

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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75 pence



Get your boat back in the water



Ian is Oban Pipe Band pin-up for Cash for Kilts

Don't forget to put your clocks forward this weekend



Also inside this week: Bid4Oban business breakfast • Rockfield win cricket festival • Oban couple's earthquake scare

Police investigate 'unexplained' death on Luig

POLICE confirmed they are investigating an unexplained death of a woman on the Isle of Luig. The woman, thought to be in her mid to late 60s, was found dead at her home last Wednesday evening.

Police were present on the island investigating the incident for a number of days. An area around a house in the village of Toberonochy was cordoned off and forensic officers from Glasgow were called to the scene.

Police said: 'There was an unexplained death on the island and a report has now been made to the procurator fiscal.'

PM may make 'last minute' visit to Oban

THE PRIME Minister has said he is interested in visiting Oban to see the Big Society at work.

Despite not being able to name a specific date Mr Cameron said: 'Any visit I make would be last minute.'

'Should a relevant opportunity arise I will be in touch.'

Pontoon will need planning approval

OBAN Bay Marine (OBM) will have to make a fresh planning application for material changes to a proposed transit marina, Argyll and Bute Council have stated.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'As indicated to OBM by the Planning Authority, planning permission and listed building consent applications are required for the proposed 'material' changes to the previous application.'

'The reason planning permission is required is that the revised proposal constitutes a 'material' change to that which was approved under the previous application.'

Baking for Japan

THERE will be a bake sale at the Co-operative in Oban's Soroba Road next Thursday between 9am-3pm in aid of the Japanese Tsunami Fund.



What's in the box? Carradale Drama Group opened the Lorn Drama Festival on Tuesday with their performance of A Little Box of Oblivion. Pictured are, from left: Mary MacAlister Hall (Doom Merchant), Sue Stansfield (Neurotic), Joanne Paterson (Amateur Sleuth), Donald MacAlister Hall (Cool Guy) and Pauline Burrows (Woman). 15_112dramat

Nights of drama in Lorn

LAUGHS aplenty are to be had at the Corran Halls this week, as the 14th Lorn Drama Festival has a distinctly comedy theme.

Eleven amateur drama groups from across the area will put on one-act plays at the competition, themed Reasons to be Cheerful, which concludes on Friday after four days of performances.

Judging the performances will be David Bennet, a member of the Scottish Association of

Speech and Drama Adjudicators (SASDA) and two time former winner of the British One Act Play Festival, as both a director and an actor. He will also give each group feedback on their performances while they are on stage.

The vice-president of the festival, Robin Banks, urged locals to go along and find out what the recent fuss over one-act plays is all about. He said: 'It's become

very popular, just look at the Oran Mor in Glasgow with their Play, a Pie and a Pint.

'I think there is still potential for further growth. People are beginning to get the feeling that its worth going along to these things because they are entertaining. This festival is important because it brings together people from across our area. We've got amateur dramatic groups here from Campbeltown, others from

places like Appin, Lochgilphead, Dalmally and Taynult.

'It's going to be a thoroughly entertaining week.'

The secretary of the festival, Martyn Gibson, said: 'Regulars will know how good the standard always is from our local companies and this year promises to be just as good.'

Tickets for the Lorn Drama Festival are available from the Corran Halls box office.

Kilmore housing development gains approval

OUTLINE planning permission has been granted for up to 22 houses at Barran, Kilmore increasing the 'minor settlement' by 60 per cent.

Despite objections from 24 of the 32 houses in the area and various concerns raised by local councillors - the area had been previously earmarked for development and a Preferred Development Area designation could not be over-ruled.

At a discretionary hearing of

the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing (PPSL) committee on Tuesday in Kilmore Village Hall more than 45 people heard the decision of the seven-strong committee.

Developer John MacGregor of Highland House Developments applied to build the 1.5 storey houses next to a 1970s development of 36 houses.

Mr MacGregor said: 'This project will give employment to 30 or 40 people and bring £4-5 million into the local economy.'

'I am committed to upgrading the road into the development.'

Community David Whyte, chairman of the community council, said: 'This issue has been well aired in the local community and people are consistently against it.'

'There are no expressions of support from residents. 'There may be 80 letters of support but they are all from outwith the area and by using a standard letter.

'This development will

overwhelm us. There are no local facilities and a limited bus service.'

However, PPSL chairman Daniel Kelly said: 'There are no material conditions we have heard today that would allow us to refuse this application.'

Councillors rejected an amendment asking Mr MacGregor to build six affordable houses at Barran.

It is likely that the affordable housing will now be built in Stevenson Street in Oban

Cash boost for Argyll

Extra £2.5 million will not go to saving schools on closure list

A BUDGET boost from the Scottish government means Argyll and Bute Council is better off by £2.455million.

However, the council's spokesperson on education has told The Oban Times that the additional funding that has been allocated has nothing to do with the schools estate and will not alter the plight of those that are under threat of closure.

Education secretary Mike Russell, who was at a meeting between finance minister John Swinney and representatives of the council, is demanding the money is spent on keeping schools open.

After the high level meeting, last Thursday cabinet ministers, leading elected members of the council and the chief executive's office brokered a deal to bring half the funding originally lost back to the council.

The Scottish government previ-

... it is my understanding that the money has nothing to do with the school estate

council education spokesperson Ellen Morton

ously announced that Argyll and Bute Council's annual grant would be cut by £5.6million, the biggest cut in Scotland, a further £1.31m was negotiated by Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

The agreement now reduces the cut to £1.8 million, which is the Scottish average cut.

Mr Russell said: 'There is now

absolutely no justification for closing rural schools in Argyll and Bute. I expect to hear an announcement immediately that the school closure programme has been dropped.'

Councillor Ellen Morton, education spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We went asking for the money and the government ministers listened very carefully to our arguments.'

'I was very impressed with Mr Swinney. He seemed to understand our concerns.'

'We all worked very positively to sort this out and £2.455 million is a great outcome for Argyll and Bute. The money will be with us in the next few days.'

'However it is my understanding that the money was to replace supporting people funding and nothing to do with the school estate.'

Dr Douglas McKenzie, from Barcaldine and a member of Argyll Rural Schools Network, said: 'We have never received revised figures for school closures, but it seems to me that the closing of schools will never generate huge savings for the council.'

'Saying that the council needs to close schools to save money from the budget is a red herring.'

'I believe the council have made finance an argument, but there are very little savings to be had from the school estate.'

'Acheleven for example is a viable building - the problem is clearly that parents are not happy with something at the school. If the cause of the problem was looked at then perhaps parents and children would return to the school. In the long run it is a school capacity that we will need. I do not think that the council can close the school under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act. 'Closing schools will not save money.'

Dalmally hall doors open

DALMALLY'S £1million village hall finally opens to the public this weekend after legal complications over sewer works were resolved.

A completion certificate was issued last Friday after permission was granted for sewer pipes to run across land owned by a local property developer.

The news brings to an end 13-years of hard graft and dedication from the directors of the Dalmally Community Company, and local frustration at the prolonged delay, with the building itself largely completed by contractors TSL in September last year.

The hall's first public event is an open day between 12pm-4pm this Saturday and Sunday.

The chairman of the Dalmally Community Company, Kenny

Black, said: 'There were very few hitches and the project ran increasingly ahead of schedule right up until the final stages in September 2010 - a credit to all involved. The problem with the right of servitude for our sewer pipe has been overcome, and we are at last open for the community to enjoy.'

'I would like to thank all our many funders who have made this possible. I would also like to pay tribute to the directors of Dalmally Community Company who have struggled for about 13-years to bring this outcome about; in particular John Burke, our secretary and treasurer.'

The next stage in the development is for the construction of a new sports field and changing facilities adjacent to the building.

£1.5 million goes straight down the pan

Argyll 'state of the art' new water treatment plant is 'complete failure'

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

AFTER spending £1.5million on Bonawe's 'state-of-the-art' water treatment plant it is to be replaced by Scottish Water after it has been deemed a total failure.

£18,500 per household

The utility operator will this week rip out the botched system that was supposed to treat sewage with crystals and replace it with a tried and tested submerged aerated filter.

The failure, it seems, is down to the fact that the 80 houses in Bonawe could never provide the levels

of consistent use the plant requires to operate. The project is estimated to have cost £18,500 per household in Bonawe.

News that it is set to be replaced will be welcomed by frustrated locals, who have waited 20 months for the facility to start working, but there is anger that so much money could be spent on a system that could never succeed in a community the size of Bonawe in the first place.

The chair of Ardschatan Community Council, Iain MacDonald, is unable to hide his anger. He said: 'There are around 80 homes in Bonawe so it has cost at least £18,500 per household. That's not taking account of the cost to replace it.'

'It's so loopy - you just couldn't make this stuff up. It has been a complete failure.'

'It was installed as part of a European directive to make the water cleaner all across Scotland, which in itself is no bad thing - but only if it works.'

'This kind of thing should have been prevented at the design stage. It should only have cost, at most, a few hundred thousand pounds.'

He said the company had been profligate and that was down to public bodies not being fully accountable for their actions.

He said: 'Heads will never roll for this level of incompetence. What they need to do is identify where the problem is and deal with it.'

'The problem is they don't have real world financial sense and that's why we're in this mess.'

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'Such issues can occur during projects and the action we are taking is the correct approach. This significant project will deliver a new public waste water system for Bonawe, which will help to improve the natural environment of Loch Etive. 'Allowances for such changes in the design process are made at programme level in the funding for every Scottish Water project across Scotland.'

'These changes will not impact on Scottish Water customer charges, which are now the third lowest in the UK.'

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Cock-a-Leekie Soup served with a Crusty Bread Roll
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Roast Rump of Beef served with a Pan Jus and Yorkshire Pudding
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New Loch Lomond map names deemed 'insensitive'

Park authority forced to withdraw 3,000 copies of new map following complaints

CARTOGRAPHERS who substituted the names of areas in Loch Lomond with their own names have been described as 'particularly insensitive' by Loch Awe Watch Scheme's co-ordinator. The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Park Authority has had to withdraw and destroy the 3,000 maps it produced earlier this month after complaints from locals, who said they'd never heard of places such as 'Cameron's Shallows' or 'Archibald's Abyss.'

"From a safety issue, you wonder why they would allow this map to be released."

**Loch Awe Watch Scheme coordinator
Iain MacKinnon**

'Giro Bay' also caused offence, with locals describing the colloquialism as 'derogatory.' The authority's CEO, Fiona Logan, said they regretted the 'error of judgement' in the initial print run for the map, adding that the use of the cartographers' names in the map was: 'a common cartographer tradition, we appreciate it is felt to be inappropriate in this instance.'

She went on to say that the map was 'the first comprehensive navigational aid for 150 years.' However, the man who co-ordinates the Loch Awe Watch Scheme, Iain MacKinnon, believes the decision to release the maps meant as navigational aids with unfamiliar names should never have been taken, especially given recent events at Loch Awe highlighted the need for safety on inland waters.

He has also questioned the park's reasoning for issuing the maps with the new names in the first place, particularly given that the Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) into the deaths of four men on Loch Awe in 2009 is soon to be concluded.

He said: 'From a safety issue, you wonder why they would even allow this map to have been released.'

'I just don't see the reason for changing the names. It would create issues. Say if there was a visitor to the area and they've come across an emergency and the only aid was one of these maps. The emergency services would have difficulty identifying the area when speed is essential.'

'It's particularly insensitive and unsafe, because the FAI outcome isn't published yet. It might have been wise for them to hold off and wait for that as, while it's for Loch Awe, the findings could have wide reaching implications for all inland water bodies in Scotland, including Loch Lomond.'

'As for cartographers' tradition, I've never come across that in modern times. Maybe they did it in the 1800s, but nobody would do it now.'

Meanwhile, board members on the park authority are said to be upset that the maps were released with the new names, but admitted that the staff responsible would face no disciplinary action.

Lochside camping ban comes into force for summer

OVERNIGHT camping on the east side of Loch Lomond is to be banned this summer when new bylaws come into force. From June 1, anyone caught camping in the area between Drymen and Rowardennan could face prosecution.

The bylaws, approved last week, will only be enforceable from March 1 to the end of October.

Anti-social behaviour
The new restriction is just one of a number of solutions being introduced by Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and its partners to improve the quality of the area for the millions of people who visit each year, and for the communities living on the east side of the loch.

To limit any displacement, the authority has started work on a new informal campsite, complete with composting toilets, at Salloch, funded by the East Loch Lomond Management Group, which includes National Park and Forestry Commission Scotland. Staff from both organisations will manage the site, and visi-

tors will be able to book pitches in advance.

Improvements are also being made to Rowardennan car park at the foot of Ben Lomond and at Balmaha pier, the local hub for water bus and ferry services.

The National Park visitor centre at Balmaha is also set to be refurbished, and clearer public information for road users will be put in place. This builds on existing successes in the area, such as, increased patrolling through Operation Ironworks, a multi-agency policing initiative and better traffic management.

Environment minister, Roseanna Cunningham, said: 'East Loch Lomond has come under increasing pressure from litter, campfires and anti-social behaviour over recent years which has threatened to spoil the visitor experience for the many thousands who travel to the area each year.'

'These measures are designed to protect and preserve the beauty of the area whilst still providing access for responsible campers.'



Loch Lomond's 'Bonnie Banks' hit the headlines this week as the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Park Authority has to withdraw thousands of maps. A camping ban will also be introduced to reduce litter and anti-social behaviour

Islay leads world in tidal technology

ISLAY is set to reap 'significant' benefits from renewable energy after approval for a £40million tidal power in the deep water channel between Port Askaig and Jura.

The world's first array of its kind, the 10 turbine, 10MW development by ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) in the Sound of Islay will provide enough electricity for over 5,000 homes - enough to power the whole island.

The array is likely to be installed in 2013, pending successful testing in Orkney of the HSI000 turbines developed by Norwegian firm, Hammerfest Strøm AS, partly owned by SPR's parent company, Iberdrola.

The plan was approved by Marine Scotland, the directorate of Scottish Government responsible for the management of Scotland's seas, last week. The project is being delivered in partnership with Islay Energy Trust (IET). Its chairman, Philip Maxwell, says the array will deliver tangible benefits to the island.

He said: 'The approval is a tribute to everyone in the project group who have worked very hard to help deliver this over the last two or three years.'

'It is important because this is the first array of its kind to be delivered anywhere in the world. IET have had a very close relationship with SPR in this and the



By 2013, 10 turbines on the seabed in the Sound of Islay could be producing enough green energy to fuel all of the island's homes

first consented tidal array in the world is a great achievement.'

The island will reap other rewards from the development, in the way of jobs and a share of profits from the turbines to be reinvested into community projects.

Drinks giant, Diageo, one of the largest distillers on Islay, has also signed a commercial agreement to use electricity from the project for eight distilleries and maltings.

Keith Anderson, chief executive of ScottishPower Renewables, said: 'This announcement moves the whole marine renewables industry forward in Scotland and the UK. It is a first in terms of Marine Scotland approval for a tidal project in Scotland, and also a world first for an array of tidal power machines.'

'The understanding we develop from Islay will be essential in delivering the larger planned projects in the Pentland Firth.'

Cabinet secretary for finance and sustainable growth, John Swinney, said: 'ScottishPower Renewables' array will work in harmony with the environment and use the power of the tides in the Sound of Islay to generate enough green energy to power double the number of homes on Islay.'

'There is simply nothing like it consented anywhere else in the world.'

Brother and sister from Lochgilphead recognised for services to carriage driving in Scotland



Double celebration: brother and sister Sheana Fraser and Ewan MacInnes pictured after their presentations

THE FOUNDER, chairman and director of the Scottish Carriage Driving Association Ltd, Ewan MacInnes, recently received a presentation at their AGM, which was held in Doune.

The inscribed crystal decanter was given in recognition of his service to the association since its inception 25 years ago.

SCDA organizes competitive eventing for horse drawn carriage drivers in Scotland and covers all aspects from grassroots beginners' events, to the five star national flagship four-day bonanza at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh at the end of May.

The afternoon meeting concluded in time for Ewan, who is also a keen fiddler, to make a dash for Fort William to take part in the 25th anniversary concert of the Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society.

By pure coincidence, on the evening of the same day, a presentation of an inscribed crystal bowl was made to his sister Sheana Fraser in recognition of her work both in establishing the society and conducting it since its inauguration in 1985.

Ewan and Sheana along with their sisters, Barbara and Mary are originally from Glenmartin, Lochgilphead, and continue the family tradition of playing an active part in the community.

Weekend trains affected by maintenance work

MAINTENANCE work on the Oban to Glasgow railway line will continue over this weekend after beginning the work last Sunday.

Network Rail is carrying out minor engineering works, track renewal and will be cutting back vegetation on March 26 - 27 between Crianlarich and Dumbarton.

During these times the train will run between Oban and Crianlarich and a bus will transport passengers to Glasgow.

Scotrail had posters in Glasgow's Queen Street informing passengers of the maintenance work last Sunday, which shut off the line between Crianlarich and Oban.

Oban man admits assault charge

AN OBAN man pleaded guilty to assault at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Stuart Ferguson, aged 20, of 126 George Street, Oban, admitted assaulting a man at Station Square, Oban on July 16, last year.

Ferguson was fined £225 and ordered to pay £250 compensation to his victim.

Hotel award winners go on Youtube

AN INTERVIEW with the Isle of Eriska's David Morton and the owners of the Lochleven Seafood Cafe have been published on YouTube following their recent wins at the Scottish Restaurant Awards.

To find the video, log on to Youtube.com and search for fivepmdining.

New company to bid for Oban's 'White Building'

A COMMUNITY Enterprise company is in the progress of being formed and registered as a not for profit company in Oban.

Named CEO (Community Enterprise Oban) has already registered an expression of interest and will make an offer to purchase/lease the White Building from Argyll and Bute Council.

In the event that the offer was accepted, CEO would lease space to MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust to operate the Community Charity Shop and within six months the entire exterior of the building would be painted and made presentable by volunteers.

Graham MacQueen said: 'The intention would be to keep the charity shop for a period of three to five years to fund the re-roofing and internal refurbishment of the building.'

'Thereafter the building would be put to the best possible community use.'

Oban man caught with cannabis

AN OBAN man took cannabis because it helped to deal with his anxiety and depression, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Joseph Devaney, aged 34, of 16 Columbia Court, was found in possession of the drug when police officers stopped and searched him at Station Square, Oban on October 22, last year.

The court heard Devaney fully cooperated with the police, entered a guilty plea at the earliest opportunity and apologised to the court for his actions. He was fined £80.

Survey reveals Oban's stay-at-home generation

A SURVEY of 11-26 year-olds living in Oban rate it as a fairly good or better place to live where they feel safe.

The survey conducted by Young Scot shows Oban's young people believe there is a lack of affordable housing within the town with too many areas having a bad reputation.

However the survey also reveals that young people fear leaving home because of bills such as council tax and utilities.

The majority of youngsters were content at home and did not intend to look for a place of their own to live.

Woman admonished after fire at home

A WOMAN who set fire to her home was admonished when she appeared before Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Anne Buchanan of 24 Kerrera Terrace, Dumollie, Oban, pled guilty to wilfully setting fire to two cushions in the house on December 26, 2009.

In passing sentence Sheriff Ferguson told the 45 year-old that he was pleased she had taken help offered to her.

