for them.'

The move has been so successful that in the first week of the cleaners taking up their post Bowmore Primary School had contacted the high school to ask if they could 'borrow' a pupil for a shift there.

The pupils have received training from Andrea Harris, Argyll and Bute Council's cleaning services area manager, but are not permitted to use any machinery.

One of the cleaners, 16-year-old pupil Siobhan Macnab, said: 'We get paid for our work and will get a good reference out of it but we also take pride in doing our job well and it is nice when the pupils and staff notice a job well done.'

'It has changed how I look at the school now; I can get a bit obsessive compulsive about mess and I have told students off for dropping litter and emptying pencil sharpenings on the floor.'

Mrs Holmes added: 'I get the sense from the students that keeping the school clean is not 'someone else's job' and they are really looking after the place.'

## Mull voters urged to turn out

AS THE ballot to turn Mull, Iona and Ulva into the first all island Business Improvement District (BID) draws to a close promoters have urged businesses to make their 'vote count'.

A public meeting was held in Tobermory's Aros Hall last Friday night where local business owners and members of the community heard how the BID could inject £655,000 into the island's economy.

The BID has been designed by island businesses to help strengthen the local economy by reversing the decline in visitor numbers seen over the past five years.

Neil Hutton, chairman of the BID steering group which put the proposal together following consultation over a 15-month period, said: 'This is a unique opportunity for local businesses to join together to put in place a co-ordinated programme of activities, initiatives and events to both attract visitors and improve their experience of the islands once they are here.'

'The plan is specifically designed with sufficient flexibility to respond to opportunities as they arise. We have a thriving local business community offering a high quality experience for visitors but we need to attract people back onto the island.'

But James Heggie, a trader on Tobermory's Main Street, described Friday's meeting as a 'truly disgraceful session' with 'blatant disregard for the views of a substantial number of potential no voters'.

He said: 'The three from BID said absolutely nothing of consequence and more importantly said nothing to reassure us that we were in safe hands. Watching them squirm and frankly lost for words could have been amusing if it wasn't such a serious matter up for discussion.'

The business plan has been backed by Paddy Crerar of Crerar Hotels Group and owner of the Isle of Mull Hotel who said: 'Once the BID company is set up and the funding secure (i.e. we know what we actually have) the business plan can be fully fleshed out.'

'I have been involved with many businesses that have had to evolve their strategy (business plan) several times in a year as the external conditions change.'

The confidential postal ballot closes on March 21 with results declared shortly afterwards.

## Boats fail random inspections at Argyll ports

EVERY boat checked by police and coastguard during safety checks in Campbeltown and Tarbert were found with defects - one serious enough to be detained.

Organised as part of Operation Myriad, inspections were carried out over Thursday and Friday last week, with seven boats checked.

### Unsafe

Led by Campbeltown CID along with the Small Ports Unit, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Marine Scotland Compliance and Revenue and Customs, the inspections also saw boats checked for offences linked to drugs, illegal immigration and terrorism.

Four boats were checked in Campbeltown, with one deemed so unsafe it was ordered to remain at the port until essential

repairs were made.

Two were found to have serious deficiencies requiring urgent repair and one a minor repair.

Two of the three vessels checked in Tarbert were found with serious problems and one requiring minor repair.

Nobody was charged or arrested as a result.

A spokeswoman for the MCA admitted it was unusual for every boat checked to be found with faults, but added that it was 'just like an MOT'.

She said: 'One vessel's defects were deemed serious enough to see it not allowed to sail. It may not have been able to cope in an emergency.'

'Repairs will be made in a matter of days and once complete the boat will be allowed to sail again.'



RNLI Oban committee members and lifeboat crewmen raise a dram to its next fundraising effort.

## Lifeboat crew raises a toast to new venture

MEMBERS of Oban Lifeboat Station raised a dram to its next fundraising effort, which could see the charity net a potential £40,000.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) Oban fundraising committee has 297 bottles of a unique 18-year-old Oban malt whisky to auction off and sell.

The bottles have come from a hogshead of malt whisky gifted by Oban Distillery owners Diageo last year to mark the 40th anniversary of the town's 'water of life' to those who save lives on the water.

Early estimates indicate each bottle could fetch £140 - £180. RNLI Oban treasurer Les

Stewart said: 'I think a total in excess of £40,000 is a possible fundraising figure, thanks to this gift from Diageo.'

'This is great for us but it has taken us two years to get to this stage and everyone has worked very hard to make sure the bottles are ready.'

Around 100 bottles of the cask-strength whisky are already on

pre-order and the lifeboat station will keep around 20 for future fundraisers. Among the bottles being kept are the numbers 14, 23, 12 and 97, which make up the boat's service number of 1423 and yard number of 1297.

The RNLI whisky was casked in 1994 on the eve of the Oban Distillery's bicentenary celebrations.

## Eighth century Celtic High Cross to be returned to Iona

'We believe it was commissioned by a King around the mid 700s'

THE WORLD'S first Celtic High Cross, which dates back to the eighth century, is currently being reassembled before being returned to the Isle of Iona.

St Oran's Cross, pictured, is being pieced back together in Selkirk before being brought to Iona for the celebration of the 1,450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba.

His arrival was the springboard for the spread of Christianity in Scotland. St Columba and his followers arrived from Ireland and established a monastery on Iona in AD 563.

St Oran's Cross will be re-erected for the first time in centuries in a new display as part of the 1,450th anniversary celebrations.

Peter Yeoman, Historic Scotland's head of cultural heritage, said: 'The complete cross originally weighed in excess of one tonne and was 4.4 metres high.'

'We believe it was commissioned by a King around the mid 700s. It is beautifully carved with biblical scenes and Celtic interlaced patterns.'

'Just below the centre of the cross arm is an extremely rare and early image of the virgin and child sheltered by the wings of angels.'

'This monumental, powerful, and decorative use of the Christian cross had never been seen before anywhere in Western Europe.'

'It is one of the largest and finest in the collection of early medieval carved stone grave slabs and crosses to be found at Iona Abbey.'

The cross, which was in five pieces, will be re-erected within a specially constructed steel structure designed by Borders-based museum mount-maker Richard West.

Historic Scotland's experts are cleaning, studying and conserving the carved stones before they go back on display in a new exhibition in time for the anniversary.

The agency is also investing in new interpretation and visitor facilities to help visitors fully appreciate Iona Abbey's fascinating history and the significance of the spectacular carved stone collection.



The eighth century cross is currently being reassembled before being returned to the Isle of Iona

## Staff and customers of Oban shoe shop appeal for new buyer

STAFF and customers at Oban's closure-threatened DE Shoes have appealed for a buyer to help secure its future.

The George Street outlet, which has been in Oban for 57 years, has been on the market since the beginning of the year.

Since then parent company, William Smith (Shoe Merchants) Ltd, has been undertaking a 90-day consultation with its 31 staff

members across Scotland, including the six staff in Oban, while it looks for buyers to take on the shops as going concerns.

Oban shop manager Catherine Cakebread said: 'If this store closes there are six people here who will be losing their jobs.'

'The shop has a very good turnover and will be a great investment for the right person. We will know more when the consultation ends

on April 19.'

Parents who shop at the Oban store have expressed their hope a buyer can be found, as DE Shoes is the only shop remaining in the town that sells fitted shoes for children.

Oban mother Laura Pagan was in the shop last Friday to get new shoes for her children, George and Emily, aged five and three.

She said: 'This is the last shop

in town where you can get shoes properly fitted and that is very important for children.'

'The alternative is going to Glasgow, which is quite far away for people for some people, especially those with young children.'

'The internet is okay for shopping but you don't get the service, or an accurate fitting.'

The company's managing director, Robert Sinclair, said the

consultation period was necessary as a way of 'avoiding, or reducing, the need to make redundancies'.

He added: 'Since the news about the difficulties facing our shoe shops was first announced, footfall in the branches has increased significantly.'