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Compromise in action for Tighnabruaich and Strachur as GP opts out

OUT OF hours GP medical cover for the villages of Tighnabruaich and Strachur will be provided from east Loch Fyne - NHS Highland has confirmed.

On-call service
A group of both local GPs and locum doctors have started providing medical care at evenings and weekends from in and

around Strachur last week after Dr Carle, of the Kyles Practice ceased to provide the doctor on call service.

The announcement comes after residents of both villages were outraged at NHS Highland's proposal to provide medical cover from Cowal Community Hospital - 23 miles away.

People were told at a public information event last month that a locum doctor would operate from Dunoon as GPs from Strachur, Lochgoilhead and Tighnabruaich were unable to provide the service seven days a week.

But now, as locum doctors will be based in accommodation in

Strachur, local service has been reinstated.

Health spokeswoman for Strachur and District Community Council, Heather Grier, said: 'I am reasonably satisfied with the medical cover for Strachur, and the outcome is better than what I expected. But I remain concerned for Tighnabruaich as it

will not have an on call GP based in the village full time, which is what they are used to.'

Heather added that GPs should not be given the option of opting out of providing an out of hours service, especially in rural areas. The current GP contracts 'instead of putting the patient first, put the doctor first, she said.'

NHS Highland locality manager for Cowal and Bute, Viv Smith, said: 'We can confirm that the service will be starting this week and that the communities will be served by local GPs and locum GPs who between them will provide a seven day a week out of hours service for residents.'

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Fashion retailer returns to Oban

FASHION and homewares retailer, McEwens, is to return to Oban after taking over the lease of the former Oban Mica premises in George Street. The shop, which will be known as McEwens of Oban, is set to create five new jobs in the 3,000sq ft store. McEwens used to trade from Corran Esplanade some years ago, when it was known as McEwens of Perth, but left not long after the premises was flooded. Director of the family firm, Georgina Bullough, said: 'We looked at lots of towns throughout Scotland and decided that it was right to return to Oban. We're delighted to be coming back.' There is currently no date for the opening of the business.

Lorn Lions raise more than £1,000 for Japanese

OBAN and Lorn Lions Club raised more than £1,000 on Saturday afternoon for the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. The club members were delighted with the response from the public.

Tenants' project reaches milestone

AN ARGYLL project that helps tenants collect previously unclaimed benefits has reached another milestone. The FISH Argyll project has now been brought in more than £1m for more than 800 tenants of ACHA, West Highland Housing Association and Dunbritton Housing Association, who were unaware they were eligible to claim benefits they were entitled to. Since the project began in March 2010, four Welfare Rights Officers have helped tenants to claim benefits for a variety of circumstances including carers for family members, those with disabilities and a large number of very elderly tenants who were unaware that they could be in receipt of additional benefits.

Tiree Tech Wave heralded as success

HACKERS, computer programmers, scientists and robotics experts gathered on Tiree at the weekend; for the Tiree Tech Wave. Hosted by island resident Alan Dix, who works as a computing professor at Lancaster University, the event focused on contemporary challenges facing technology and science, as well as hosting a number of games and educational events designed to build interest in circuit boards and computing. Participants travelled from all over the UK to attend the event, with one coming from Malaysia to take part. They included one Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and one Fellow of the British Computer Society. Alan said he was delighted with the inaugural event, which he hopes will be held ever spring and autumn from now on.

Fishing fund

HIGHLANDS and Islands fishing communities are to benefit from a new £1.5million fund to support projects that help locals. The Scottish Government is inviting councils to set up Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) to consider applications.

Argyll and Bute MSP role was 'time of my life' says Mather



Jim Mather

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Jim Mather has ceased to be the constituency's representative as of yesterday (Wednesday) when he retired from front-line politics. Mr Mather has been constituency MSP for the past four years but was a Highlands and Islands list MSP for the four years previous to that and served as the Scottish Government's Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism.

Mr Mather said: 'It has been a fast four years.' The 64 year old said he had worked flat out for eight years, adding: 'Lest that looks like a plea for sympathy, I am going to tell you that this was the time of my life, where I used the MSP status that you gave me in order to work with my Oban office staff and my parliamentary colleagues to make things happen, make connections and get

things done for the people of Argyll and Bute.' Mr Mather said his intention as MSP was to bring communities and businesses together and establish collaboration. But when asked about the main issues brought to him by constituents, he replied: 'Clearly there were many issues around schools, roads, ferries, fuel costs, etc - but the predominant one was the economic wellbeing

of the area and its potential to create more jobs and attract people to the area, especially those who were educated in Argyll and Bute.' Speaking about Argyll's economic prospects, Mr Mather remains positive. He said: 'For me, I remain totally convinced that Argyll and Bute can do very much better than previous trends and the recent recession would have us believe and I remain

enthusiastically open to helping that potential to be realised.' Asked if he had any regrets from his tenure as MSP, he replies candidly: 'I regret that I was not more vigorous in confronting those who choose to be negative and who refuse to collaborate for the common good. 'But then they never leave a permanent mark, they only delay the inevitable adoption of what works.'

Local affordable housing crisis looms on horizon

3,500 families and single people currently on ACHA awaiting list alone

ARGYLL and Bute's largest housing association says there will be an affordable housing crisis if the Scottish Government cannot find a way to fund new builds. The warning from Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, came in the same month the council agreed to bail out the government by providing a £7million loan to meet a funding shortfall for affordable housing projects throughout the county. With over 3,500 families and

REPORT
by
STEVEN FLANAGAN
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single people currently on his own association's waiting list alone, Mr MacGregor said the situation must be a major election issue. His view has been backed by other housing associations throughout the area, saying that not only is affordable housing important for families, but for the economy as a whole.

Mr MacGregor said: 'We are sleepwalking towards a housing crisis. Our communities need affordable homes. Politicians need to recognise that and respond to the challenge before it is too late. 'I have worked in housing for 26 years and I cannot recall central government in the past ever having to ask other organisations to effectively pay for the state's contribution to fund the affordable new build housing programme. 'This, along with government proposals to reduce housing association grant to £40,000 per home from the previous £68,000

level poses a real threat to the ability of housing associations to build homes for those in housing need.' Mr MacGregor said that the

demands being placed on housing associations were being exacerbated by the ongoing financial crisis, with more and more first-time buyers coming onto waiting lists because they cannot get access to mortgages. The chief executive of the West Highland Housing Association, Lesley MacInnes, said: 'We would urge everyone to consider current investment plans and the importance of housing. 'Affordable housing as it's not just about building houses, it's about building a sustainable economy.

'If you don't have houses you can't fill jobs and you can't have jobs without houses. It is a virtuous circle. We are happy to support any call for more investment and commitment for affordable houses.' Among those projects saved by Argyll and Bute Council's rescue package were ACHA developments in Campbeltown and Dunoon, and an affordable housing project in Lochgilphead. The £7million loan will accrue interest at the rate of 2.98 per cent until the government can pay it back.

Islay man took metal bar to policeman's car

AN ISLAY man who smashed up a car belonging to one of the island's policemen was fined £250 and ordered to pay £350 compensation when he appeared before Campbeltown Sheriff Court. Colin Malcolm Campbell, aged 35, of 3 Bruach Gorm, Port Charlotte, had previously pleaded guilty damaging the car with a metal wrench on January 27. Sheriff Ruth Anderson told Campbell: 'We have been here before and your behaviour has really got to stop.'

Oban gets new town centre constable



OBAN town centre has a new dedicated police officer. Constable Carly MacCallum took up her six-month stint in the post last week and is keen to get to know shopkeepers and shoppers. The job will allow Constable Carly to drop in and meet people in the town centre as well as give out advice on safety and issues such as shoplifting. 16. 112towncentre

Polish chef admits carrying knife

A POLISH chef admitted being in possession of a knife in public when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. Cezary Leszczynski, 28, of Stevenson Street, Oban was found by police officers in Drimvargie Road at 3.40am on March 20, this year following an anonymous tip off. Leszczynski had sentence deferred for reports and was released on bail.



Oban pipe major Euan Dewar, left, and pipe band pin-up Ian Jordan launch the Cash for Kilts appeal. 15. 121an01

Ian is Oban Pipe Band pin-up for Cash for Kilts

Large rise in interest creates need for more uniforms

OBAN Pipe Band's Ian Jordan found himself staring at a familiar face as he helped launch the band's Cash for Kilts appeal. The promotional poster for the appeal, launched on Saturday, features Ian in full kilt outfit, with an indicator of how much each element costs the band to buy. Increase in band numbers Pipe Major Euan Dewar explained the appeal was launched following a large increase in band members, including several who have had to leave Oban High School Pipe Band due to age restriction. A host of new uniforms and six new drums are having to be purchased at a cost in excess of £10,500. Euan said: 'We have also welcomed a number

of experienced pipers and drummers from the Cowal area, as well of some of their own young members, which means we once again have a competitive band. 'Having never had a big sponsor, fundraising will be a challenge. However, Oban Pipe Band has represented the town for more than 90 years, so many new young people joining will ensure its survival as it heads towards its centenary.' While several fundraising events are planned, the main event will be a marathon sponsored play held on April 16 in the Skippinish Ceilidh House when the band members and guest pipers and drummers will play non-stop for 10 hours. Sponsors for individual players or donations can now be left at Oban Music or Connel Post Office.

Appin sports project gets green light

A PLAN to build an all-weather community sports pitch in Appin took a leap forward after councillors gave it the go-ahead. At last week's planning meeting councillors unanimously agreed to the planning permission for an all-weather pitch and lighting next to Strath of Appin Primary School. School head teacher Gerry Boyle, who is also chairman of the group behind the proposal, Appin Community Sport and Leisure Association (ACSLA), welcomed the news. He said: 'We are incredibly pleased to get to this stage, although we still have fundraising to do.'

The process has been a long and drawn-out one for the ACSLA members but Gerry says they are hopeful of having everything in place to start building later this year. He added: 'A lot of the older members of the community, as well as the younger ones, said they would use it, so I think this will be a tremendous community facility.' Once the pitch is built, ACSLA intends to appoint a sports co-ordinator over a two-year period. Gerry added: 'The aim of this role will be to train local coaches, so there is a legacy of people with the skills to take sport forward.'

North Connel 'studicons' gain planning consent

PLANNING consent has been granted for three timber cabins which will be housed in garden at North Connel. Mr and Mrs G Nicholshy had their planning application for three 'studicons' accepted by members of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing committee last Wednesday. The cabins, which are intended for holiday letting purposes, will be built within the couple's back garden.

Oban councillor Neil MacKay said: 'I'm all for tourism and you won't find anyone more pro-tourism than me but this is not the right place for this sort of application.' But planning officer Richard Kerr told councillors that the cabins were 'well-contained within the property'. Councillor Robin Currie said: 'This is a straight-forward application and I welcome an application that is so enterprising.'

Kintyre community can buy base for £1

A NEW chapter in the history of Kintyre has begun with the successful buyout of the former Machrihanish Airbase. For the independently-valued price of £1, Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC) can now buy the base, which stretches to more than 1,000 acres and is home to Campbeltown Airport and the Skykon wind turbine tower factory. 'This is an incredible legacy for the kids of Kintyre, for the future of this area,' said Ian Wardrop, chairman of MACC. 'This is arguably the largest and most complex buy-out ever. 'The first time that a second ballot was required, all with an amazing 94 per cent support of the community members who voted and the many organisations and individuals who gave their time, effort and financial support to achieve this unprecedented result.' Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham formally granted the company the right to buy the former RAF base last Thursday. 'Considerable work remains to be done in tackling the liabilities on this site but I am confident that, with support from various public and private organisations, the site will be put right and the community will be able to reap rewards for its efforts,' she said.

Senior citizens invited to afternoon of entertainment

OBAN's senior citizens are being invited to a live music and entertainment afternoon on Friday (March 25) to be held in the town's Atlantis Leisure Centre. Talented Oban High School pupils will entertain pensioners while tea and scones will be served at the Super Jam event. All are welcome from 2pm-4pm. Transport can be arranged by calling 564848.

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BID4Oban Business Breakfast

All Oban businesses are cordially invited to join us at Soroba House Hotel Tomorrow, Friday March 25th at 8am - 9.30am

Complementary Coffee and Bacon Rolls
Special Guest Gordon Brown from Clarkston

Come and hear about BID4Oban. Oban's plans for Oban. Please bring your invitation & completed BID4Oban survey - your ideas will be very welcome.

RSVP to reserve your place Telephone 01631 720247 info@bid4oban.co.uk For further details see page 4

Mull Lines

MULL AND Iona Community Trust (MICT) have a new general manager - Moray Finch.

Moving himself and his family from Yorkshire to take up the position he is quietly observing and learning the many functions of the community trust.

Moray said: 'As a family we had already decided to move to Mull. We had put our own house in Yorkshire on the market and had bought a plot of land on Mull.

'I was a project engineering director for nine years before this job and in my spare time I worked as a volunteer on a community project.'

The project, The Hillside Rural Activities Park was officially opened on Sunday June 22, 2008 between the villages of Borrowby and Knayton, North Yorkshire. The park was the vision of Moray and a group of volunteers who wanted to improve the facilities for the village, its annual agricultural show and Scout group. Covering 28 acres, the park has a full size football pitch, a seven-wicket cricket pitch and three all weather tennis courts, providing a home for various organisations.

Moray continued: 'I really enjoyed taking forward the project in Yorkshire so I was delighted when I found out that this job, working with the community, was available on Mull.'

Moray says he will be driving forward the social enterprise aspect of his work.

He said: 'In conjunction with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) we will be working on developing social enterprise - there are people on the island who already run businesses who would be placed in our new building in Craignure to deliver that. There are many new businesses that could also be developed.'

Moray is joined on Mull with a 21-year-old son Tom, who is currently at University, 10-year-old Zac who now attends Dervaig Primary School and wife Carol who is a self-employed technical translator from German into English.

MIDWIFERY on Mull is expecting to grow and grow with a new scheme for care on the island.

With the retrieval of staff and other staff now concentrating on either district nurse or practice nurse duties Oban, Lorn and Islands maternity unit decided to look at a sustainable way of delivering service to women on the island.

Jaki Lambert, lead midwife, said: 'We have had an increase in the number of women from Mull and Iona who have delivered here in Oban. We have already starting taking classes on the island - including an aquanatal class at the Isle of Mull Hotel. The midwives are also offering hypno-birthing classes to conquer

'We have assigned four midwives to the island - they will be making daily visits and keeping in touch with women and families.

'It is a very exciting service women will get the best of practice from dedicated midwives who may be able to take them all the way through from pre-conception to post-delivery.

'If women are low risk then there is no reason why they cannot choose to come to Oban to deliver or of course they can choose to deliver at home if they are low risk.'

The new service means that early scans will take place in Oban as will ante natal screening. Women who would like a discussion about their options should contact the midwifery team on 01631 788911.

IONA'S newest sheep have delivered their first triplets.

Beatrice, the Zwartble, gave birth early last week much to the surprise of her owner.

Iain Dougall, who received the sheep as a retirement gift, had believed the ewe was expecting twins but is delighted to have increased his flock. Iain received four of the striking black and white striped sheep breed for his retirement. Each ewe was scanned as carrying twins.

A STAR from the Isle of Mull will take part in a young director's first feature film.

'Blooded' will be released in UK cinemas by Revolver Entertainment on April 1.

The film tells the story of a group of hunters being themselves hunted by an extreme animal rights group on the Isle of Mull.

The film is a thriller about the politics of extremism, set against the hunting debate. Michael Deeley, who produced Bludge Runner, Deer Hunter and the Italian Job, called it 'a genuine British must-see'.

A trailer of the film can be seen at www.bloodedmovie.com

A LITTLE time can make a big difference in the life of a cat.

Volunteers on the Isle of Mull are now required to help with the growing number of felines. A Cats Protection League spokeswoman said: 'If you really want to get close to the cats and kittens in our care, there are always several hands-on roles available. You could help with trapping feral cats for our trap, neuter and release programme.' Contact the Branch Support Unit on 080 800 191919 (option 1) for more details.

Former British Ambassador says 'Always Argyll'

A FORMER British Ambassador who has worked all across the world and seen sights most can dream about has set his heart on retiring to Argyll.

Alasdair MacDermott's 40 year career with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has taken him to countries such as Afghanistan, Japan, Turkey, Namibia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka; seeing sights that inspire films, books and documentaries.

But for Alasdair, who was born in Glasgow in 1945 before being brought up alongside Loch Earn in Perthshire, his and his family's spiritual home is, as the song says, 'Always Argyll'.

He said: 'Why return to Argyll? My father and mother are buried at Port Appin, my sister lives there, and as a MacDermott I feel Campbell country is mine.

'Another sister and I spent some time recently walking in Glen Lyon where we believe the family - MacDiarmid - came from, before splitting up in the late 1700s or early 1800s; some going to County Antrim, some to Edinburgh.

'Now my wife, Gudrun, who is German, and I want to try and rent a property where we can settle in and enjoy the peace, beauty and friendliness of Argyll.

'But I hope also to do something useful when we come to Scotland, not just retire. My wife is an artist but I need to keep myself busy.'

During his work with the FCO, Alasdair became fluent in five foreign languages, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Turkish, and can get by in five more, Russian, Sinhala, Hungarian, Afrikaans and Persian, giving more than an insight into his career path.

He has more than a few stories to tell from that time.

He said: 'My first posting was Kabul, Afghanistan, 1970-71. I lived on the British Embassy compound, just outside the town.

There was still a King in power and we could travel all over the country. I did.

'I saw the great Buddhas at Bamyan and stood on the head of one before the Taliban blew them up.

'I also travelled to the far north on the Soviet border, sat with my back to the Soviet Union, on a hill, looking down towards Pakistan, Afghanistan, over my left shoulder up to China.

'I spent eight years in Tokyo, ending up as press officer for visits by Mrs Thatcher and Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales.

'I spent three years in Ghana,

Gordon Brown bids for breakfast meeting in Oban

GORDON Brown is to be a guest at BID4Oban's business breakfast tomorrow (Friday) at Soroba House, Oban between 8am - 9.30am.

No - not that Gordon Brown! This Mr Brown, who has no connection to the former prime minister, comes with a wealth of Business Improvement District (BID) experience having guided Clarkston in Glasgow through to a successful ballot. This entailed working closely with the East Renfrew council and liaising with all the business' locally and he is a widely regarded as a fine speaker.

He is currently preparing the emerging Milngavie BID and considering a future Giffnock venture with the council.

Graham MacQueen, BID4Oban chairman, said: 'The business breakfast is a great way for the business community to get together and discuss the way forward.

'This is one of the most exciting projects going on in the town.'

In a further boost to the group's ambitions, businessmen in Dunoon and Sandbank, and Mull are following in the Oban group's footsteps by setting up a Business Improvement Area in the towns.

There are 10 BIDs up and running in Scotland with another 14, including PA23 BID and Mull BID, at the development stage.

BID activities can encompass all sorts of activities and areas such as Bathgate, Falkirk and Clarkston have already undertaken projects such as events to improve footfall, pedestrianisation, taxi marshalling, signage and tourist promotions.

Greenock man attacked woman in Oban

A GREENOCK man who was seen on close circuit television (CCTV) attacking a woman in Oban has been placed on probation for one year and ordered to take part in alcohol counselling.

Aaron MacBryde was also sentenced to 100 hours of community service after pleading guilty to assault when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard that MacBryde, of 10 Kestrel Crescent, had been visiting Oban when he attacked the woman, pulling her to the ground by her hair, on Dunollie Road, on October 23 last year.

Drunk woman frightened people

A WOMAN placed people in a state of fear and alarm after consuming excessive amounts of alcohol on New Year's Eve - Oban Sheriff Court heard last Tuesday.

Catherine Keary admitted committing a breach of the peace on January 1 this year after shouting, swearing and verbally abusing people. Defence agent Edward Thornton told the court that alcohol has caused his client to behave badly, adding she was 'most embarrassed' to be in this situation.

Keary, aged 45, of flat 1-2, 10 Soroba Road, Oban was admonished.

Rag Bags from Rockfield school

Rockfield Primary School in Oban has dispatched its second major shipment of old clothes and fabrics to the 'Rag Bag' recycling project, this time shipping some 600kg.

The latest collection will add another £300 fund to help pupils get to the school's residential excursion later in the year. The pupils of Rockfield Primary's P6 class are pictured (right) with the bags, which they later helped pack into the Rag Bag lorry at the school.



Police officers Colin May, left, and Iain Young have been carrying out speed checks throughout Oban and Lorn. 15_11speed01

Lorn crackdown on speeding drivers

POLICE officers patrolling roads in and around Oban have reacted to public concern about speeding motorists by setting up random speed checks in town and outlying villages.

Numerous complaints Community policing officers have received numerous complaints from residents in villages along the A85, namely Dalnally, Taynult and Connel.

A resultant clampdown on speeders in the recent weeks has already resulted in a 25-year-old man being charged with dangerous driving in Taynult and the detection of a driver being clocked at 70mph while travelling through the village of Dalnally.

Police are also carrying out speed monitoring surveys in villages throughout Lorn.

Road policing officer Steevie McAleer said: 'The results of recent speed checks by traffic officers revealed that the vast majority of motorists remain within the speed limits but a small percentage drove through villages at speeds well in excess of 30mph.

'Drivers exceeding speed limits will be dealt with appropriately, whether by being reported to the procurator fiscal or being offered a fixed penalty notice of a £60 fine and three penalty points.'

As well as patrolling outlying areas, officers will be enforcing 20mph speed limits in Oban at Longdale, Rockfield Road and Stevenson Street.

Anyone who is concerned about the speed of traffic through their village should contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

Bus pass usage in decline claims local councillor

BUS PASS usage has 'peaked', a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council has heard from their spokesman for transport and infrastructure.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, spokesman for transport and infrastructure, said: 'It is interesting that there has been a decline in usage of the bus pass.

'In December and January you could not get on the Glasgow Subway because people were not using buses in the bad weather.

'People are not travelling as much on buses. It may well drop off altogether.'

Jim Mather, MSP, said: 'The consistent message that I get from my constituents is that the Concessionary Fare Scheme is a lifeline for many.'

Oban man smashed car windscreen

THREE men escaped injury after a man smashed a car windscreen with a traffic cone - Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

The court heard the three men were sitting in the parked vehicle in the town's High Street when David Lafferty got out of a taxi, lifted the traffic cone and attacked the car in a fit of rage.

Lafferty, aged 20, of Flat 6, 11b Angus Terrace, Oban pled guilty to damaging the windscreen and the bonnet of the car on December 12 last year.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said that whilst Lafferty struggled to recollect what happened because he had been drinking heavily at the time of the incident, he remembers the three men making derogatory remarks towards him.

Sheriff Ferguson ordered Lafferty to pay £100 compensation to the three men and fined him £400.

Craobh Haven man fined after breach of the peace

A CRAOBH Haven man has been fined £435 for shouting, threatening and struggling with police officers in Ardfern on January 1.

Brian Wiles, aged 47, pled guilty to committing a breach of the peace and resisting arrest when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard that Wiles became aggressive towards police officers when they approached a car he and another man were sitting in.

Wiles, of The Rest, Craobh Haven, told the court he was embarrassed by his actions and passed his apologies to the police.

Knife carrier given another chance

A TWENTY one-year-old man has been ordered to stay out of trouble for the next four months after appearing at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Colin Carmichael, of 33 Combie Street, Oban, was told to continue working with support agencies after admitting to carrying a knife on October 15 last year.

Sheriff Ferguson told Carmichael: 'You must not get involved in something like this again.'

Alzheimer's group receive fundraising boost from Yorkshire Building Society

OBAN'S branch of the Yorkshire Building Society has launched its campaign to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society as part of the charity's 'Who Cares?' appeal.

Manager Sally Jackson and her team at the George Street branch signed a pledge certificate to kick off their fundraising efforts, which will see them dedicate plenty of time throughout 2011 to organise fundraisers or a volunteering event in the area.

The announcement comes after the charity was recently named the Yorkshire Building Society's charity of the year after a staff vote.

Sally said: 'We are proud to be signing this pledge to do all we can to raise money for Alzheimer's Society in 2011 and proving our commitment to supporting this fantastic charity.

'Throughout this year we are hoping that the people of Oban will come and support us as we fulfil our fundraising pledge - just watch this space for news of the fundraising challenges we have coming up.'

Jo Swinhoe, director of fundraising and marketing at the Alzheimer's Society, said: 'We are delighted to have been chosen by staff at Yorkshire Building Society as their first charity of the year.

'More people affected by dementia turn to us for help than to any other charity - and this includes families and carers of people with dementia.

'The money raised by the Yorkshire Group will fund a new support programme for carers, providing them with crucial information and advice.

'This will make a real difference to these unsung heroes who save the UK economy an unbelievable £6 billion a year.'

Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation has also pledged to make a substantial donation to the appeal at the end of the fundraising year to boost the final total even further.

Members of the public can also help in the 'Who Cares?' appeal by calling into the branch on George Street and purchasing an Alzheimer's Society mini nail file book for £1.

Argyll and Bute consider shared council services with neighbours

SHARED services between Argyll and Bute Council and neighbouring authorities are on the agenda.

Council chief executive Sally Loudon told councillors she would be putting forward a 'strong case' for the authority when sourcing new ways of working - but did not rule out job losses.

Presentations At a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's executive committee she said she has already given presentations to other authorities.

Ms Loudon said: 'There is already agreement on areas that can be scoped.

'Police, fire and health are worthy of investigation.'

Considered Ideas already considered are joint management in health and social work, strategic transportation, waste management and recycling, cleaning, catering and janitorial contracts, contact centre services, training and asset management.

Ms Loudon continued: 'Shared services work is progressing in the right direction and work is ongoing to ensure that the most suitable options are taken forward.

'The focus is on a small number of sensible options with high potential impact.'

Councillor Vivian Dance said: 'I am asking that you are mindful it is all not one way and Argyll and Bute Council does not lose high quality jobs.

'The right thing in any negotiations is that we are not the losers in this.

'I hope we will resist any temptation to redundancies.'

Ms Loudon replied: 'On each of these different work streams it will be the best business case for Argyll and Bute Council.'

Unique Licensed Restaurant Opportunity in Argyll

Melfort Village seeks new tenant for renowned restaurant.



A popular timeshare destination in Argyll is on the hunt for a new operator for its famous restaurant 'The Shower of Herring' due to the retiral, after ten years, of its current operators. Melfort Village, near Oban, provides self catering accommodation

in 32 holiday cottages along with a variety of indoor and outdoor leisure facilities. As the central attraction within this idyllic retreat, the 40-cover restaurant enjoys a coveted reputation for a warm welcome matched with high quality locally sourced fare. The Building itself includes a bar area with seating for a further 20 people, and an external balcony which seats 16.

Christine Roberts, manager of Melfort Village, comments: 'The restaurant has enjoyed a reputation for using the finest Scottish produce and prides itself on providing carefully sourced and delicious food. Melfort Village recently received a Green Tourism gold award from VisitScotland, and ideally we are looking for a husband and wife team who can continue to develop this area of the business.'

- KEY FEATURES:**
- Licensed for over 100 occupants
 - Off-sales service
 - Ideal location close to Loch Melfort
 - Attracting both local and tourist trade all year round
 - Kitchen includes separate prep area and walk-in cold store

The Shower of Herring is available for lease from November 1 2011. Call Christine Roberts on 01852 200257, or visit www.melfortvillage.co.uk/shower-herring.htm for more information.

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Dunbeg driver fined after Kilmore car crash

A DUNBEG man has been fined £270 and had seven penalty points put on his driving licence after admitting driving without due care and attention.

Donald Kennedy, aged 68, of 6 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, pled guilty by letter.

The court heard that Kennedy had pulled out of a lay-by and collided with another car on the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road, near Kilmore on February 3.

A passenger in Kennedy's car suffered minor injuries in the collision.

New tune debut for Fiddlers' Rally

A SPECIAL composition will be performed for the first time at the forthcoming Fiddlers' Rally, as a tribute to Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society treasurer Donald Harrison.

The march, entitled Donald Harrison's Welcome to Portree, has been composed by Oban piper 'Dodo' MacFarlane.

The annual Fiddlers' Rally will take place on April 23 at the Corran Halls and presents a feast of traditional music.

Guest artists this year will be Mull duet Riona Whyte and Fiona Jappy and champion fiddler Paul Anderson from Tarland.

George Berry will be chairman for the evening, which is expected to see an orchestra of more than 80 on the stage.

Oban man found not proven of dangerous driving

AN OBAN man was found not proven of driving dangerously causing a police vehicle to make an emergency stop.

Peter Clark, aged 53, of 19 Millpark Terrace, Soroba Road, Oban, denied crossing into the path of an oncoming police vehicle on September 16 last year, on the A83 near Tarbert.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Thursday police claimed they saw Clark's vehicle driving towards them on the wrong side of the road.

Clark said he saw a police car passing him but added that there was "nothing extraordinary" about that experience and he was later surprised to be stopped.

Clark said he hadn't overtaken anyone since leaving Oban.

A defence witness also told the court he hadn't seen Clark overtaking.

After hearing all the evidence Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC found the case not proven.

Quarriers celebrate young people's accommodation



David Lyon, project manager of Quarriers, Oban and Karen Heath, of ACHA took a look at the new facilities. 16_1124u01

ACHA and Quarriers celebrated the completion of their young people's accommodation.

David Lyon, project manager of Quarriers, Oban and Karen Heath, of ACHA took a look at the new facilities.

Mr Lyon said: 'We offer affordable accommodation in Oban for young people. We are pleased with the upgrade as it offers a continued commitment to these properties.'

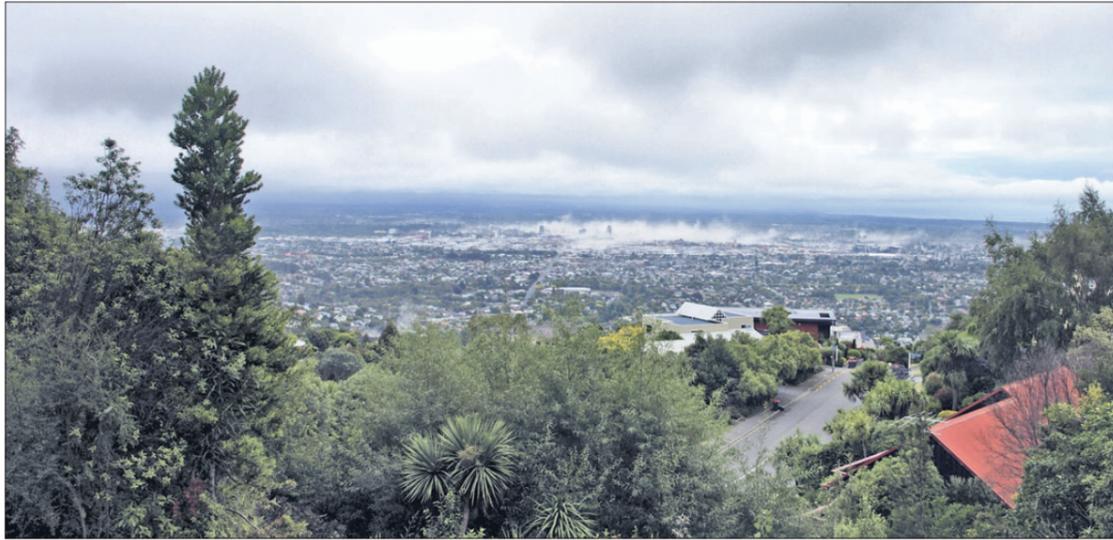
Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'I wish Quarriers well in these difficult financial times and I hope they secure funding in order that they can continue to do their valuable work supporting young people in Oban.'

Teenager threw glass to water over police sergeant

A TEENAGER who threw a glass of water over a police sergeant has been placed on probation for a year.

Michael Duncan, aged 17, of 17a Glencruitten Drive also pled guilty to breach of the peace when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

In sentencing Duncan to one year probation, 120 hours community service and alcohol counselling Sheriff Ferguson said: 'This behaviour is totally unacceptable; the court will not put up with it for much longer, there is no doubt about that.'



Clouds of dust and debris can be seen hanging over Christchurch in this photograph taken by Robert McDonald just four minutes after the earthquake struck.

Oban couple's New Zealand earthquake scare

'I thought to myself, I don't want to die here'



Robert studies some of the New Zealand newspapers' coverage of the earthquake that devastated Christchurch, very close to where he was staying at the time. 15_111mcdonald1

AN OBAN couple have recounted the moment they feared for their lives while on holiday in New Zealand, when last month's devastating earthquake hit.

Staying with relatives in Cashmere just minutes from Christchurch, retirees Robert and June McDonald of Coe Gardens, Oban, were directly adjacent to the epicentre of the 6.3 magnitude quake that destroyed much of the city's business district at 12.51pm on February 22.

In Cashmere, power and water was cut, while buildings shuddered with the force and proximity of the quake, many damaged beyond repair.

In Christchurch, at least 65 people died and 10,000 buildings were either completely destroyed or will be due to their unsafe state.

Thankfully, Robert and June es-

aped the worst damage and returned to Scotland this week.

Describing the moment the quake hit, Robert said: 'The whole house felt like it was taking off. There's a breakfast bar in the kitchen and I just had to hold on to it. June was in the bedroom and she was thrown onto the bed.'

'It only lasted for about 14 seconds, but it was absolutely terrifying.'

'I was just in shorts and a t-shirt with no shoes on, but we ran outside and onto the road, where the other neighbours were.'

'I just thought to myself, I don't want to die here. I really thought I was going to end up in a box.'

'About 10 minutes later, there was an aftershock and the road just turned to jelly.'

'We had a stiff gin and tonic after-

wards to calm the nerves.'

Things could have been worse though had a planned bus tour of the island come off.

Robert said: 'We were going to get the 12.45pm bus but you have to be in the station half an hour before. We didn't have time to get there. Two buildings either side of the station collapsed onto the buses, so if we'd gone we'd definitely be coming home in boxes.'

Since then, another major earthquake has devastated parts of Japan, causing a huge tsunami that swallowed large parts of the north east of the country. Up to 10,000 people are thought to have died so far.

June said: 'What we experienced was nothing compared to what happened in Japan.' Robert added: 'It's two nightmares very close together.'

Western Isles hit by additional £1m bus fuel bill

'SCANDALOUS' increases in fuel prices are forcing Western Isles Council to find an extra million pounds to fund bus services, hitting in part the education budget.

Over the last year, the price of petrol and diesel has increased at a dramatic rate - with unleaded petrol already soaring past the £1.50 per litre mark on some of the islands in recent weeks.

The result is a shortfall of £389,774 for the 2010/11 bus subsidy, with the council needing to find another £618,750 for the coming year's contracts.

Crippling tax burden

The additional cost is set to be shared equally between the budgets of education services and technical services, however Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will hear this week that technical service's funds cannot stretch to meet the full deficit for the coming year.

The chair of the council's transportation committee, Donald Manford, is furious that the increases are being driven by government taxes. He said: 'What makes it so hard to take is that Scotland is one of the countries that is fuel rich. However, it is only available to us at a cost that is scandalous.'

'It is the tax toll that our government demands for fuel that cripples our communities.'

'What is really frustrating is that there are countries which do not have fuel of their own that are still cheaper than here.'

No reduced service

'We now have to find the money to meet the increased costs, that will be done by a mixture of savings by trying to negotiate with the bus companies to see where they can make savings and if it comes to it, find the money from other council budgets.'

'That means we either put more money in from the central pot or cut money from other services.'

'The only remaining option is to reduce the bus services themselves. There's no other way of doing it.'

Mr Manford said that, in previous years, the council has dealt with the increases by introducing smaller, more economical buses on to some routes, but is now no longer able to do that.

And because there is no other viable alternative fuel available at this stage, he feels local authorities - and everyone else - is being held to ransom.

He said: 'One is always over a barrel when it comes to increasing costs that are totally outwith your control.'

'Unfortunately, there is no alternative to these fuels at the moment, but one day in the future cars could be run on fresh air. You have to ask if they'll tax that too.'

Argyll's disabled invited to participate

PEOPLE with disabilities in Argyll are being invited to participate in a unique day to discuss Scotland's commitment to promoting the rights of disabled people.

The Participation Day on March 28 is an opportunity for disabled people to share their experiences of overcoming barriers to realising their human rights, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

There are only a few remaining places available for the event at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS). Free transport is available to collect participants arriving at Oban harbour to and from the venue.

Jemma Neville of the Scottish Human Rights Commission said: 'The Participation Day is an introduction to what the UN Convention is and what it does, and there will be a discussion across all three centres via the internet on what the convention can achieve.'

'We would encourage anyone who wants to know more about the Convention to register to take part, either in person, or by joining in with the online discussion from home.'

To register readers should email uncrpdsotland@equalityhumanrights.com or telephone 0141 228 5914. A link to the website page can be found at www.scottishhumanrights.com

Arduaine to host 'get to know' day

ARDUAINE Garden and Loch Melfort Hotel, in conjunction with the National Trust for Scotland, are organising a Getting To Know The Garden Day.

The day will involve a private tour with head gardener Maurice Wilkins and tea, coffee and cakes in the hotel's Chartroom II Bistro.

All accommodation providers along with members of the Oban and Lorn Tourist Association (OLTA) are invited.

The OLTA is adopting the event as it's 'spring social gathering' and views it as an opportunity to network with other businesses in the area.

The event hopes to raise the profile of the garden as a great place, in all weathers, for visitors to the area.

The event is on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27 at 2pm with afternoon tea both days from 3pm.

Businesses owners are asked to bring along their card for entry.

Lorn Lines

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club were entertained to two excellent and interesting speeches at their meeting on March 17.

Donald Macaskill spoke about the National Trust for Scotland and their many properties in this area. By way of a contrast Eamonn Arthur spoke on St Patrick's Day covering, among lots of other things, parades in other countries. Both speakers and their critics John Maclean and Iain Fullerton were introduced by chairman Bill Leech.

The timekeeper for the evening was Guido Faccenda.

The rest of the evening was devoted to the AGM under the chairmanship of retiring president, Archie McPhail.

The following members were elected to the committee for next year, president John Maclean, vice president Frank Walton, educational director Eamonn Arthur, social secretary Cameron Fletcher, secretary Jim Fraser and treasurer Alex Clark.

OBAN Photographic Club held an open evening in the Victory Hall, Benderloch on Thursday, March 17.