Graham and Sibbald has been appointed selling agent and can be contacted at its Dundee office on 01382 200064.

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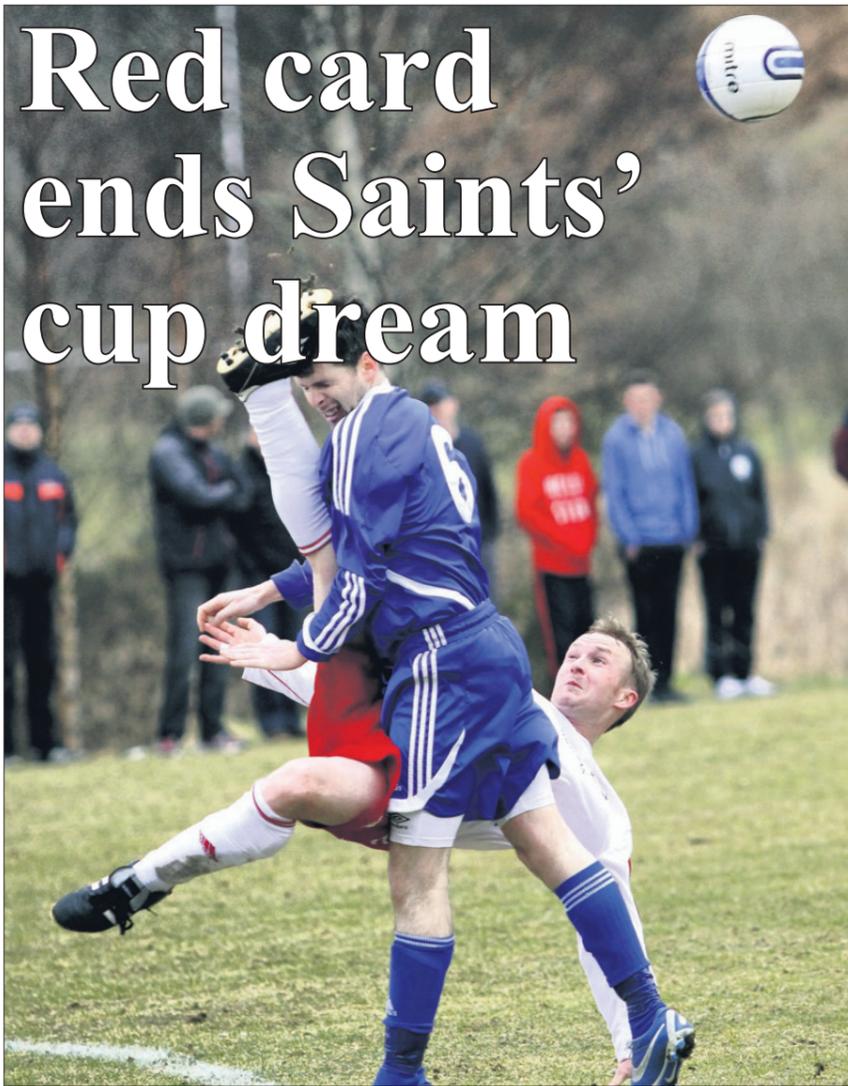
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FW



# Red card ends Saints' cup dream



## 'Red card seemed very harsh to me,' says manager Jackson

### FOOTBALL

**Scottish Amateur Cup  
7th Round Replay  
OBAN SAINTS 1  
COLVILLE PARK 3**

THE MUCH anticipated seventh round Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup replay against cup favourites Colville Park took place at Glencruitten before a big crowd, but a harsh red card for Craig MacEwan after 24 minutes killed off any chance the home side had of making the quarter finals.

The Oban side struggled a bit in the first game to put the Colville defence under pressure, but they were pressing the ball much quicker and getting players up the park as often as possible in this match, always with an eye on defence to cope with the slick-moving Motherwell side.