The large local audience thoroughly enjoyed an Old Benderloch and Oban show presented by Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond. From images of old prams, buses, cars, buildings and places to an extremely good sequence showing the construction of Connel Bridge - they all enthralled the audience.

On Tuesday evening (15th) two carloads of members went to Helensburgh to see the judging of this year's Frank Walton Argyll Trophy, competed for by the four Argyll Photographic Clubs (Oban, Helensburgh, Dunoon and Lochgilphead). Unfortunately, the trophy stayed in Helensburgh with the victorious Helensburgh Photographic Club.

The next meeting on March 28 is the results of the last competition, 'Open 2' with judge Alan Gawthorpe from Aberdeen.

DISTILLERY giant Diageo has given a £2,000 donation to the Oban Phoenix Cinema Project.

Oban Distillery donated the cash to cinema after distillery staff asked the parent company to contribute to the appeal fund to get the project underway.

Fundraisers have organised a Bring and Buy sale in Oban for the first Saturday in April.

With only a few tables left for people to come and sell from - there will be some great items on offer in the Corran Halls on Saturday April 2 between 12 until 4pm, including a cake stall and a cafe. The group are hoping someone will donate sugar, tea and coffee to the event.

There will also be a bouncy castle, glitter tattoos and fun for all the family. For more information on hiring a stall email obanphoenixcinema@gmail.com.

VISITORS to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary in Barcaldine this weekend could gain free entry, depending on their name.

To mark the release of the 3D film A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures this week, anyone with the name Michelle, Shelley, or Sam will be offered free entry.

Sea Life is embarking on a project to build a turtle hospital on the Greek island of Zakynthos and believes the film, which tracks the effects of global warming on the main character, Sammy the turtle, can highlight the threats faced by Loggerhead Turtles.

Zakynthos has been a breeding ground for thousands of generations of these turtles.

To gain free entry visitors are requested to bring ID demonstrating their name and show it at the ticket desk. The offer lasts from tomorrow (Friday) to Monday.

You can send your Lorn Lines to editor@obantimes.co.uk

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Bonniest Baby Competition 2011

Coming next week - the 10 finalists



Eilidh Graham
Oban, 8 months



Isla Dods
Oban, 15 months



Elio MacGregor
Oban, 7 months



Abigail Frew
Dalmally, 23 months



Struan Irvine
Tobermory, 8 months



Riona MacInnes
Oban, 6 months



Ruby-Joan Richmond
Oban, 12 months



Joseph Michael Hill
Oban, 9 months



Hollie McLean
Moodiesburn, 18 months



Arran Budge
Oban, 10 months



Evan Robertson
Inveraray, 11 months



Annie MacLennan
Tiree, 5 months



Sienna and Kiyana Munro
Tobermory, 4 months



Abbigale Craine
Oban, 15 months

BARRA

CASTLEBAY Community School pupils will re-sit their English prelims this month after eight out of ten fifth years studying the subject failed their mid-term exams.

The disappointing performance comes after a series of critical reports by the schools inspectorate, although it is hoped pupil performance will improve after recent staffing changes designed to improve the department's performance.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are now hoping the re-sit will show an improvement in pupil performance ahead of the final higher exams in April.

A spokesperson for the comhairle said: 'Whilst it is acknowledged that there were challenges within the school, much work has been carried out to address those challenges. That work is continuing.'

'The original English prelim was a means of testing what areas of learning required to be improved amongst that particular group of pupils. This allows any such difficulties to be addressed before the actual exams come along in April.'

'The school has already implemented individual support plans for pupils in order for them to prepare for re-sitting some prelim examinations. This is a matter for the school, individual pupils and their parents. The re-sitting of prelim examinations is not uncommon throughout Scotland.'

Pupil performance in other subjects at the school is not thought to be a concern.

While the prelims are an indicator of current progress, they can also be cited by pupils if an appeal is required for a disappointing final exam result.

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar are set to renew contracts providing bus services for Barra and Uist this week.

The director of Technical Services at the council, Iain MacKinnon, has recommended that the transport committee approve the re-tendering of 58 bus service contracts throughout the Western Isles.

The current contracts are due to terminate in March next year. The proposal recommends renewing services for Uist and Barra for three years, and Lewis and Harris for two years, coinciding with the end of the principal main route contracts within the region.

The current total cost of these contracts is around £1.5million. As part of the tendering process a consultation exercise will invite comments from service users, bus operators and stakeholders.

LEWIS

WESTERN Isles MSP, Alasdair Allan, visited a Gaelic learners' course being held at the Ravenspoint Centre, at Kershader and praised the work being done locally to give learners of the language a taste of Gaelic being used within the community.

Dr Allan said: 'I wish that, when I was learning Gaelic, there had been more opportunities like the one I saw in Kershader. The community in Lochs have ensured that there exists an opportunity for learners to use the language in a natural setting. There remains an unmet demand, in the islands, and among people with an interest more generally, to learn the language to fluency, so courses like that organised by the community in Kershader are very welcome indeed.'

'Courses like that at Kershader, together with the forthcoming Royal National Mod in Stornoway will I hope help to focus still more efforts on the fortunes of the language.'

TIREE

SCOTLAND'S Energy minister, Jim Mather, has told islanders on Tiree concerned about possible impacts of the Argyll Array that the government is listening to them.

However, the Argyll and Bute MSP was unable to offer any assurances that their worries over possible visual impact will be addressed, saying he cannot predict what will happen in the future.

The group, No Tiree Array have been leading the protest against the Argyll Array, saying it is too close to the island and therefore is an 'inshore' rather than offshore wind farm.

Mr Mather said: 'We are listening to people. We're going round Argyll to listen to rooms full of folk. We're even putting their views up on our screens at the time they mention their concerns to show that we've been listening.'

'The position we have is one of openness. Anything and everything is possible. But I'm not going to reach a conclusion now or predict any decision ministers may make.'

TIREE farmer Archie John MacLean of Heylpol Farm has underlined his commitment to improving and maintaining the quality of island livestock after



The primary and nursery children of St. Brides Primary School, North Ballachulish, would like to say a big thank you to their family friends and residents of Nether Lochaber, who helped collect the gardening vouchers from Morrisons. The children are delighted with their new equipment and can't wait to start planting!

purchasing a £14,700 stock bull at the recent United Auctions' Perth Bull Sales.

The Charolais bull, Thrunton Equity, from Thrunton, Alnwick, was first in its class at the Perth show and sale and will be key to the future of the stock at Heylpol Farm, which is mainly based on Limousin cross cows.

Mr MacLean has recently also invested in an Aberdeen Angus bull.

Speaking about the purchase of the Charolais at Perth, Archie John said: 'I went to see him at Thrunton in October and I felt he was well built to produce top quality calves.'

'I didn't intend to spend that amount, I reacted in as little time as you have and decided that I should get the bull I wanted.'

Archie John is hoping Thrunton Equity will work for eight years at Heylpol and maintain the farm's reputation for the quality of its meat.

GIGHA

ISLANDERS have been given a cash boost to improve the standard of housing.

The Isle of Gigha Community Trust have been given funding to provide two grants of up-to £60,000 per dwelling, from Argyll and Bute Council's strategic Housing Fund.

Donald MacVicar, head of community and culture, told a meeting of the council's executive committee: 'This is an enhanced grant for properties on Gigha.'

'Gigha is showing a remarkable improvement, the population has increased by 50 per cent but some of the properties on the island are pretty close to dilapidated. Because the island is in Trust ownership there is no way they can access any more money to improve the properties.'

Councillor Robin Currie added: 'The rise in population has been possible because of improvement of accommodation on the island. It is a good success story. A partnership was formed to work on the island and provides local worthwhile employment. This is something the council has been pleased to be part of.'

'When you can see the big gaps in windows and rats in kitchen cupboards there is no doubt you would want to accelerate this programme.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'The problem is there is an issue with property standards in the whole of Argyll and Bute and we need to reflect this good practice in other areas in future.'

JURA

JURA Distillery has named the winner of its contest to find an author to follow in the footsteps of George Orwell, who famously penned his masterpiece Nineteen Eighty-Four on the island.

Winner Ian McLoughlin from Wigan will get the chance to stay at the Jura Lodge and write a short story based on the island.

His winning entry - the first 300 words of his story entitled The Maelstrom - tells the story of a Mr Blair (Orwell's real name), who mysteriously wakes

up find himself on the island. Under the rules of the competition, he will get just 1,984 minutes to write it.

Mr McLoughlin, who will come to the island this summer, said: 'I am a great Orwell fan and it will be a real honour to follow in his footsteps and visit the island.'

LOCHAWA

SCOTLAND Transerv has promised to reinstate speed reducing signs in the village of Lochawe following a trial period.

The lights flashed with a 30mph speed limit warning if drivers exceeded the limit and residents say the lights made a difference in limiting the speed of traffic through the village. However, residents of Lochawe say the lights were removed last month without prior warning.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said the lights were part of an evaluation process within the company, during which five different systems were trialled in different parts of the country.

The lights in Lochawe were not deemed to be the best system in the trial but the spokesman added the best performing system would be installed in Lochawe during the coming financial year.

A TOTAL of 33 ladies from other institutes joined Lochawe WRI on Wednesday, March 2 in Lochawe Village Hall.

Speaker for the evening was Alice Campbell from Taynult, who gave a very interesting demonstration of Store Cupboard Cookery.

A very tasty casserole, made with ingredients readily available in most store cupboards and fridges was cooked and distributed to everyone present.

Mrs Campbell also made four tarts with various fillings, which were raffled later.

Christine MacDougall thanked Mrs Campbell for a very enjoyable demonstration.

Easter bonnet competition, judged by Mrs Campbell: Gold - P McLeod, Silver - J Wylie, M MacKenzie and J Ogden.

The next meeting will be a business meeting and general discussion on April 6 in Lochawe Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome.

GLENORCHY

GLENORCHY and Innishail community councillor Tim Boardman has resigned from his position for health reasons.

The community council said Tim had given after a great deal of hard work and service to the council over the years.

It was agreed at the community council meeting last Wednesday to send a letter to him expressing thanks for his work.

CRIANLARICH

CRIANLARICH Primary School has received a glowing report from the schools inspectorate.

The school was praised for its level of care for pupils, for its positive and welcoming school

ethos and for having confident, happy children who are eager to learn.

The staff were praised for their teamwork in securing school improvement and providing high quality learning experiences, as led by head teacher Katy Williams, and for the working relationship between the school, parents and the wider community.

In his report, inspector Alan Urquhart said: 'The inspection team was able to rely on the school's robust self-evaluation. As a result, it was able to change its focus during the inspection to support further improvements within the school.'

'The school provides a very good quality of education.'

Katy Williams said: 'We were absolutely delighted with the inspectorate's report.'

'It's wonderful news for the parents, staff and all the children here.'

ABERFELDY

ABERFELDY Library will host Highland Perthshire Community Learning Partnership's drop in census guidance session on Friday, between 2pm-4pm.

THE community company taking over Aberfeldy Town Hall in April has had to stall plans to run a community café in the venue over planning constraints.

Locus Breadalbane Ltd have been told by Perth and Kinross Council that a full-time café can only be operated if the company applies and gets permission for a change of use.

Meanwhile, upgrades to the hall's kitchen will take place in April and take no more than two weeks.

Thereafter, it will be bookable by anyone and will be capable of catering for functions and for anyone looking to bulk produce produce such as jam or cakes for charity.

The upgrade is being paid for from donations, matched by the local authority.

SEIL

VICE president Shona Neil welcomed members to the March meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held in Seil Island Hall.

Speaker for the evening was Nick Bowles, who gave an illustrated talk on a cruise he and his wife had undertaken in their 27 foot sailing boat 'Fairwinds'.

They had taken a year out and travelled to Spain, Madeira, The Canaries and The Azores, overcoming thunderstorms, broken ribs and seasick visitors along the way.

Jenny Bowles gave the vote of thanks.

Looking forward to next month, an Open Meeting will be held when Colonel Sir Clive Fairweather will give a talk on the work of Combat Stress: 'They fight our wars. We fight their battles.'

Everyone is warmly invited to this meeting which will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday April 5 in Seil Island Hall.

Entry is free, and includes tea and homebaking.



MALLAIG

GAELIC standard grade pupils at Mallaig High School were invited to Ardnamurchan High School for a day of working with staff there to help prepare for their upcoming exams.

Ardnamurchan invited the Mallaig youngsters to their school as there is an acute shortage of Gaelic teachers in the north Lochaber town.

Mallaig deputy head teacher John Fisher said the day had been of great assistance for his pupils. He said: 'Mallaig High

School is delighted to be accommodated by Ardnamurchan and our standard grade pupils have benefited greatly from the training and support they have had today.'

Gaelic staff at Ardnamurchan said that the pupils did very well and made good progress.

DOWN YOUR WAY

This week - Loch Fyne

STAFF at Crarae Gardens have organised a jam-packed itinerary of events to celebrate the spring and summer in Mid Argyll.

The garden, which re-opens on April 1, has organised a series of events to cater for all ages and to both Mid Argyll folk and visitors.

The Easter weekend will be celebrated with a Cadbury Easter Egg hunt, in which children will be given a map of the garden and a series of clues to lead them to the chocolate heaven.

An event to celebrate the endangered red squirrel is also planned and a dog show will take place for man's best friend in July.

The 2011 summer season also marks the launch of the National Trust for Scotland Crarae Garden backpack for both adults and children.

The pack contains a map of the garden, a plant hunter's diary, binoculars and discovery sheets.

The backpacks will provide children, tasked with discovering all they can about the garden and its plants, the tools they need to complete their mission.



CHOIRS, musicians and singers from all corners of Loch Fyne have this week been descending on Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig as the Mid Argyll Music Festival gets underway.

Held over seven days, the festival will feature almost 1,000 musicians performing in almost 100 competitive classes.

The annual event, in its 32nd year, kicked off on Saturday with piping competitions and will climax with the bands' contest this Saturday evening.

Children from Loch Fyne schools including Furnace primary, Minard primary, Ardrishaig primary, Tarbert Academy, Lochgilphead primary and Lochgilphead high will all take to the stage.



STRACHUR residents plan to mark the memory of the village's late Doctor Wright with a bench in the grounds of Strachur Medical Practice.

The bench, with a memorial plaque, will be placed just outside the surgery as a constant reminder to a 'fantastic lady'.

Rosemary Ann Wright came to the Strachur practice in 2002, having worked previously in Rothesay and Tighnabruaich. Originally working part-time alongside Dr Basu, she continued as the village GP when Dr Basu retired four years ago.

Having become ill in the summer of last year, Strachur and District Community Council decided to mark the passing of a remarkable woman.

Strachur resident Heather Grier said: 'Dr Wright was a fantastic lady who had a great impact on the local community. She was very outspoken and caring. She will be very sadly missed.'



A WEAK roads infrastructure is one of the problems being attributed to Tarbert's lack of affordable housing.

The issue was discussed last week as members of Tarbert Community Council met with representatives of Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Community Housing Association, Fyne Homes and Forestry Commission Scotland.

Speaking after the meeting Ian Macintyre, vice chairman of Tarbert Community Council, said: 'There was a lot of things discussed including the village's poor infrastructure. The land to build houses is there, it's just about getting access to it.'



INVERARAY is the latest Argyll village to be swept away by Latin dance fitness class Zumba.

Both adults and children have enrolled in Laura Sweeney's class at Inveraray's Main Hall on Tuesday evenings.

'The local women enjoy it,' said Laura. 'It is a great way to keep fit and have fun at the same time. I teach four to 12-year-olds as well and the children just love it.'

Zumba classes are also held in Minard Village Hall on Wednesday evenings at 8.15pm.



Laura Sweeney's zumba classes are a big hit across villages on the shores of Loch Fyne. 06_a12zumba01

THE MANAGER of an Inveraray holiday park has said high fuel prices are to blame for a downturn in trade.

Jim McCulloch of Argyll Holiday Park, near Inveraray, said the rocketing price of petrol and diesel means holiday homeowners are not venturing to Argyll as often as they have done.

Mr McCulloch said: 'We're very quiet at the moment and I think the death knell is the cost of fuel, which is a very serious matter.'

The park's nearest customers live in Glasgow, more than 60 miles away.

'We would maybe see customers come to stay every weekend or second weekend,' explained Jim. 'Now they will come every third weekend because it is costing them at least £50 in fuel to get here.'

'The park's just not got a lot of life about it just now, compared to this time last year,' added Mr McCulloch.

Argyll Holiday Park forms part of the Duke of Argyll's Estate. It overlooks Loch Fyne, approximately two miles from Inveraray.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Sleat, Isle of Skye

with reporter Stephen Norris. You can contact him at 01397 703003 or email snorris@obantimes.co.uk.

TORLUNDY

LOCHABER Rural Education Trust has launched a new venture at its An Clachan base at Torlundy - Gaelic cookery sessions for Gaelic speakers and learners.

The second of four sessions, organised by Comunn na Gàidhlig, was held yesterday afternoon and was taken by Anna MacRae, wife of Free Church minister Chris MacRae.

Two further sessions are planned for April 27 and May 4 at the same venue. Anyone interested in attending can contact the trust on 01397 708642.

KILBRANDON

VICE president Shona Neil welcomed members to the March meeting of the Kilbrandon branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, held in Seil Island Hall.

Speaker for the evening was Nick Bowles, who gave an illustrated talk on a cruise he and his wife had taken in their 27 foot sailing boat 'Fairwinds'.

They had taken a year out and travelled to Spain, Madeira, The Canaries and The Azores, overcoming thunderstorms, broken ribs and seasick visitors along the way! Jenny Bowles gave the vote of thanks.

Next month Colonel Sir Clive Fairweather will give a talk on the work of Combat Stress entitled 'They Fight our Wars, We Fight Their Battles'.

Everyone is invited to this meeting on Tuesday April 5 at 7.30pm in Seil Island Hall. Entry is free and includes tea and home-baking.

INVERGARRY

INVERGARRY Primary School pupils are back at their lessons after the excitement of Lochaber Music Festival last week.

From a school roll of only 25 children, 12 pupils took part in the group music-making competition, three in the cello solos, two in the violin solos and 10 in the solo verse.

The children practised with music teacher Liz Wilshaw in class in the weeks leading up to the annual event.

Head teacher Jane Strachan said: 'We were heavily involved this year.'

ISLE OF SEIL

ISLE of Seil Golf Club is renewing memberships for 2011/12.

New memberships will start on April 1. All members of the community are being asked to consider joining as a playing member or supporting the club as a non-playing member. Playing categories are as follows: ordinary, junior, student, country, junior country, disabled or non-playing supporter. Membership forms can be obtained by contacting the club secretary on 01852 300548, by emailing geol.ladam@yahoo.co.uk or from the club hut in Balvicar.

The committee reminds returning and new members that they are illegible to play in club competitions until their fees are paid in full.

CONNEL

AT A MEETING of Connel Community Council, the following issues were discussed:

There is no money available for sprucing up the village footpaths, the meeting was told.

Concern had been raised about the semi-overgrown state of many of the paths. However, after contacting Transerv, members were told there was no budget available at the moment to carry out any planned maintenance.

Resurfacing of the main street in Connel is on a list of priorities but it is not known when the work will be carried out.

The meeting was told the street was rutted with deep and dangerous potholes.