Saints took the lead in the 12th minute when Willie Gemmell fired over a corner from the left which was met by Craig MacEwan at the front post who despatched a great header past the helpless Jordan Longmuir. This goal was no more than the home side deserved as they were the better team in the opening period of the game.

The visitors' main tactic was to knock the ball into the corners for their two wide men Tommy Murray and James Miller to run on to, but the home defenders were coping reasonably well with this play.

The turning point of what would have been a cracking game happened in the 24th minute when Daniel Cassells fumbled a shot on goal. The ball spilled from his grasp and was rolling

free in the penalty area. Craig MacEwan and Alex Clearie went for the ball with Craig knocking over the Colville Park striker in the process - penalty, which was the correct decision, but to everybody's amazement referee Tommy Gilchrist, incidentally from Motherwell, showed Craig the red card.

Tommy Murray stepped up and slammed the ball home much to the relief of the Colville Park players.

The game was killed off as a contest just before the interval when the visitors scored two goals in as many minutes, the first when David McKay deflected an Alan Litster shot past Daniel Cassells and two minutes later James Miller scored a well taken goal with an overhead kick.

Saints knew their Scottish Cup dream was over for this season as there was going to be no way back, but they battled away, putting the visitors under pressure on several occasions, although not really troubling Colville keeper Jordan Longmuir.

The visitors were hungry for more goals, but the Oban boys

were defending well with Marc MacCallum putting in a man of the match performance with a great second half display, winning tackles and headers time after time and urging his team mates forward at every opportunity.

Daniel Cassells made up for his earlier mistake with a couple of excellent saves to keep the eager Colville Park strikers at bay.

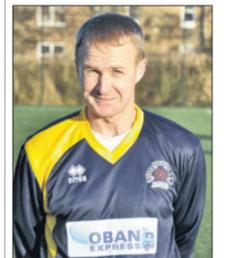
It was a gutted Saints squad that trudged off the park at the end of the 90 minutes wondering what might have been if MacEwan had remained on the pitch.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'I was proud of the lads, they played well against one of the best teams in the country and I thought we were the better side until the referee took a hand in the proceedings and showed Craig the red card which seemed very harsh to me.'

'It would have been interesting to see what the result would have been if it had been 11 v 11. I think we might just have caused a big cup upset, but unfortunately we'll never know. I now know how Sir Alex Ferguson felt when Nani was shown the red card against Real Madrid!'

Big cup games are coming thick and fast for the Oban side as this Saturday they take on Pollok in the third round of the West of Scotland Cup. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee Jim Laird from Prestwick is in charge.

## Saint Millar lifts SAL award



Keith Millar.

### FOOTBALL

FOLLOWING their cup defeat, 20 players and committee members of Oban Saints travelled to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow for the Scottish Amateur League Dinner and Achievement Awards night where club captain Keith Millar received an award for his services to Oban Saints, the SAFL Select and the Scottish Amateur International team.

The award was presented to Keith by league president Frank McCann.

Guest speakers at the evening were John McKelvie, Tosh McKinlay and Sandy Strang.

## Atlantis Leisure Indoor League

### INDOOR FOOTBALL

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atlantis	9	8	0	1	24
Oban Times	10	7	0	3	21
Carpet Fitters	8	7	0	1	21
RM Builders	8	7	0	1	21
Oban HS	10	5	1	4	16
Handy Men	9	4	0	6	12
Glenorchy	9	3	0	7	9
Royal Hotel	9	1	0	8	3
OES	9	0	0	9	0
Stoddarts T&T	0	0	0	0	0

**Results**  
Glenorchy 4, O.E.S 1, MOTM Euan Dewar; Oban Times 15, Oban High School 5, MOTM Sean Grant; Handy Men 11, The Royal Hotel 3, MOTM Martin Bonar.

**Fixtures**  
Sunday, March 17:  
5.10pm Carpet Fitters v RM Builders;  
6pm The Handy Men v OES;  
6.50pm Atlantis Leisure v Oban High School;  
7.40pm Glenorchy v Royal Hotel.

## Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth results:  
Under-13s won 10-2. Scorers: Daniel McCuish (3), Kenny MacDonald, Couper Munt, Cammy Scott (2), Scott Rowley, Bepe Lopez and Lewis Buchanan.  
Under-14s won 4-1. Scorers: Jay Cooper (2), Lomond MacPherson and Liam Higgins.  
Under-15s had no game.  
Under-16s drew 1-1. Scorer: Alan Buchanan.  
**This weekend's fixtures:** Under-13s v Westerton; Goldenhill v Under-14s; Milngavie v Under-15s; Allander v Under-16s.

## Cellar on track to securing first Oban Pool League championship

### Markie Dans crash in title race big match

### POOL

THERE have been six previous unsuccessful attempts at defending The Oban Pool League title and once again it looks like a poisoned chalice this season.

Markie Dans A, who were leading the title race by a point over nearest rivals The Cellar before last Thursday's contest, knew even a draw would have seen them firmly in the driving seat with a couple of league

games to go. Unfortunately for the current champions, The Cellar had their own agenda and aspirations and Markie Dans' proud undefeated run at home was blown away as The Cellar ran riot, losing only one singles match and all but securing their ever championship.

Elsewhere, The Lochnell just

about edged the Connel derby against The Gluepot and can claim bragging rights for the next few months.

The Kelvin ended their long run without a win against The Claredon, The Lancaster 'B' finally saw off Markie Dans 'B' in a close encounter and The Lochavullin and Lancaster 'A' shared the spoils in the concluding fixture.

**Cup final**  
This week The Lochavullin and Markie Dans 'A' contest The Oban Filling Station Cup final and the re-arranged Lancaster derby finally goes ahead to take all teams level on matches played.

**Results:**  
The Kelvin 6-4 The Claredon;  
The Lochnell 6-4 The Gluepot;  
Markie Dans A 1-9 The Cellar;  
Lancaster B 6-4 Markie Dans B;  
The Lochavullin 5-5 Lancaster A.

**Fixtures today (Thursday):**  
Lancaster A v Lancaster B; OFS Cup Final - Markie Dans A v The Lochavullin.

League	P	PTS
1 The Cellar	16	28
2 Markie Dans A	16	27
3 Lancaster B	15	22
4 Lancaster A	15	17
5 The Lochnell	16	16
6 The Lochavullin	16	15
7 Markie Dans B	16	11
8 The Claredon	16	10
9 The Kelvin	16	8
10 The Gluepot	16	4

## Oban Lorne ready for table-top clash at Bonhill

### RUGBY

OBAN head back to the venue of their West Bowl victory for a table-topping clash at Bonhill against Loch Lomond on Saturday.

The league game between the sides in November saw Oban seal a last-minute 18 - 17 win, courtesy of a Craig Wright penalty.

Oban Lorne must recover from their 30-26 home defeat against Paisley two weeks ago with captain Robin MacQueen and coaches Corrie Louw and Andrew Johnson hoping for a positive reaction to the unexpected defeat.

A win at Bonhill will see Oban reclaim top spot with a game in hand and set the team up well for their National Bowl semi-final at home to Broughton on March 30.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright, who plays for Oban Lorne, said: 'This

could be the most important few weeks in the history of the club with a league championship and final place at Murrayfield all up for grabs.'

Sandwiched between these

two games is another important league game at home to Lanark on March 23. Oban Lorne are hoping for all rugby fans in the area to show support for the side at these important games.

## MacIntyre is high gun at Lorn Clay Target Club's 50-bird shoot

### MacAlistair wins pool trap with straight 8

### CLAY PIGEON

ENTRANTS travelled from as far as Tobermory and Dunoon to compete in Lorn Clay Target Club's 50-bird down-the-line clay pigeon shooting competition.

Held on Saturday, at the Moss Road, North Connel, the competition attracted 23 competitors.

High winds gave challenging conditions for the shooters and many a frustrated cry was heard as the targets lurched unpredictably in the gusts.