Argyll and Bute Council development officer Laura Macdonald outlined how her department can support



Inverloch Nursery children head outdoors

With patches of snow still lying around the school buildings, Inverloch Nursery children headed outdoors last Wednesday with Highland Council rangers Michelle Melville and Fiona Maclean. Nursery assistant Sandra MacDonald said: 'The children are collecting natural materials such as moss and bark and taking them back to the nursery to make birds nests.' The trip was part of the pupils' spring topic.

10_f12inver01

community groups and other local organisations.

'We offer a range of different support depending on the group's needs,' she said.

She said this could be anything from help with applying for funding grants to 'groups that want to do something but don't know how to do it.'

She asked the community council to 'spread the word' about the community development team.

Members said they were happy to do so and would include details of how to contact the team on its website.

The community council has received an apology from the chief executive of Transport Scotland over a comment made by one of its officials.

During a wrangle over the proposed route of a cycle path through the village, the community council was described as 'just a noise in the background' - a comment which annoyed members.

They wrote to Transport Scotland chief executive David Middleton about the matter and his reply was read out to the meeting.

In it, Mr Middleton said he had asked for the matter to be fully investigated and said that the official who had made the

comment 'would have no further dealings with the (cycle path) project'.

He also reiterated how important the views of bodies such as the community council were to Transport Scotland.

The Connel Clean-Up is to take place on Monday April 18, at 6.30pm. Full details of the event are to be circulated in the village and posted on the community council's website.

The next meeting of Connel Community Council will take place on Tuesday May 10 at 7.30pm in the village hall. The meeting will also be the community council's annual general meeting.

LOCHEARNHEAD

POLICE in Lochearnhead were left without their marked car for two days after it was covered with paint and had items glued to the bonnet.

Community officer Andy Ward was left furious at the incident, which occurred in the early hours of March 7 when the vehicle was parked in Auchraw Terrace.

He said: 'Ignoring the cost implication of having the car uplifted by a garage and having it cleaned and repaired, what is more important is the fact that it

could not be used in the event of an emergency.'

'What would happen if there was a serious road accident, a child had gone missing, a house had been broken into or somebody needed urgent medical attention and I was the nearest emergency service?'

'These incidents occur on a regular basis and require an immediate police response.'

'Not only do I rely on the car, so do my colleagues but perhaps more importantly so do you, the public.'

'However, I would like to reassure those members of the community who are disgusted with these actions that I will make every effort to identify the culprit and bring them to task.'

KYLEAKIN

KYLEAKIN Environmental Group (KEG) has appointed civil engineering company Transport, Planning & Engineering Ltd, part of Cycling Scotland, to carry out a feasibility study on building a cycle path between Kyleakin and Broadford.

It is proposed the entire route would be made off-road by constructing new sections to keep the entire path to one side of the busy A87, which cyclists and walkers must presently use to their risk.

The two routes that have been considered are either to use the Old Road or to take the route by Kyleakin Forest.

KEG has outline permission from the Estate of Sir Iain Noble (Fearann Eilean Iarmain) to put the route in across his land. The group has also received 'positive feedback' at a site meeting with Forestry Commission Scotland.

Funding is currently being sought through the Climate Challenge Fund. KEG requires £10,000 for this and monetary donations are welcome.

GLENORCHY

POLICE have warned members of the public in Glenorchy to be wary of poachers and to report any incidents.

Constable Iain Young, who is based at Dalmlally, said he has had reports of suspected poaching in the area and dog walkers have reported incidences of pets bringing back deer legs and hooves left by the poachers.

PC Young said: 'If people hear anyone shooting, be careful not to approach them and let me know.'

PC Young can be contacted on 01838 200658.

INVERLOCHY

INVERLOCHY Rural ladies enjoyed a history lesson on Wednesday March 9.

The teachers were Pat and Ian Abernethy assisted by William Cameron, who told the story of the Old Fort.

Pat is the secretary of a fairly new organisation called Friends of the Old Fort, who had decided it was too important to let what

is left of the Fort to disappear. With the help of a team of volunteers and a lot of hard work, they cleared and renovated the area, including the shoreline around it, making a wonderful picnic area.

There are other plans for the future.

Ian judged the competitions: 1 equal Cathie MacDonald and Elizabeth Kenny for their Abernethy biscuits. 1 Cathie Stevenson for her bowl of bulbs.

LAGGAN

LAGGAN will welcome athletes from all over the north of Scotland on Saturday May 28 when the Strathpey community hosts the 10k Highland Road Race and one-mile fun run.

The 10k course will be 'out and back' from Laggan Village Hall along the road leading to the beautiful Corrieyairack Pass, with spectacular scenery along the way.

All 10k finishers and fun-runners will receive mementos, while the top three runners in all categories will be awarded trophies.

The race is being staged under UK Athletics rules and is a Scottish Athletics Limited Permit event. Entry forms can be downloaded at <http://www.laggan.com/race.htm>.

ULVA

REMOTE cottages have been selected as an Outstanding Example in the European Sustainable Travel Awards.

The self-catering cottages have also been selected in the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Treshnish and Haunn Cottages, a farm-based self catering business on the Isle of Mull, has been nominated/shortlisted for two different awards.

Carolyn Charrington who runs the cottages near to Ulva in one of the remotest areas of Mull said: 'Late last year, VisitScotland were invited to nominate sustainable tourism businesses for the first VESTAS European Sustainable Tourism Awards 2011, which are to be held in Berlin on March 11.'

'VisitScotland nominated us in the Most Sustainable and Responsible Accommodation category. We are delighted and just a little daunted to be representing Scottish sustainable tourism businesses in a European context. There are 90 nominees from all over Europe, in a variety of categories.'

The cottages are also on the shortlist for a Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) GoldStar 2011. A shortlist of 40 was chosen from 400 Gold GTBS award holders in the UK. This shortlist is whittled down to 20 finalists after references have been sought from past guests and suppliers. Finally from that selection of 20, and after each finalist has been secretly visited by a mystery shopper, the 10 winners are announced in London in June.

'GTBS is a worthwhile scheme for any business to join if they are concerned about improving their environmental performance and we are very pleased to be on their shortlist for a Goldstar.'

CRAIGNISH

CRAIGNISH Community Company (C3) is gearing up for the biggest ever Boat Jumble and Car Boot Sale this Saturday, March 26, from 10.15am - 2pm, in Craignish Village Hall and car park, Ardfern.

The event, which is one of a number of Boat Jumbles which take place around the country, attracts sellers and buyers, both amateur and professional, from far and wide.

With stallholders coming to Ardfern from all over Argyll, plus Northern Ireland, Mallaig, Edinburgh and Ayrshire, there should be some real bargains on offer for the discerning buyer.

However the Craignish Boat Jumble is not just for those looking for nautical bargains. With a number of tables inside and car boots out, selling 'ordinary' jumble, there are bargains galore

to be found for landlubbers as well. The £2 entry includes refreshments to revive flagging bargain hunters and with a raffle to add a bit of excitement this will be a day out to be enjoyed by the whole family.

Further details from 01852 500689.

COLL

COLL Community Council is to ask ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) to use the *MV Clansman* to service the island throughout the year.

Normally the ferry is substituted for other available ferries during the winter timetable, but they often find themselves unable to cope with conditions on the approach to Coll, Tiree or Barra - the islands served by the route - during choppy weather.

The islands have suffered numerous delays or cancellations this winter as a result.

Community council convener Rob Wainwright will ask the communities on Tiree and Barra for their views before raising the matter with CalMac.

CRAIGNISH

CRAIGNISH Primary School held a coffee morning in its local village hall.

The coffee morning was to bring together the older people in the village to discuss the history of Craignish peninsula and its school.

Three representatives of the school, Katie McNiven, Fergus Langlands and Kizzy Carterwell, came along with head teacher Anne Wilson.

Twenty people attended the coffee morning and filled out questionnaires to say how they would be able to help the school with its local history project. Many memories were shared, old stories were told and amazing facts were discovered by children and adults.

The children found out that there is much more to their little village than they thought.

Many people agreed to come and talk to all of the children at Craignish school and tell them about when they were young.

The children and staff of the school are grateful to people that have offered to help with the school's topic.

They would also like to thank everyone who came along and all those who helped organise the event.

Craignish Primary School is 150 years old this year.

Anyone with memories of the school or the parish from days gone by should contact the school on 01852 500652 or email enquiries@craignish.argyll-bute.sch.uk.

ARDAINE

ARDAINE Garden has announced its annual programme of events.

The annual events run by Friends of Ardaire Garden show just how popular the cliff side garden is with people of all ages.

Events confirmed so far are an Easter Fair during Easter weekend, April 22-25, including the Cadbury Easter Trail on Sunday April 24 between 12.30pm to 4.30pm with children's games, music and stalls.

The annual Spring Festival will take place over the weekend of May 7-8. The event will be run in conjunction with the National Trust for Scotland.

On Sunday May 8 between 12.30pm until 4.30pm there will be children's games, music and stalls.

The Big Picnic will take place on Sunday May 29 with an Ecumenical Church Service from 11.30am and a Family Fun Day from 12.30pm onwards.

There will be a Summer Festival on Sunday August 7 from 12.30pm with music, crafts, plants and other stalls, children's events and refreshments.

The group will also be hosting a Halloween Party on October 30 with Santa's Grotto open between 1.30pm and 5pm on Saturday and Sunday December 17 and 18.

RAASAY

A NEW 23-car diesel/electric/hybrid ferry is due to replace the *Loch Striven* on the Sconser-Raasay route in 2013.

At 500 tons and capable of taking two articulated lorries and with three wider car lanes, the boat will be a quiet and comfortable replacement for what will then be a 27-year old vessel. *Loch Striven* motorman Paul Camilli said: 'The old 'Loch class' have been fine boats but with cars getting wider

they're in danger of becoming eight car ferries.' Improvements to the already overstretched car park, the dilapidated toilets and the crumbling narrow slipway at Sconser are also planned. Two layouts are proposed for the new car park, which will include a bus stop. One option envisages a narrower 40-space car park with a single ferry lane, the other a rectangular parking area with 30 spaces and three ferry lanes.

DORNIE

MSP for Ross, Skye and Inverness John Farquhar Munro, who is standing down after the upcoming Holyrood election, was guest of honour at a ceilidh in Dornie Hall on Friday night. Music was provided by the Cast Ewe Ceilidh Band and local artistes.

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CD review

Dougie MacLean, Resolution released December 2010
THE LATEST album from the Perthshire singer, another collection of self-penned songs in his own Scottish idiom. Dougie MacLean is one of Scotland's most respected and popular musicians, a singer-songwriter, guitarist and fiddle player who tours the world with his unique blend of lyrical, roots-based compositions. His moving song Caledonia, and his tune The Gael (used in the Hollywood movie The Last Of The Mohicans), have been recorded by hundreds of artists and enjoyed by millions worldwide. Resolution is Dougie's first collection of original songs in four years. Full lyrics are included in the accompanying CD booklet.

Julie Fowles, Live at Perthshire Amber, released January 2011
Julie Fowles recorded live on stage with her band at Piltchoy Festival Theatre, as part of the Amber Festival. Featuring tracks from all three of Julie's studio albums to date, plus a song duet with Dougie MacLean - a bilingual re-working of his beautiful song Pabay Mòr.

Fowles has touched an audience normally immune to the charms of Gaelic crofters' songs, such as the sweetness of her voice. Drawn from her three studio albums, this live set from last year's Amber festival in Piltchoy finds her and her quartet in immaculate form, skipping between spirited tinwhistle jigs, mournful ballads and her version of McCartney's 'Blackbird.'

Encapsulating the unmistakable live energy and feel of Julie and the band, after a summer of touring, playing and fine tuning their set. Julie's previous studio recording Jam was named Album Of The Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards 2010.

Iain Morrison and Daibhidh Martin, Haunted Bird, released March 2011
Iain and Daibhidh, born and brought up on the Isle of Lewis, are at the forefront of Scotland's new traditional and alternative folk scene. Iain was the Winner of The Scots Traditional Music Award for 'Composer of the Year 2010'. Daibhidh Martin is a storyteller and poet from Lochs on the Isle of Lewis. This ten track album includes: Ghost, Crooked Tree, The Sky Throws You, Walls, Haunted Bird, Taketori, Height Of Summer, Greatest Painter Of Night, Snowgoose and You Are The Only One.

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Regional Press closer to home



Staff at RA Clements in Oban got into the spirit of Comic Relief as they dressed in red and held a coffee morning at the office last Friday.

RED NOSE DAY

Do Something Funny for Money



Above: Class representatives bring their piggy banks to morning assembly at Banavie

Piggy banks gather cash at Banavie

IT WAS all red noses all round at Banavie Primary School's morning assembly on Friday as the whole school wore something red for Comic Relief. Each class were given a piggy bank for pupils to drop their spare change into, while a cake stall helped boost funds. Sales of red noses on the day took Banavie's contribution for the national fundraising event to £250.



Red was the colour at Caol Primary on Friday as pupils did their bit for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day. The children raised cash for the good cause by paying 50 pence each to wear something red to school. 10_112red02

Red nosed pirates at Park Primary School

PIRATES, disco divas and clowns were among some of the wackier costumes on show at Park Primary School, Oban on Friday as part of their Red Nose Day antics. Pupils and staff dressed as they pleased for the day of fun, which included games and some classes putting

on shows for the rest of the school. The event raised £476.33 for Comic Relief. A spokeswoman for the school thanked everyone for their efforts. Pictured are some of the more interesting costumes from last week's fund raiser. 15_112rednosel



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Nutrition and Vision

I have just spent a fascinating three days on a course looking at vision related specific learning difficulties. Those of you who have followed my previous Eye to Eye articles will know I am passionate about helping children and adults read fluently. The course dealt, at considerable length, on how we learn to read and the various stages of development our children must attain to read fluently. One aspect of vision that fascinated me was the importance of adequate and appropriate nutrition. It has been well documented that dry eye conditions and macular degeneration in adults can benefit significantly from improved nutrition. In children adequate nutrition is vital for the development of the different nerve pathways required for vision and learning. Of particular importance is regularly taking omega 3 and 6 oils. These have a profound effect on the development of the visual pathway. (That's what we professionals call the hard wiring from the eye to the brain that enables us to see.) Inadequate intake of a healthy diet rich in omega 3 and 6 can reduce intellectual capacity by up to thirty per cent. Sadly, the northern European diet is typically very low in omega 3 and 6. The best source of omega 3 and 6 is in oily fish such as salmon, mackerel and herring. Inappropriate diet can also have a profound effect on a child's behaviour. I am sure we can all relate tales of children who appeared to be hyperactive ceasing to eat junk food and stopping fizzy drinks who, within days, had completely changed their behaviour for the better. Finally a massive thank you to everyone who mentioned how much they missed my monthly column. It was very gratifying. I would also like to thank The Oban Times for inviting me back again.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists & Podiatrists
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
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Premiere musical tour comes to Oban

A WORLD premiere musical tour of Argyll and Bute this week by the Scottish Reed Trio will feature Dalriada - a brand new piece by leading Scottish composer, Dr Oliver Searle. This suite in six movements will last some 18 minutes and will reflect individual aspects of the six areas hosting the concerts, Bute, Mid Argyll, Cowal, Kintyre, Islay and Oban. Oliver Searle, born in Edinburgh in 1977, grew up in Berwick, but has strong family connections with Argyll, in particular with the Isle of Bute. He was, therefore, the ideal choice when the Argyll and Bute Concert Tours (ABCT) agreed to a proposal from the artists to commission this special suite. The members of the Scottish Reed Trio are all graduates of the RSAMD and Catherine Earnshaw (oboe), Frances Pybus (clarinet) and Heather Kent (bassoon) have all worked with Scotland's major orchestras, forming



their Ensemble in 2008 out of a shared enjoyment of chamber music. In addition to performing live concerts throughout the UK, they have also become specialists in education work, and, in February, gave two inspiring music composition workshops in Tarbert and Lochgilhead, with composer Oliver Searle being present at both. Dalriada will be the major work in the six Argyll concerts which, in addition, feature works by Mozart, Elgar, Ibert,

Tomasi and Beethoven, all in keeping with the Trio's promise to deliver high quality, inspirational programmes. Oban Music Society will hold the concert in St. John's Cathedral tonight (Thursday, March 24) at 7.30 p.m. ABCT is grateful to Enterprise Music Scotland and to the Argyll and Bute Council for their major support in staging these concerts, and to all the individual sponsors from the six areas for their contributions.

Gold medalists feature at Taynuilt ceilidh

BOTH 2010 Royal National Mod gold medalists, who received their medals from HRH Prince Charles, were in Taynuilt last Saturday to sign a scroll for the upcoming Royal wedding. Connel's Joy Dunlop and Skye native Iain G MacLean performed at the final winter ceilidh hosted by Meur Chruachain in Taynuilt Village Hall, where Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Oban volunteer Les Stewart was also present. Les brought with him the branch's scroll of more than 2,000 signatures from around Oban and Lorn, which will be given to HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton as a wedding gift. Les was presented with a cheque from Meur Chruachain for the lifeboat.



Mod 2010 gold medalists Joy Dunlop and Iain G MacLean sign the RNLI scroll for the Royal Wedding. 15_112ceil02

A small section of the Oban High School Pipe band made an exciting opening to the ceilidh. Young piper, James MacPherson, gave a further enjoyable performance of two contrasting sets to open the second half, despite only being asked to do so when he arrived at the hall. Katie MacPherson, awarded a trophy at the recent Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance show, performed beautifully and with great poise. Music for the evening was provided by two groups - gentle clàrsach pieces from Connel group, The Harpies, and Rachel Hair, who had been teaching the group earlier that day. Also play-

ing was the multi-talented Fuaim Ghlaschu, comprised of Heather Kindness, former Oban girl Kim Carnie, and Eilidh and Fraser Munro, joined later on stage by brother Callum. A most enjoyable selection of Gaelic songs was sung by the three gold medalists, as Iain's wife, Kirsteen Grant also performed.

Snippets from our Facebook

Sarah Clarke: What is happening with the Sea plane? It would be such a shame if it doesn't return to Oban! I had lots of Guests would use it --some of them had tickets but the plane couldn't fly because of bad weather and they said they couldn't just get the next flight because it was all booked up! ?
Ee-usk: We used to have so many people visit us for lunch as they were having a day trip to Oban on the seaplane, such a shame if it doesn't fly this year!

Oban Times: If a resident of Argyll and Bute are you sick of being asked your opinion by Argyll and Bute Council? In a meeting, Councillor Vivian Dance said: 'People keep telling me they are sick of being asked what they want.' Is that the case? Are Argyll and Bute Council making good decisions about how to spend your money? Ross Bull: I'm all for decentralisation of power and localisation of decision making but the reason we have elected representatives is to make certain decisions on our behalf. Consulting the public on every matter simply allows councils to cover their backs should things not work out. They can say, "Well it was clearly the wrong decision but we were just doing what the public asked for. Nothing to do with me Gov."
Laura Cook: A&B can consult the public until the cows come home it doesn't mean they listen and it doesn't guarantee that anything will be done.

Oban Times: We're getting reports of thefts of heating oil in the Dalmally and Appin areas. Anyone else been affected?
Ee-usk: Petrol thefts from forecourts apparently on the rise too, although maybe not affecting our area yet!
Tim Dingle: 'Petrol thefts from forecourts apparently on the rise too, although maybe not affecting our area yet!'
Aye but which side of the pumps is doing the robbing...

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Annual Boat Jumble & Car Boot Sale
Craiginish Village Hall, Ardfern
Saturday March 26th from 10.15am - 2pm
Nautical & non-nautical bargains, new and nearly new items.
Bring all the family for a great day out
Entry - £2 (includes refreshments).
Details - 01852 500689

Comunn Gaidhealach An Obain
CEILIDH
Saturday 2nd April 2011 7.30pm
Masonic Hall Oban
See Local Posters for Artists

Meur Lochabair
SKYE CEILIDH DANCE
West End Hotel, Fort William
Saturday, March 26 @ 7.30pm
Singers: Calum Ross, Catriona Fair, Donald Murray, Rebecca MacDonald
Piper: Calum MacColl
Faire an Tigh: Alan Campbell
Guest: John Farquhar Munro MSP
Music: Robert Naim Ceilidh Band
Admission £8

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Acharacle primary pupils celebrated Red Nose Day in their pyjamas.

Pupils in pyjamas for Red Nose Day in Acharacle

PUPILS at Acharacle Primary School did their bit for charity on Friday when they held a talent show in aid of Comic Relief.

As well as putting on a show for parents and friends at the school on Friday afternoon, the children dressed up especially for the occasion. Head teacher Lyndsay Bradley said: 'We've all come to school,

staff and pupils, in our pyjamas or in red clothes. The children have all brought in homebaking they made at home which they'll sell during the talent show.'

The children's show involved a wide variety of acts, including ribbon dancing, joke telling, acrobatics, fiddle playing, break dancing and singing.



Duror Nursery and the village's Mother and Toddler playgroup dressed in red last Thursday to celebrate Red Nose Day and raised £67.



The girls of Ardnamurchan High show their appreciation as the boys prepare to have their legs waxed

Ardnamurchan raises more than £340

A HUGE staff and pupil effort at Ardnamurchan High School raised more than £340 for Red Nose Day last Friday.

While everyone was either wearing red, painting themselves red and eating red food, undeniable highlight of the day was the

leg waxing in the school hall at lunchtime. Voting was brisk, if not fierce for the preferred victims throughout Thursday and Friday, culminating in 5th year boys, Jacob Green, Craig Griggs and staff Mr Patterson and Mr O'Rua baring hairy legs for leg

waxing and braving the painful treatment. Head teacher Mr Millar-Craig thanked everyone for their generosity. He said: '£340 is an amazing sum to raise for a small school and demonstrates the commitment of all to take part in supporting global need.'



Above: Ballachulish Primary School joined dozens of other schools in the West Highlands to raise cash for Comic Relief last Friday. Red Nose Day activities included games and sales stalls in the school hall during the afternoon, which raised the grand total of £360.

Left: Barcaldine Primary School pupils came to school wearing something red and funny to make money for Red Nose Day. Primary sevens were in charge of organising the day and were delighted to raise £56.



Long locks lopped off for charity in Tobermory

Keir before . .



And after . .

ONE MULL mother got her wish on Red Nose Day when her son finally got his unruly locks under control – and donated money to comic relief at the same time.

Keir Raybould, aged 12, a pupil in first year at Tobermory High School, has been growing his hair for the last three years but decided to shave it off for Red Nose Day. At the same time he is donating his hair for a wig. Mum Lyn said she was very proud of her son.

Kier's hair was cut at Catriona's Hair Salon, Tobermory for free.

A special treat on Mothers' Day

IF EVER anyone deserved a day of thanks, surely it is your mother. She raised you, looks after you and gives you her unconditional love no matter what.

If anyone has ever summed up that commitment, surely it was the American writer Ambrose Bierce, who described a sweater as a garment worn by a child when its mother is feeling chilly.

So this Mothering Sunday, why not make a point of showing her that you really appreciate all her efforts and really spoil her for the day?

There are the essentials, flowers and chocolates – such simple gifts but gifts that really show you love her.

Taking mum out for a meal is a great way to say thanks; not only is it a nice treat, but it

will give the family a chance to get together and catch up.

Of course, if you want to make her feel really special, you could take her for a day of pampering, perhaps a day at the spa or a shopping trip.

For a lasting gift, you could treat her to a mother/family photoshoot, or even buy her some jewellery just for her. Most jewellers can engrave items with a message of your choice, ideal to help mark the occasion for more than just one year.

If you really want to push the boat out, you could even book your mum into a hotel for complete relaxation and unwinding time.

The most important gift of all though is telling her how you really feel, and what better way to express your gratitude, appreciation and love than with a card.



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Call for new speed limit at Sconser

LIBERAL Democrat candidate for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch Alan MacRae is calling on Transport Scotland to consider a new speed limit at Sconser on Skye.

The A87 through the village was improved last year but according to Mr MacRae locals feel current restrictions are not sufficient in safeguarding pedestrians or motorists turning off to get the ferry to Raasay.

He said: 'Although the improved section of road at Sconser is welcome, it has become apparent that the speed of road users has increased significantly.'

'As far as the residents of Sconser and Raasay are concerned the combination of fast traffic, vehicles turning for the ferry terminal and school children crossing is an accident waiting to happen.'

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Local MSP Fergus Ewing bids farewell to Caol Community Centre Lunch Club working group committee members David Cargill and Joyce Vickers. 10_12fergus01

Fight goes on to save Caol Lunch Club

Outgoing MSP pledges his support

OUTGOING Ross, Skye and Lochaber MSP Fergus Ewing bade farewell to Caol Community Centre (CCC) regulars last Friday and pledged his support for efforts to save the local lunch club.

Cash-strapped Highland Council is looking for ways to offload the centre - the only one in the Highlands funded by social work services. It says it cannot afford the £120,000 cost of running the club and venue and wants local people to take them over.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* as he met lunch club regulars on Friday, Mr Ewing told *The Oban Times*: 'I have held my monthly surgery at Caol for most of the time I have been MSP.

'I have sometimes taken lunch, along with the lunch club members, and got to know many of them over the years. The club is well supported and it is a very valuable facility in many ways providing a chance for a chat, some company to many who are living alone and a cheery friendly atmosphere with the girls who look after them.

'The centre itself is not used as

fully as it should, and I hope the council, which is now looking at the future of the lunch club, will find ways to make the club more financially successful and hence be able to continue with the club.

'I have asked my MSP colleagues from other parties to support the campaign and am pleased that Dave Thompson, list MSP and candidate for Lochaber, has done so alongside Charles Kennedy, Mary Scanlon and David Stewart.

Solution

'Cross party campaigns such as this show that the whole voice of the main parties are behind the campaign and, whilst the council has a difficult financial furrow, I hope it will continue to work with the campaign, well led by the club members themselves, and find a solution to keep the Caol Lunch Club functioning well for years to come.'

A 12-strong steering group comprising CCC regulars has started work on a new blueprint for the centre and lunch club, possibly under community ownership.

Members met on Tuesday

night, under the chairmanship of Councillor Bill Clark, to hear updates from three sub groups with specific responsibilities.

One, under the chairmanship of George Kerr, reported on the structure of the building.

Another, chaired by Fiona MacColl, gave an update on plans to boost community use, while Joyce Vickers' group presented a report detailing new ideas on delivering the lunch club service.

Mrs Vickers told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'We want the lunch club to continue, only it will be in a different format.

'We are looking at a club that will run from 10am to 12pm five days a week in the big hall.

'It would be a total disaster for our elderly customers in terms of their well-being and companionship if this place closed.

'It is us who have kept the doors open and kept these wonderful staff in a job.'

Mr Ewing, who has been local MSP for 12 years, will contest the Inverness and Nairn seat at the May 5 Scottish parliamentary elections.

Lewis crofters win right to buy land

Trust plans to inject new life into area

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A LEWIS crofting community has won the right to buy the land they live on after the Scottish Government backed their bid against the wishes of their landlord.

Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham's decision this week could result in local people taking over the 26,800-acre Paice Estate to progress ambitious plans to boost economic activity in their east Lewis community.

The move ends months of doubt about whether the government would back the Paice Trust's hostile bid, which has been bitterly opposed throughout by the estate owner Barry Lomas.

An independent expert will now determine the market value of the land, after which the trust will have six months to raise the necessary funds. The trust's projects include building affordable housing, developing a ranger service, a camper van site, holiday packages for visitors, improving paths and exploring renewable energy opportunities.

Roseanna Cunningham said it was only after 'serious scrutiny and deliberation' that the decision was made to give the trust the go ahead.

She said: 'The plans the trust has should help inject new life into the area, rejuvenate the economy and boost the fortunes of all those who live, work and visit this spectacular part of our country. I wish them good fortune in raising the money required to purchase the estate and every success in shaping their own destiny.'

Paice Trust chairman Angus McDowall welcomed the decision as 'a major step forward' for Paice's 400 residents. He said: 'This is an historic step forward for our community and sends an unambiguous message to the landlord that the economic and social development of Paice in the interests of the whole community should be ranked above private financial gain.

'It is a complete vindication of the persistence which we and the whole community have shown over so many years in trying to exercise our rights under the Act in order to plan a better future for local crofters and residents.

'But it is only a start. We will now be contacting the landlord with a view to resuming discussions about a possible voluntary transfer of the whole estate. This has always been our preferred route.

'Once we know what the valuation is we will, of course, need to raise the money to fund the purchase. I am confident that this can be achieved.'

Mr Lomas accused the trust of 'lies and deceptions' in its takeover bid and warned a legal challenge to the buyout was still live.

Mr Lomas also insists the offer of an amicable transfer of the estate was always on the table but had been rejected in favour of a headline-grabbing land war.

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FOR LEASE
SNACK BAR SITE
GANAVAN SANDS CAR PARK, GANAVAN, OBAN

Offers are invited for the lease of a mobile snack bar site at Ganavan Sands Car Park, Ganavan, Oban, over the summer 2011 period.

Offers over £125 per week are invited for the site
Closing date for offers is Friday 22nd April 2011

For further details: Estates Office, Blairvadach, Helensburgh G84 8ND
Tel: 01436-658957

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

Compromise on cards over rural skip service cutbacks

A GLIMMER of hope could be on the horizon for rural communities in Lochaber worried about the removal of their community skip service.

Highland Council earlier this month agreed to stop skip collections and to make budget savings of £76,000 a year from April 1.

The move provoked a furious outcry from residents concerned about an increase in flytipping and costs of taking waste material to the Fort William recycling centre.

Lochaber councillors were inundated with complaints and in response have agreed to discuss the issue at their business meeting in Fort William on Monday.

There is no chance of the full service being restored but possible compromise solutions, *The*

Oban Times understands, could include sealing the service back to quarterly collections and/or the provision of recycling points in remote places such as Lochaline.

Fort William and Ardnachurchan councillor Donald Cameron confirmed the matter was on next Monday's agenda.

He said: 'If Highland Council is serious about recycling they have to offer that facility.'

'There is a growing belief that while the pilot project in Skye did have some success in increasing recycling, there are problems and there may have to be local solutions.

'Sometimes the communities themselves have those solutions and it is a case of working with them to find one.'

Don't delay - fill in your census questionnaire

There's a £1,000 fine if you don't take part



27 March is census day for Scotland. It is vital that every household fills in and returns their census questionnaire. In fact, it is so vital that you risk a fine of up to £1,000 if you don't take part.

Scotland's Census is a count of the population and everyone is included.

Filling in the blanks helps plan the essential services we all need like schools, transport and shops. All the personal information you give is kept confidential for 100 years.

Please remember to fill in your census questionnaire and return it now.

Find out more at www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk or call the helpline on 0300 123 1702



SNH host meeting on Mull

ISLANDERS on Mull are being invited to an informal evening reception held by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) at the Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure from 5.30 until 7pm tonight, (Thursday) March 24.

Scottish Natural Heritage is the Scottish Government's advisor on the management, enjoyment, understanding and sustainable use of Scotland's wildlife, natural habitats and landscape.

Andrew Thin, SNH chairman, will host the event, along with local area manager David MacLennan.

Andrew Thin said: 'The evening will provide an opportunity for informal discussion about the work of SNH in the area, what we do and why; giving people the opportunity to raise issues relating to the natural environment which are of interest to them. This is about making senior people in SNH more accessible to the public and is also a really useful way for us to keep in touch with public perceptions of the organisation. We certainly hope many people will be able to come along and we look forward to meeting them on the night.'

The event is free and refreshments will be provided.

Trees for Argyll

SCHOOL children and community groups across Argyll will help plant thousands of free trees this spring as part of the Woodland Trust's 'More Trees, More Good' campaign.

Some 23 native tree packs are being distributed across the area, each containing either seeds for 105 trees or 420 trees.

Each pack is available in four different themes: year-round colour, wood fuel, wildlife, or wild harvest.

The scheme is supported by WHSmith and the People's Postcode Lottery.

Applications for new packs to be distributed this Autumn or next year can be submitted at www.moretreesmoregood.org.uk/communitytrees.



Mairi MacLean, centre, with Portree High School residence manager Margaret Anne Beaton, left, and acting area education, culture and sport manager Rosemary Bridge at her retirement presentation.

Staff pay tribute to retiring school hostel matron

HIGHLAND Council education staff have paid tribute to a school residence officer for devoting more than 20 years of her life to looking after children from some of Lochaber's remotest communities.

Mairi MacLean may have spent most of that time as matron at Camaghael Hostel at Lochaber High School, but colleagues at an afternoon tea at Mallaig High School held to mark her retirement were unostentatious in their praise.

Mairi moved to Mallaig to begin work as pupil support officer after Camaghael closed in 2009, preparing Small Isles and Knoydart children living in lodgings in and around the village for their 'big flat' to the new residence at the high school.

When the building opened in March last year, Mairi took up her post as residence officer until retiring earlier this month.

Portree High School residence manager Margaret Anne Beaton travelled from the

Skye capital to attend the celebration and thank Mairi for her years of service.

Margaret told *The Oban Times*: 'Mairi was very heavily involved in progressing the new building in terms of what furnishings and provision it should have for the children.

'Helping prepare the children for their move from lodgings into the unit was a huge part of her job.'

Acting area education, culture and sport manager Rosemary Bridge also thanked Mairi for her valuable contribution on behalf of Highland Council.

"Helping prepare the children for their move was a huge part of her job."

Margaret Anne Beaton, Portree High School residence manager.

Bands to compete in Scottish festival finals

LOCHABER Community Wind Band and the Great Glen Swing will be in Perth Concert Hall next Saturday to compete in the Scottish Concert Band Festival finals in the community band class.

Band conductor John Whyte said: 'This is a great opportunity for the band to perform at one of Scotland's premier new concert venues as well as hear some of the top bands from around the country and one we are all looking forward to.'

The ensemble will then take to the stage the following day at Ballachulish Village Hall at 7.30pm along with Ilona Lawson Munro's Kinlochleven Drama Club for a mixed musical variety concert. Both bands and the drama club are keen to encourage children's participation in music and drama and admission for children is free.

Film spotlight on sign language

A FILM documenting the lives of profoundly deaf sign language users in the Highlands, Islands and Moray will be launched at Eden Court, Inverness, tomorrow at 12.30pm.

'Highland Deaf Culture, Our Memories and Language' records deaf signers telling their extraordinary life stories through 'finger spelling', a communication form dying out as modern signing becomes the norm.

Western Isles Sensory Centre in Stornoway will host the islands launch on April 8 from 2.30pm to 4pm. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded nearly £50,000 to the three-year project.

Double celebration as charity gets cash boost and top marks for quality of care

A CHARITY providing respite care for people in Skye and Lochalsh has a double reason to celebrate.

Crossroads Care Skye and Lochalsh has been awarded £5,000 by Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland and in a glowing report the Care Commission gave the charity full marks for its 'excellent' quality of care and services.

'Delighted' Crossroads Care co-

ordinator Jennifer Millington said: 'It is a difficult time financially for many charities and to get another grant was great. To have that followed up by an excellent Care Commission report makes this a really exciting time for us.'

The charity, established for 25 years, provides respite care to individuals and families who care for an elderly or disabled relative. As well as the core

delivery of two-and-a-half hours respite care per week, the group provides emergency cover and emergency breaks for carers. In its report earlier this month, the commission noted Crossroads Care Skye and Lochalsh 'ensures that the service users and their carers are at the heart of what they do, and this through involving people at all stages of their care and support'.

Fair sparks green revolution hopes

ORGANISERS of Fort William's first Renewable Energy and Heat Fair are hailing its success – and hope the event can spark a green energy revolution in communities across Lochaber.

The fair, run by Lochaber Environmental Group, saw more than 1,000 people flock to the Nevis Centre on Saturday to see how going green could save them money and help the environment. Highland Council leader Michael Foxley opened the event, which saw local people and more than 40 businesses set up stalls and workshops to offer advice and information on solar power, hydro power, home insulation, heat pumps, biomass power and more. A number of local West Highlands companies and estates have taken advantage of government schemes aimed at boosting the uptake of green energy projects but so far individual households have largely missed out.

Renew project manager Robert Dunn is determined to change that and hopes events like the fair could prompt a 'steady increase' in the number of households switching to renewable energy sources.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The whole point of the project is to try and support domestic installations and to inform people about what's going on. The fair was put on by a local charity and was free for everyone and we had about 1,100 people through the doors.'

He continued: 'Government grants are making it much more economical for people to install these kinds of things.'

Mr Dunn cited the example of a bed and breakfast in Strontian which recently started using a wood pellet boiler system.

It cost the owners £12,000 to install, but according to Mr Dunn will receive £3,000 a year for the next 20 years. 'It's unbelievable,' he said.

'Not only do you get extra money in your pocket, but you don't have to pay energy bills. Right now there is an amazing opportunity for people to move to biomass and renewables.'

Long awaited Ferries Review to be published 'shortly'

THE FERRIES Review will be published 'shortly', claims Transport Scotland.

The long awaited document, which it is hoped will outline the way forward for both tenders and practice throughout the Highlands and Islands, has been almost a year in completing. The Scottish government published a Ferries Review consultation document in June 2010 and ran a public consultation until the end of September 2010.

The review process saw more than 40 consultation events being held throughout the Highlands and Islands.

This week Transport Scotland said: 'All non-confidential responses to the consultation have been published on the Scottish government's website and a summary of the consultation responses will be published shortly.'

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Hair today, gone tomorrow: 53 pupil Callan McClymont with teachers Mike Fairman, top, and John McGilp show off their freshly shaved heads. 10_f12shave01

Red Nose Day fun at Kinlochleven

KINLOCHLEVEN High School staff and pupils have raised £800 for Comic Relief in a day of fundraising activities at the school on Friday.

Highlight for pupils in a busy day of fun events was seeing two teachers and a fellow student getting their heads shaved.

S3 girl Callan McClymont and head teacher John McGilp both

got a close-cropped 'number one' shave, but general studies teacher Mike Fairman opted for the less severe 'number four' cut, telling the rowdy school audience he already felt exposed enough after recently shaving off his beard!

As well as the head shaving, two sixth year boys had their legs waxed, a raffle and a music quiz were held as well as a bake sale.

Dennis Prosser, S5, completed a 14-mile sponsored walk to Glencoe and back while S2 pupil Danielle Campbell raised money through a 55-minute sponsored silence. Sixth-year pupil Branwen Wilson, who helped organise a number of events, told *The Oban Times*: 'Everyone has done something to raise money so hopefully we raised quite a lot.'