High gun was J MacIntyre on 138 out of 150 possible points, second place on 137 was D MacColl and third place on 136 was H MacFadyen.

S Wilson, on 134 points, finished fourth, ahead of G Crawford (133) and H MacLean (130).

The pool trap was won by E MacAlistair, who was the only person to hit all eight targets.

The club's first open practice night is on April 11 at the shooting ground on the Moss Road from 7pm.

Visitors of any standard, including complete beginners, are welcome down to give clay pigeon shooting a go.

Email info@lornclaytarget.com or contact the club via the website www.lornclaytarget.com for more information.

The club is also planning a fortnightly summer league on Saturdays, starting April 20.



Prizewinners from Lorn Clay Target Club's down-the-line competition, from left: winner MacIntyre, H MacLean, H MacFadyen, G Crawford, S Wilson, D MacColl.

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## South of Scotland Indoor 5-a-side tournament returns to Atlantis

### INDOOR SHINTY

OBAN teams made up the majority of entries to the South of Scotland Indoor 5-a-side tournament, which returned to the shinty calendar after a year's absence.

Held at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, on Sunday, a modest seven teams played a round robin format that involved two teams from both Oban Cama-

nachd and Oban Celtic, as well as Inveraray, Ardnallassies and Ardnamurchan.

Eventually it was Celtic A that cruised through the group winning all their games, with Camanachd A earning their right to play them in the final on goal difference from Inveraray and Celtic B, who then played for third place.

Celtic B, Ardnamurchan and Ardnallassies exited at this stage after giving a good showing of

themselves.

Camanachd B won the third place play-off after a second phase of extra time to win probably the most exciting and tense match of the afternoon.

Eventual player of the tournament Lewis Buchanan had his say in the final game inspiring his team to third place.

Celtic A must have gone into the tournament final as favourites but some tactical changes in the Camanachd A line up had

Celtic A wondering what might have been.

Ross McMillan cruised around the pitch finding space to punish Celtic at will and some early goals had Celtic chasing the game from the start.

Camanachd's superior firepower saw them run away 6-1 winners in the end and take the title of best south indoor team.

Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer Euan McMurdo said: 'I was delighted with the

standard of play throughout the afternoon from all the teams.

'What is more important is that the event took place this year after not being played last year.'

It is vital that we have a regular programme of shinty that allows our players a platform to compete and improve their skills - this event certainly adds value to the programme of shinty in the south of Scotland.'



Tournament winners Oban Camanachd A. 15\_t11shintyfv04



Above - third placed Oban Camanachd B. 15\_t11shintyfv02

Top left - Inveraray. 15\_t11shintyfv01

Left - Tournament runners-up Oban Celtic A. 15\_t11shintyfv03

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Improving performance raises hope ahead of busy schedule

## Penalty call ruins Fort's chances

'It was never a penalty in a month of Sundays. The referee was the only person in the ground who saw a foul' - says Fort's Conlon

FORT William go into this Saturday's cup clash with Clachnacuddin with renewed confidence after a string of improved displays.

Danny Conlon's side will take on the Inverness side in the Breendon Aggregates Highland League Cup at Grant Street Park just over a week after the sides met in the league, with Clach winning 2-0 at Claggan.

The game follows a midweek trip to Nairn last night (Wednesday).

Fort are hopeful left back Darren Duncan will be available for Saturday after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Conlon told *The Oban Times*: 'The games are coming fast and furious just now. We've probably had the hardest run of games of any team in the league. If I had a bigger squad I'd be resting some players.'

'It's going to be a really difficult game. We know what to expect, they are right up there, a top three or four side. They play at a really high tempo, so it'll be a hard and fast game.'

Conlon said a controversial penalty award 'ruined' their game against reigning Highland League champions Forres Mechanics last Saturday.

Deep into first half injury time with Forres holding a narrow 1-0 lead, the ref pointed to the spot after adjudging Darren Quigg to have fouled Scott Moore, much to the dismay of the home players and supporters.

Simon Allan took the kick and sent Fort keeper Kyle Robertson the wrong way.

### FOOTBALL

Highland League  
FORT WILLIAM 0  
FORRES MECHANICS 3

Conlon said: 'It was never a penalty in a month of Sundays. The referee was the only person in the ground who saw it as a foul.'

'There was a lot of angry people in the dressing room at half time, a lot of frustrated people. It ruined the game for us.'

Conlon also questioned the amount of injury time played.

He said: 'There was no substitutions, and no injuries, so I've no idea where he found four and a half minutes to add on.'

Moore had earlier given his side the lead with a fizzing left footed shot from the edge of the box which flew over the head of Robertson.

Fort were giving as good as they got, but struggled to create chances. Scott Hunter had their best opportunity in the 37th minute but saw his shot well saved.

Forres effectively sealed their victory seven minutes after the break when Ryan Mackintosh made the score 3-0.

But Fort kept battling and pulled one back two minutes later when Martin Groat's ball into the centre was slotted home by Andy Maclean from six yards.



Fort's Iain Foggo makes a last ditch tackle on the edge of his own box to deny Forres' Lee Fraser a shot at goal - 20\_f11fort01

## Campbell double earns Fort William share of premier points

'Overall the draw was probably a fair result'



Shiel's Keith MacRae battled with Fort defender Chris Bamber throughout the match - 20\_f11shinty05

FORT William and Kinlochshiel both picked up their first points of 2013 after a 2-2 draw in tricky conditions at An Aird on Saturday.

A bitter breeze was blowing through An Aird, with the home side having the wind advantage in the first half.

Neither side was able to create much until Shiel marksman Finlay MacRae added to his goal against Kingussie last week with a strike in the 25 minute.

Conceding seemed to spur Fort into action, and within two minutes forward Ryan Campbell hit an unstoppable shot from the left side of the goal to make the score 1-1.

And just 60 seconds later Campbell struck again, with another ferocious hit from a similar spot to give his side the lead.

As they game went on, both sides created chances, with the visitors increasing the pressure in the second half with the wind at their backs.

With just nine minutes left to play, MacRae took his tally to three goals in two games and earned his side a share of the points.

Fort co-manager Adie Robertson said he felt a share of the points was a fair result for both sides.

### SHINTY

Orion Premier Division  
FORT WILLIAM 2  
KINLOCHSHIEL 2

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We were under a fair bit of pressure in the second half, but saying that, I don't think they created a huge amount.'

'Overall the draw was probably a fair result, although obviously we would have liked to have taken two points since we were at home.'

'There was a cold wind, and in the second half we were up against it. We had a fairly inexperienced centre line and I thought they did well.'

Cameron Grant, 16, and Calum Shepard, 15, played alongside the more experienced Stevie Stewart in the middle of the park.

'Shiel boss Johnston Gill said he felt his side improved as the game went on, and could have nicked the win in the second half.'

He said: 'I thought we were a wee bit unlucky not to win the game.'

'Our guys are playing very well as they showed in the first half against Kingussie and continued that against Fort William.'

### ALLEYCATS STAY TOP

#### 10 PIN BOWLING

ALLEYCATS have maintained their place at the top of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues scratch division after 13 weeks of play at the Nevis Centre.

The leaders are on 59 points, followed by Council in second place with 49 points with Splitheads in third place on 41 points.

Council are the new leaders in the handicap division with 43 points after previous leaders Alleycats went down 5-0 to Rotavators. Alleycats are now in second place on 39 points. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio are third, also on 39 points.

The top individual scratch game came from Brian Stewart (Council) with 198. Other games of note were a 180 from Sean MacPherson (Splitheads), 179 from Colin Pinkett (Council) and 173 from Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats).

The top handicap game was 246 from Robbie Robertson (Rotavators). The highest two game scratch series went to Brian Stewart with 342 and the top two game handicap series went to Robbie Robertson with 465.

Council swept the board for this weeks best team performance with a scratch game of 618, handicap game of 823, two game scratch series of 1,199 and two game handicap team series of 1,609.