Lochaber capital to host international Celtic conference

FORT William will welcome cultural representatives from the six Celtic countries and regions of Europe to a major cultural event in July, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Around 100 delegates from Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, Wales, Brittany and the Isle of Man are expected to attend the International Celtic Conference at the West End Hotel from July 25-30.

The conference represents a major coup for the Lochaber capital and will boost its credentials as one of Europe's major Celtic cultural centres.

For organisers A'Chomhdhail Cheilteach na-Alba (The Celtic Congress, Scottish Branch) the occasion will be extra special – 2011 is its centenary year. A'Chomhdhail Cheilteach na-Alba will be involving local people and organisations in the run up to

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
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July and will operate 'open doors' policy for all scheduled events. Lochaber High School pupils have already been invited to create a web page for the conference, while local primary school children are being invited to submit design ideas for promotional materials.

Profile
A'Chomhdhail Cheilteach na-Alba secretary Christine MacKay told *The Oban Times* young people would have a key role in raising the event's profile locally.

She said: 'We are running a competition for Lochaber High School pupils to design our web page, and for primary pupils we are approaching all the schools in

town to make banners and posters to welcome delegates to the area. The primary kids are also being asked to design the front cover of our programme.'

Coinciding with the Year of Scotland's Islands celebrations, this year's conference theme will be how geography has influenced island language and culture. According to Ms MacKay, Fort William is 'the ideal venue' to celebrate island life and heritage.

She said: 'Fort William has its own access to the sea and has good links to Oban and Mallaig, from where many of the islands are accessed by ferry.'

'Historically also, many people from the Outer Isles came to Fort William to school, for then they were part of Inverness-shire.'

The packed programme includes an ecumenical service featuring the Celtic languages, evening ceildhs, talks on history, poetry and culture and an islands discussion panel.

Children
Daily excursions and an evening featuring Gaelic-speaking children telling the story of their islands through poetry, dance and song will also feature. Scotland's Islands and Bord na Gaidhlig are supporting the event.

Each member country of the congress takes it in turns to host the annual celebration, which was last held in Scotland in 2005, at Oban.

The Celtic Congress, founded in 1902, aims to 'perpetuate the culture, ideals and languages of the Celtic peoples and to maintain an intellectual contact and close co-operation between the respective Celtic communities.'

Trawler death inquiry hears of hour-long rescue delay

CONFUSION over the location of a fishing vessel that capsized off Kilmory in Ardnamurchan led to an hour-long delay in a search and rescue helicopter team being sent out, a fatal accident inquiry has been told.

The inquiry at Fort William Sheriff Court into how three fishermen died during the incident heard Clyde Coastguard initially tasked the chopper from HMS Gannet at Prestwick Airport to fly to Kilmory near the Mull of Kintyre.

Clyde Coastguard watch assistant Peter Laybourne told the inquiry he took an emergency call from visiting cyclist James Lancashire, who witnessed the capsizing from the shore.

Mr Lancashire made it clear

By RICHARD HADDOCK
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the incident had occurred off the Ardnamurchan coast, near the Bo Faskadale reef. 'It was one of the first things he said,' Mr Laybourne said.

Mr Laybourne heard a colleague preparing to send the helicopter to Kintyre during his call but did not tell his team that he had the correct location.

'I thought they were aware it was Ardnamurchan,' he said.

Mr Lancashire's information was not passed up the chain of command and the helicopter was scrambled before the location had been confirmed. Watch officer David Eakin said he was told to contact the helicopter team by

watch manager Tarik Yassin. Asked if he had interrupted Mr Laybourne's call to find out the exact location of the capsized boat, Mr Eakin said: 'Peter was left to his call. He was very wrapped up in his call at that stage and I wasn't in a position to interrupt. I was looking after other stuff.'

When it became clear the boat was near Ardnamurchan, the helicopter was stood down before it was airborne. Mr Yassin then phoned Stornoway Coastguard to ask them to take over control of the rescue effort.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'It sounds like everyone was trying to find out who's jurisdiction it was rather than tasking a rescue team. Did it not occur to you

that while you were having these political discussions that people might be drowning in the water?' Mr Eakin replied: 'It's right what you say.'

The inquiry also heard the HMS Gannet chopper being stood down was not immediately logged on the system, meaning Stornoway was not informed straight away. The HMS Gannet helicopter was eventually scrambled over an hour after the initial call to help with the rescue effort.

Thomas Sanderson, Peter Hilton and skipper Tony Hayton, all of Maryport, England, died when their scallop trawler *Aquila* capsized on July 20 2009.

'The inquiry continued yesterday (Wednesday) and is due to recall again in April.'

'An Island Parish' star is guest at Oban fun day



Teacher Lorraine Wotherspoon and volunteer Katherine Jackson look on as Father Roddy McAuley tries his hand at hooking a 'duck' at the St Columba's Primary School fun day. 15_112rod0401

St Columba's Primary School welcomes Father Roddy to school fundraiser

FATHER Roddy McAuley, star of the BBC programme, *An Island Parish* was the special guest at St Columba's Primary School's fun day.

No stranger
The programme follows a year in the life of the South Uist priest and, as Father Roddy explained, 'has put the island on the map'.

Father Roddy is no stranger to Oban, as he makes regular trips to the town to visit his parents.

He said: 'The programme has been great promotion for the island and that was the reason I agreed to do it.'

'I am recognised more in the street, but that's all part of the fun.'

The fun day, held at Oban Primary Campus last Saturday, was organised with the purpose of raising funds for St Columba's school to buy computers.

The campus' main hall was filled with various stalls and a football tournament was also held during the day. The event was opened by Oban High School Pipe Band before Father Roddy, himself, impressed those in attendance with a magic show and a few pipe tunes.

St Columba's head teacher Sarah Jane MacSween is from Benbecula, where Father Roddy was based for six years.

She said: 'We are delighted to have Father Roddy here today for our fun day, which we hope can become an annual event.'

'Our aim is to have a laptop for every child and we will keep fundraising until we do that.'

'The support so far from the community and local businesses has been fantastic but we are always looking for more donations.'

Annual aquaculture awards invite nominations

NOMINATIONS for this year's Scottish Marine Aquaculture Awards are now open.

The free-to-enter competition, run by Crown Estates, is organised to celebrate achievements and successes within the industry.

Awards are open to everyone involved in the Scottish aquaculture, no matter how large or small, who employ the highest standards of aquaculture husbandry; supply Scottish marine aquaculture products to local national and international markets; farm with a high level of environmental awareness; and deliver a high quality product.

Fish landings value decreases

THERE has been a three per cent decrease in the value of fish landed by Scottish vessels in 2010, according to provisional statistics published by Scotland's chief statistician.

National Statistics for Scotland say that 366,000 tonnes of fish were landed by Scottish vessels with a value of £428million.

Alex Adrian, aquaculture operations manager for The Crown Estate said: 'These Awards encompass the full spectrum of Scotland's marine aquaculture, and I'm sure we will receive a range of high-quality entries reflecting the innovative and responsible approach to business that characterises the industry.'

Submissions to the competition must be submitted by Friday. A shortlist of finalists will be published in May ahead of the award ceremony in Edinburgh in June.

To find out more, log on to the website at www.marineaquacultureawards.com.

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, March 21, 1996



Green light for Tesco expansion plan

PLANNING permission has been granted for the proposed Tesco superstore in Oban and work is scheduled to start in May.

The multi-million pound development, which will create around 100 jobs, will be built on the site of the former mart and will be around three times the size of the existing store.

Pharmacy
The new 4,870 square-metre Tesco will incorporate a coffee shop, pharmacy, customer toilets and there are plans to have a department with clothing designed by Jeffery Rogers.

A 371-space customer and 52-space staff car park is also to be created along with a new access road into Lochside Street.

The present store will continue to trade until the new Tesco opens but will then be demolished and the area landscaped for the car parks.

Currently the store employs around 170 staff and an extra 100 full and part-time jobs are expected to be created following the redevelopment.

Work is due to take around six months to complete.

Meanwhile, Matheson's Furniture Store is to move

into the former Lorn Bakery in Soroba Road.

New homes for Port Appin

PORT Appin is to have 15 new homes built by Lorn and Mull Housing Association. Planning permission has been granted for eight amenity/elderly houses and seven general needs houses as well as an equipped play area.

No council homes have been built in the area for over 10 years and Lorn and Mull hopes to alleviate what they term a serious housing problem.

Work on the £1.2 million project is due to begin in the autumn.

Double gold for Lorna

LORNA MacKenzie of Ormsary, Lochgilphead topped a good performance by Argyll athletes with two gold medals in a national event at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh.

Twelve young Argyll athletes ended their indoor season with a creditable performance in the Scottish final of the Sports Hall Athletics series.

The final was held on Sunday and after five hours of competition the Argyll under-13 girls

team finished fourth overall on 97 points.

Winners were East Kilbride on 171 points, Motherwell were second with 156 points and Edinburgh, third on 133 points. Shetland took fifth and Orkney, sixth.

Top Argyll athlete was Lorna MacKenzie with two gold medals.

Powered
Lorna's double started in the six-lap race where she powered to victory in 1.32.1 and 30 minutes later she combined with Oban's Carolyn Campbell to win the eight-lap Paarlaf relay in style.

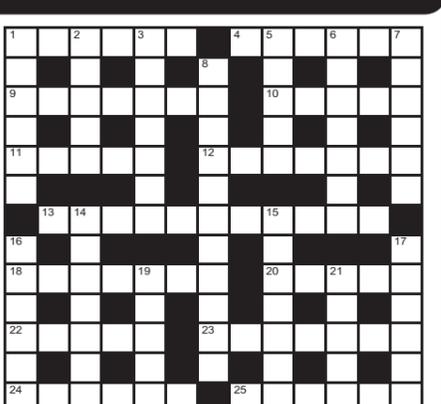
Carolyn was also a double medallist winning silver in the six-lap race behind Lorna in 1.32.5. Argyll's other medallist was Tighnabruich's Nicola Irvine, who finished the day with two bronze medals in the high jump (1.35 metres) and the two-lap race in 25.8 seconds.

Argyll's team consisted of Ailsa MacLean and Rebecca MacKinnon from Campbelltown, Carolyn Campbell from Oban, Nicola Irvine from Tighnabruich, Lorna MacKenzie, Ormsary, Morag Cairns from Kilmichael Glassary and Jennifer Wood, Michelle and Nicola Scally, Alana McGarrie, Claire and Laura Gaskell, all from Ardrishaig.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- The odds are probably against this person (6)
 - Spicy sausage (6)
 - As a preferred alternative (7)
 - White wader (5)
 - Exotic fruit (5)
 - Problem (3-4)
 - Responsible for (11)
 - Loving (7)
 - Pear (5)
 - Disturbed (5)
 - Not looked forward to (7)
 - French film director, of 'Weekend' (6)
 - Dash (6)

- Down**
- Span (6)
 - Croatian inventor, Nikola (5)
 - Mint family member (7)
 - Wide awake (5)
 - Sent by plane (7)
 - Amount eaten (6)
 - Bric a brac (4,3,4)
 - Wonky (7)
 - An institution for advancement in literature (7)
 - Nosey insect? (6)
 - Without warning (6)
 - One who has (5)
 - Fourth son of Jacob (5)



Last Week's Solution

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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Additional funding welcome

WHATEVER the backdrop to the Scottish government's decision to give Argyll and Bute Council an additional £2.5 million in the form of a one-off payment, the news should be warmly welcomed - and the funding sensibly used.

This sum of money, while not huge in the grand scale of local authority funding, may ease pressure on a wealth of areas including jobs that are currently under threat. Employment via the local authority, directly or indirectly, accounts for a large percentage of the income generated throughout Argyll and Bute - cut this vital artery and the region will bleed slowly to death.

Housing issues holding back growth

THE DIRE need for affordable housing throughout Scotland's west coast has been an issue shouted loud and long from the rooftops for numerous years.

Yet, this week, local housing associations have highlighted that the situation is nearing crisis point and the economy of the west is suffering acutely as people simply cannot afford to either come to the area to work or remain within the area to live because they cannot find as basic a need as a roof over their heads.

Options available, such as first time home buyers investing in a place of their own, have been severely restricted as banks and mortgage lenders effectively close the purse strings and stifle opportunities for those who would embark on the first steps on a creaking property ladder.

In a few weeks time, candidates in elections throughout Scotland will be knocking on doors canvassing for your vote. Ask each and every one of them what they are going to do about affordable housing - it affects everyone, whether you are safe behind your own door, or not.

GLASGOW LETTER

Leabhar's Craic

IN PARTNERSHIP with the Gaelic Books Council, the third Leabhar's Craic, Scotland's only Gaelic literary festival, will take place on Saturday March 26 in the CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street, from 1.30pm.

It will be a fun day for all the family with workshops, book launches, lectures, readings and comedy sketches. If you are not sure how to spend your afternoon just drop in to the Literature Corner where you can enjoy a coffee and browse through an extensive range of Gaelic books and CDs or catch up with old friends.

The corner will have performances from 1pm until 5.30pm and will include a special preview of the soon to be published biography and music collection of the Campbells of Greepe.

A children's programme will run throughout the afternoon so the whole family can have a fun day.

The main programme for the day will be as follows: 1pm to 2.30pm, Creative Writing Workshop; 2.30pm to 4pm, 'Chick Lit in Gaelic' with Catriona Lexy Campbell; 4pm to 6pm, Song Writing with Dol Eoin MacFhionghain - bring your own guitar; 5.30pm to 7pm, Women in Gaelic Writing with performances from Carina MacLeod and Mairi Morrison and discussion with Catriona Lexy Campbell and Mairi E MacLeod among others; 7pm to 8pm, Book Launch with the Gaelic Books Council - meet Elizabeth Sutherland and have a glass of wine to celebrate the launch of her new collections of poems 'Orain Lizzie a' Ghlinne'; 8pm to late, Ceol's Craic with Dick Gaughan, Allan MacDonald and Kathleen MacInnes.

A full day with something for everyone, to be finished off with some excellent music.

Workshops must be pre-booked and for that and other tickets telephone 0141 352 4900.

For tickets telephone 01786 274000.

Diary dates
Thursday March 24: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Eddie Walker/Fraser Spiers.
Friday March 25: Glasgow Skye Association Youth Concert, Partick Burgh Hall, 7pm, Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 9pm to lam.
Saturday March 26: Leabhar's Craic - see above. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Ceilidh, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.45pm. Clann Gaidhlig Gaelic Day, University of West of Scotland, 10am. Hallaig, Tolbooth, Stirling, 1.30pm.
Thursday March 31: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Janet Russell.
Friday April 1: Stirling Gaelic Choir Annual Concert, Victoria Hall, Dunblane, 7.30pm.

Pub scene
 MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Calum Iain MacCorquodale on Friday, Deoch 'n Dorus on Saturday and Willie Cameron on Sunday.
 In the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday.
Neil Murray, Telephone: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

for the winner of the Jigs, Niall Stewart; The Charles Hepburn Rose Bowl for Overall Winner, Niall Stewart.

A day at the Tolbooth

THE TOLBOOTH, Stirling, will be the venue for Hallaig - A Tribute to Sorley MacLean, a celebration of 100 years since the birth of the poet.

Starting at 1.30pm, proceedings will include a film screening, readings, a talk on Sorley's life and music from well-known piper Allan MacDonal.

Following Hallaig, there will be a full programme of Gaelic culture starting at 4pm with a Gaelic song workshop with Gillebride MacMillan and then at 7pm Gillebride will deliver a pre-performance talk introducing the theme of the link between our culture and that of Galicia in northern Spain.

This will be developed in the main concert of the evening. Facing the Atlantic, which will start at 8pm.

The Tolbooth has collaborated with Julie Fowles and Galician Rose Cedron to produce the programme which will also feature supporting musicians Gillebride MacMillan, Eamon Doorley, Alex Blanco and Mathew Watson.

Tickets are available for the whole day or for the individual components with the pre-talk free to those going to the main concert.

For tickets telephone 01786 274000.

Piping results
 THE FULL results from the recent Uist and Barra Piping Competition are as follows:
 Ceol Mor: 1 Iain Spiers; 2 Douglas Murray; 3 Angus MacColl; 4 Niall Stewart; 5 William Geddes.
 Ceol Beag: 1 Niall Stewart; 2 Douglas Murray; 3 Angus MacColl; 4 Pipe Major Gordon J Walker; 5 James Murray.
 Puirt Cruinn: 1 Niall Stewart; 2 James Murray; 3 Angus MacColl; 4 Pipe Major Gordon J Walker; 5 Douglas Murray.
 Awards: The Glasgow Highland Club Silver Medal for the winner of Ceol Mor, Iain Spiers; The Finlay MacKenzie Challenge Trophy for the winner of the Ceol Mor, Iain Spiers; The Oban Times Challenge Trophy for the winner of the March, Strathspey and Reel, Niall Stewart; The Angus John MacDonald Challenge Trophy



Lochnell Primary School - 1971

Peter Darling of Lismore Crescent, Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which show the primary five, six and seven pupils of Lochnell Primary School in 1971. Back row, left to right: Alister Steel, John Kerr, Andrew Page, Campbell Cameron, Julie Bradley, Lesley Kettles, Jane Wilson, Peter Darling and Brian Fisher. Middle row: Charlie MacLean, Donald MacPherson, Maureen Allan, Irene MacGregor, Heather Edge, Gordon MacLeod, Donald Cunningham, Brian Prasher, George Stevens, Andrew MacLean and head teacher Mr Kettles. Front row: Neil MacLeod, Bobby MacLeod, Gordon Emslie, Andrew Sharples, Christine Harris, Sheila Campbell, Mary MacKenzie, Helen Livingstone, Ann MacLean, Wilma Kennedy and Donald Cameron. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to **The Oban Times**, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Plockton Music School set to grow and prosper

Sir, I was disappointed to read the very negative remarks from Councillor Allan Henderson about the short-lived threat to the Plockton Music School in last week's *Oban Times*.

Because of the good working relationships which I have with the Highland Council, West Highland College and Michael Russell, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, we had the bones of significant savings, new income streams and additional work within a matter of days.

This allowed Douglas McDiarmid to produce an excellent report as to future joint working at Plockton between the Scottish Government, Highland Council and West Highland College.

This has now been agreed. It ensures the continuation of Plockton Music School, provides savings of more than £350,000, additional income of £200,000 and additional funding support from the Scottish Government of £600,000 in the next four years.

This will allow the Plockton Music School to grow and prosper. Equally importantly, it will lead to a range of tertiary education opportunities, especially a new national certificate in traditional music.

Using the facilities, equipment, accommodation and tutors at Plockton High School and the Music School will provide traditional music tuition to dozens of additional adult students in years to come.

I regard this as a major achievement.
Michael Foxley, Leader, Highland Council.

Delighted at Oban to Ballachulish cycle path progress

Sir, I come up from Manchester several times each year to the caravan park in Barcaldine.

I am a member of one of the many cycle clubs in the Manchester area and am delighted to see the progress that is taking place with the cycle track from Oban to Ballachulish.

There is now only a very short distance to complete from Appin to Duror, probably the most historical part of the route, especially with the connection to the Appin Murder mystery.

As directed by the sign above Ballachulish Bridge, I see the track will now cross a few yards from the burial site to the area of the last resting place of James of the Glen, at Keil Churchyard. This is a very interesting

cemetery that I am sure will delight visitors to this historical place in a period of Scottish history which is well documented by R L Stevenson and several books regarding the murder. Another is by Mrs McGrigor, mother of the well-known local MP.