The top individual scratch averages are held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 162, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 149 and Colin Pinkett (Council) on 147.

### Lochaber drop points at home

#### RUGBY

LOCHABER missed the chance to move back up the RBS Caledonia Regional league Division 2 North with a narrow 21-17 loss at home to Aberdeen University Medics on Saturday.

The Banavie club now face three tricky away ties, starting with a visit to Lewis to take on bottom club Stornoway on March 23.

### Lampkin to defend Six Days title

#### MOTORCYCLING

DOUGIE Lampkin, the winner of the 2012 Scottish Six Day Trial is already preparing to defend his title in this year's event.

Lampkin secured a historic and record-breaking sixth SSDT victory last May when the competition saw its closest climax in its 101 history. The Englishman will be one of 270 riders competing in the trial, which takes place in and around Fort William from May 6-11.

The entry list comprises both amateur and professional riders who travel from all over the world to take part in the unique endurance test.

### Summer season starts at Fort

#### GOLF

FORT William Golf Club members are gearing up for the opening competition of the year on Saturday March 30.

A three man Texas scramble will officially get the summer season underway, and will be followed by the monthly medal competition.

### Table tennis invite for everyone

#### TABLE TENNIS

FORT William Table Tennis Club is inviting players of all levels to join its Monday night training sessions.

The 2013 season is well underway, but anyone is free to come along to the evenings, which run from 6.30pm to 9pm.

For more information ring James on 01397 708827.

### Runners get ready for this Saturday's Glen 10k road race

#### ATHLETICS

LOCAL runners are preparing for Lochaber Athletic Club's Glen 10k road race in Glen Nevis this Saturday.

The event will be the final winter league event of the season, with trophies handed out in the Nevis Centre in the evening.

Gary MacDonald can't be caught in the men's league, while Elaine Liddell and Kirsten Airrie are fighting out for the women's title.

Home runners dominated the Glen 10k last year, with John Binnie finishing 52 seconds ahead of club mate Allan Ross to take the win.

Nicola Meekin had a strong race to take first in the women's race.

The field of runners will head off from Claggan Park at 11am.

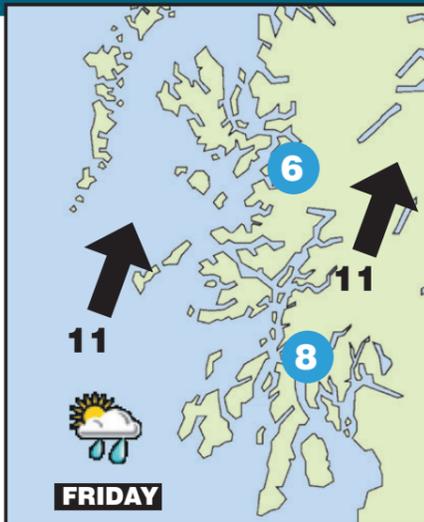
## Weather

**Thursday** Light rain  
Winds moderate, north easterly  
Temperatures 4C to 6°C

**Friday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Increasing chance of rain  
Winds increasing north easterly  
Temperatures 1°C to 7°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
**Oban to Barra/South Uist**  
Moderate  
**Oban to Coll/Tiree**  
Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 21, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	2.1	14.17	2.7	19.15	1.9	pm	***	***
Thur	06.54	2.1	14.17	2.7	19.15	1.9	20.29	1.7	
Fri	02.08	2.8	09.23	1.9	15.10	2.9	20.29	1.7	
Sat	03.09	3.1	10.02	1.7	15.48	1.1	20.10	3.6	
Sun	03.50	3.3	10.32	1.4	16.22	3.4	22.12	1.1	
Mon	04.27	3.6	11.02	1.1	16.56	3.6	22.49	0.9	
Tues	05.03	3.8	11.32	0.9	17.28	3.8	23.25	0.6	
Wed	05.36	4.0	12.02	0.7	17.57	3.9	***	***	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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