As *The Oban Times* is very popular in this area, especially with the various cycle clubs, I am sure they will be delighted to read the track is almost complete, especially as it is probably the most scenic journey in Britain.

Alex McNulty, Barcaldine Caravan Park, Barcaldine.

No need to point out potholes

Sir, I would like to thank Argyll and Bute Council for all the new bollards being put in place on the A816 between Arduaine and Kilmartin.

However, it didn't need to go to the bother of indicating every pothole on the road for us motorists - we know they are there!

Rick Potter, Arduaine.

First name of Mr Spencer?

Sir, Can you tell me the first name of Mr Spencer?

I think he was a town consul and owner of hotels in Oban in 1965.

I have a photo of this man and would very much like to have his name. Thanking you,
Helga, Barugata 18, Reykjavik, Iceland 101. Email helga@myndir.is.

Lent - a man made tradition

Sir, Many people fast or deprive themselves of luxuries during Lent.

Others use the time to curb bad habits such as alcohol, cigarettes and chocolate.

Although Lent is seen essentially as a religious time of penitence and reflection, and these qualities are certainly aspirational for many Christians, there is no Biblical instruction whereby Jesus commands His followers to 'fast' during this period.

Even the term 'Lent' is not found anywhere in the Bible, yet it is still embraced unquestioningly by many church denominations. It is actually derived from Old English, not Greek or Hebrew, and stems from the word to 'lengthen', indicating the time of year, ie the lengthening of days during Spring.

The Gospels inform us that Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights without any food or even water where He was tempted in every conceivable way by the devil.

I have been in the Judean Desert and it is a very barren and inhospitable place, without creature comforts and certainly not a pastoral 'retreat'!

This was a gruelling yet necessary preparation time for His ministry on earth as the awaited Messiah, but He did not ask His followers to copy these actions, in fact the Pharisees observed 'but Your Disciples do not fast'. (Matthew 9:13.)

Even after the Resurrection, Jesus did not command His followers to abstain or fast for 40 days and nights, so how come Lent is so prominent in Church circles?

It is because it is a man-made tradition, straining into physical perfection, which cancels out the need for God's love and grace. Some, of course, will try to reassure that it is identification with Christ's sufferings, yet He knew that only He could go through that specific place of suffering for us.

We may suffer for Him in our trials as His followers, but we were never asked to adhere to a ritual, picking and choosing whatever we feel like giving up, as if for charity.

We can recall the time with sincerity without feeling that we have to do it all over again for Him. He has already done it for us, and that was enough. On the Cross He said: 'It is finished.'

We don't need to add anything more, much less the man-made tradition of Lent.
Colin Nevin, Bangor, County Down.

Total satisfaction from the Ombudsman

Sir, In reply to Mr McFarlane's letter in last week's *Oban Times*, I have had reason to appeal to the Ombudsman twice in the last 18 months, each time with satisfactory results.

The first time was a dispute with the Hydro Board about the way it was handling my account.

The second time was with British Telecom about the way it was handling my application to go back to them.

I have had total satisfaction from the Ombudsman. I am now in dispute with the *Readers Digest* and though the Ombudsman is slow, it is very thorough and its wheels grind very slowly. I expect the same satisfactory result.

I sympathise with the people Mr McFarlane says have had disappointing results from the Ombudsman when the dispute has been with Argyll and Bute Council. It must be remembered, though, that this body has its own water-tight rules which will cover it for a multitude of contingencies.

Jill Galbraith, Croig, Isle of Mull.

Search for Suez Crisis photographs

Sir, I am preparing a book of photographs of the Suez Crisis in November 1956.

If others would like to have their photos included to ensure that these images - ships, blockships, aircraft, general views, troops,

paratroop drops - are not lost to posterity, would they care to loan them to me briefly for scanning and enhancing, together with appropriate information?

I am the compiler of the book *The Royal Engineers and the National Service Years*. My email address is ericpegg@tiscali.co.uk and my address is 8 Kinross Crescent, Marton, Blackpool, FY4 4PE, telephone 01253 764937. With many thanks,
E A Pegg.

Disappointed at level of speech therapy cuts

Sir, It is very disappointing that the speech therapy service should be reduced by 50 per cent by Argyll and Bute Council.

This is staggeringly disproportionate to the cuts required by the council across most departments.

Children who need this service require this at key stages to enable them to progress with social, psychological and educational development phases that can affect them throughout life if not met.

This cut would appear to conflict with the council's commitment to the Curriculum for Excellence and Getting It Right For Every Child.

I hope Argyll and Bute Council reconsiders the level of cuts to this service and how this might impact on children, now and in the future.
Deirdre Henderson, Crockett Cottage, Southend.

Helicopter crash site visit planned

Sir, In the late evening of August 12 1970, a Royal Navy Wasp helicopter from the frigate *HMS Dido*, piloted by Lieutenant Commander David M Carr, Royal Navy, crashed on the Mull of Kintyre in a position, from naval records and in naval parlance, 120 degrees Mull of Kintyre Light 2.5 nautical miles.

The ship had lost all contact with the helicopter in the darkness of the late evening during a night flying exercise; it had crashed.

David Carr tragically did not survive the night but fortunately his navigator was still alive when rescuers arrived in the morning.

HMS Dido was at the time escorting *HM Yacht Britannia* on her way north with HM The Queen and family embarked.

David Carr left a wife, Margo, and their three young children. After so many years and having read Susan Phoenix's book *Out of the Shadows*, relating to the death of her husband in the RAF Chinook crash on the Mull of Kintyre in 1994 and how she came to terms with it, Margo, my wife of many years, now feels she is ready to visit David's crash site and we are set to visit Campbelltown and the area in April.

Ideally we would like to make contact with someone local who might remember the event and could identify on the ground the precise crash site.

J J Price, 43 Langstone Road, Havant, Hants, PO9 1RB. Email jprice@tworlworld.com.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

DH' FHEUMADH NEACH a bhith cruaidh da-riubh mura toireadh na dealbhan as na naidheachdan an-dràsta buaidh air. Eadar an t-sri gu saorsa a th' air tòcadh air feadh an Ear-Mheadhanaich gu toradh brònach na crith-thalmhainn agus na tsunami ann an Iapan.

Daoine a' sabaid airson saorsa phoiliteagach 's gun aca cha mhòr ach an cuid misneachd agus arm proifeiseanta ga thilgeil nan aghaidh le riaghlaltas ceannsalach. Fir, mnathan, is clann neo-chiontach gam murt le itealain-cogaidh agus, mar a tha iad a' faicinn an t-sri a' fàilligeadh, tha iad a' guidhe cobhair air dùthchannan an t-saoghail. Agus fhad 's a tha na daoine sin a' call na h-iomairt aca a dh'ionnsaigh deamocrasaidh, tha sinn a' faicinn sealladh iongantach de dhùthchannan mòra cumhachdach an t-saoghail a' deasbad is ag argamaid mu dè nach gabh dèanamh! Mun àm a cho-dhùineas iad nach eil dad ann a tha iad deònach a dèanamh, bidh na deachdairean air buaidh a thoirt a-riohist agus thèid ceannsal nas cruaidhe na bh' ann roimhe air slughan nan dùthchannan aca.

Tha fhios gum bheil mòran feadh an t-saoghail a' faireachadh, mar mise, gum bheil sinn air daoine a tha a' sìreadh saorsa a dhìobradh agus gum bheil cothrom eachdraidheil ga àicheadh dhaibh. Aig an aon àm, tuigidh sinn uile cho faiceallach 's a dh' fheumas dùthchannan a bhith nach tèid an deocadh a-staigh gu ruige cogadh. 'S e suidheachadh brònach a th' ann agus chan urrainn mi gun smaoinachadh air na Gàidheil a bha ri ùrnaigh airson cobhair, nach robh ann dhaibhsan a bharrachd, nuair a bhathas a' gabhail nan taighean orra is gam fuadach a-null thairis!

Air an dàrna sealladh, cumhachd agus laigse mhic an duine agus air an taobh eile, dearbhadh air neart do-chreidsinn nàdar agus na doimhne. Togalaichean agus innealachd gam sgubadh air falbh mar chàth agus na mìltean air an call ann am pròbadh stùla. Agus an uairsin, an cumart oilleit niùclasach is rèidio-bèò ag aoidion as na cruthadairean a dh'fhuing milledach as a' chrith-thalmhainn. Ann an dòigh, gabhadh greimeachadh air an sgrìos a dh'fhàg a' chrith-thalmhainn is an tsunami, ach mar a chunnacas bho thubaist Chernobyl còig bliadhna fichead air ais, tha an cron a th' bhon aoidion rèidio-bèò a' sgoileadh gun fhios agus dh'fhaodadh a bhuidh a bhith fhathast a' nochdadh ginealachan air adhart!

TRAGIC images dominate world news and we sense feelings of helpless frustration as we watch events evolve.

Brave people campaigning for democratic government in Middle Eastern countries are being brutally suppressed by dictatorial regimes while their pleas for help are debated by world powers understandably frightened of being drawn into war.

Yet one cannot help feeling that we have failed them when they needed us.

Japan's earthquake and tsunami demonstrated the mighty power of nature and the sights are numbing. But most frightening is the radio-activity leaking from the damaged nuclear power stations.

As we learned from the Chernobyl accident 25 years ago radio-active poisoning can affect generations yet unborn!

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

A new breed of dictator

WHEN the history of the early 21st century comes to be written dispassionately, how will the reign of terror in his own country by (Colone?) Muammar Gaddafi come to be interpreted?

Normally, dictators are those who first gained total control of their own country to give them a base to instil the fear factor in other territories which he wished to annex. Gaddafi doesn't seem to have such intentions; maybe he knows the rest of the Arab world would be more than a match, having been liberally supplied with arms by the Western powers who have been making a very substantial profit from both sides.

Now we have a dictator who, while claiming to protect his own people, is quite happy to kill them, while denying that he is doing so, as they are traitors in his eyes, while being regarded as 'freedom fighters' to the US, Britain, France, Russia and a host of other countries who fear he will stop the flow of Libyan oil.

Naturally, he is attempting to play the religious card, seeking Islamic solidarity from the Muslim brethren but without obvious support. They have enough problems of their own as they appear to be none too secure either.

What does surprise me is that the most powerful, Saudi Arabia, doesn't seem to have trouble from its 'Left' wing. Surely in such a one-party state there must be revolutionaries waiting to try to seize power to acquire some of the vast wealth that country possesses? Yet the ruling family does not seem too troubled by the air of revolution all around them. Certainly, they wouldn't go to the aid of Colonel Gaddafi as even the temporary cessation of Libyan oil supplies would allow the Saudis a golden opportunity to hike up the price of oil even further as they would be able to hold the rest of the world to ransom. Note: this is perfectly permissible in the minds of the Arab League. They regard themselves as legitimate and responsible while Gaddafi is a dangerous 'madman'. Just how this situation will be resolved is by no means clear. Getting the Colonel out of the equation is feasible but extremely difficult and he has a son who appears to be a more polished version of his father - thanks to a first-class education in the West.

However, Mrs Fletcher, Colonel Fletcher's widow was appointed and a number of ladies have succeeded her.

It would be invidious for me to name whom I think should be promoted but suffice to say she lives in Mid Argyll!

Bumper number of candidates?

NOW THAT nomination papers for this year's Scottish Parliament elections are available it looks as though there will be a record number of 'independents', all happy to lose their deposits.

Contrary to what the 'official (?) independent candidate' wrote in last week's edition, I don't mind him losing money with regularity as he believes he has a point to make but I would ask him to reflect on his singular lack of success in his attempts to be elected so far.

Lord Lieutenant could be a Lady

AS KENNETH MacKinnon has completed his term of

office as Lord Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute, it is natural there will be speculation as to who will be his successor.

But before I add to such let me say what a splendid nine years' service Mr MacKinnon has given to the duty of representing HM the Queen in this diverse and scattered territory.

He has fulfilled more duties as Lord Lieutenant than any of his predecessors whom I can remember and it was a brave act in even taking on the duty as his three immediate predecessors all died in office: the Marquis of Bute, Colonel Archie Fletcher and Iain 12th Duke of Argyll.

What we see the holder of this ancient office doing is but a small part of his function. Maybe some historian might like to tackle the ancient offices of Scotland: the Order of the Thistle, the Lyon Court and the office of Lord Lieutenant.

But who is to follow in his distinguished footsteps; it doesn't follow that the Vice Lieutenant automatically steps up.

When I started to write this column quite a few years ago, one of my first campaigns was to encourage the appointment of a lady as a Deputy Lieutenant as there had never been one.

It seemed strange to me that we as a nation are happy to serve under HM the Queen but not to have a lady as her representative in Argyll and Bute. I was pleased to have the support of the late Duke of Argyll but not, I gather, of all his deputies.

However, Mrs Fletcher, Colonel Fletcher's widow was appointed and a number of ladies have succeeded her.

It would be invidious for me to name whom I think should be promoted but suffice to say she lives in Mid Argyll!

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.

Correction

THE REGIONAL chairman of the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust is Murdo MacLeod, not Murdo McLellan as printed in last week's *Oban Times*. We apologise for this error.

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.

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Store sheep meet rising trade at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 719 store cattle plus 23 young bulls and 787 hoggets and breeding sheep at Stirling on Monday when store sheep continued to rise in trade on the week.

Hoggets averaged £54.72 (+£3.15) and sold to £80 for Texels from S and I Ross, Doune of Glendouglas. Texell crosses from Kildavie sold to £74.50 with Mules from Morenish, Killin to £69.

Ewes sold to £70 for Blackface grit ewes from T Adam, Shankhead with Blackface ewes scanned with twins selling to £60 from Kilbride and to £53 for Blackface ewes scanned with singles from Doune of Glendouglas. Blackface feeding ewes from Innishewan Farms sold to £55.

Bullocks averaged 173p and sold to 215p per kg for a 230kg Limousin from Wester Whin, Slamannan and £1025 for a 550kg Simmental from Blairgorts, Buchlyvie.

Heifers averaged 171p (+1p) and sold to 198p per kg for three 530kg Charolais from Burnhead, Kilsyth and £1050 for three 530kg Charolais from Burnhead, Kilsyth.

In calf heifers sold to £1,400 for a Limousin from Over Hillhouse, Armadale.

Over Hillhouse sold in calf British Blue heifers to £1,350, Simmentals heifers to £1,050 and Limousin cross cows with calves at foot to £1,020.

Bulls averaged 148p and sold to 185p per kg for a 310kg Limousin from Drumelzier, Denny and £775 for two 520kg Blonde D'Aquitaine from Wester Lochgreen, Bonnybridge.

New chairman of local NFUS has Argyll at heart



John Semple, manager of Ellary Farms, near Lochgilphead has been appointed as the NFUS regional chairman for Argyll and Bute. 06_211John01

A MID Argyll farm manager who understands the plight of local farmers, says he is looking forward to his new role as the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) regional chair for Argyll and Bute.

With an abundance of enthusiasm and local issues at heart, John Semple wants to do as much as possible for Argyll farmers.

John, who manages Ellary Farms near Achahoish, Lochgilphead has worked his way through the NFUS ranks and prior to taking up his new role last month he held the post of vice-chair of the Argyll and Bute board for three years.

Having an appreciation of dairy, beef and sheep sectors, John is acutely aware of the problems and challenges facing the areas farmers.

'At this particular moment it's very important because we're right in the middle of trying to get a CAP reform agreed with Europe which should secure funding until 2020,' explained John.

'One of the main priorities is to get Argyll's ideas on the PACK report put forward to the national committee and get a reasonable settlement for all Argyll farmers, it's necessary to do this as we cannot farm profitably in this area as long as returns for our produce remains at the current levels. So to keep people in agriculture in the hills this payment through the SFP scheme is essential to Argyll farmers.'

He said: 'The cost of fuel has to be at the top of our agenda because you just can't farm here without using fuel and the price of diesel and tractor fuel is soaring.'

John, who was born and bred in Campbeltown but moved to Ellary in 1989, will travel to the Royal Highland Centre in Ingleston five times a year as part of his new remit. He took over his new role in February from long-standing Mull hill farmer, Bert Leitch.

'I'm looking forward to carrying on the good work Bert started and I hope to get round as many of the local shows as possible, to meet as many people as I can,' added John.

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

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 14/04/2011

● Ref No: 11/00012/PP
Applicant: Lorn Walton
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land North East Of Benvoulin Villa Benvoulin Road Oban Argyll
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00044/PP
Applicant: Gavin Wright
Proposal: Conversion of existing stone barn to dwellinghouse
Site Address: The Haybarns Breachacha Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll

● Ref No: 11/00313/PP
Applicant: Mr Tom Dalton
Proposal: Formation of mini-hydro scheme.
Site Address: Land 150m West Of Maolochy Lochavich Argyll And Bute PA35 1HU
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

● Ref No: 11/00366/PP
Applicant: Ms Diana Shellock
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of shed
Site Address: Leraigs Beg Leraigs Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SE
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 11/00371/PPP
Applicant: Mrs J Hamilton
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse and shared septic tank.
Site Address: Land East Of Lochnabeich House North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1QX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

● Ref No: 11/00372/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs J McTighe
Proposal: Erection of conservatory
Site Address: Fernbank Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 11/00043/LIB
Applicant: Gavin Wright
Proposal: Conversion of an existing stone barn to dwellinghouse
Site Address: The Haybarns Breachacha Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll

● Ref No: 11/00325/PP
Applicant: Mr T Hannay
Proposal: Erection of ancillary domestic accommodation within garden ground.
Site Address: Braigh Cottage, Bunnassan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DS
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull

● Ref No: 11/00389/PP
Applicant: Ganavan Sands Ltd
Proposal: Erection of restaurant and 8 flats (revised proposal to planning consent 08/01854/DET)
Site Address: 2 Shore Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LG
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

crofters commission

Gordon M Currie has applied to decroft part of the croft at 1, 2 & 3 Port Ellen, Kildalton & Oa extending to 0.299 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Case number: 4.86.29682.

Mrs Rosalyn A Keppie has applied to decroft part of the croft at 27 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckaim extending to 0.083 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Case number: 4.86.30180.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposals in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 11 April 2011 quoting the above case number. Please note any comments provided are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Comments will also be released under any Freedom of Information enquiry.

OCKLE COMMON GRAZINGS

ARDNAMURCHAN
A meeting will be held to elect a new committee on April 9, 2011
at 8pm at Ockle



AGM
Will be held on 28th March 2011
At 7pm in the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oban) Ltd
Glencruitten Road, Oban Argyll PA34 4PU
Telephone/Fax 01631 566602
e-mail oban.msc@btconnect.com

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Alasdair McPhee & Alexander McPhee trading as A&A McPhee Haulage of Almar, Shore Road, Connel, PA37 1PT is applying to change an existing licence as follows to keep an extra 4 goods vehicles at the operating centre at Dunbeg Quarry, By Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PX. To add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles at Dunbeg Quarry, By Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PX. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

North Argyll Eventide Homes Association
AGM
Will be held on 27 April 2011 at 7pm in the Lorne

NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE STRATHCLYDE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

- SPT Subway services - from 1 April 2011, the basic concessionary fare will increase to 80p single and £1.20 return.
- First ScotRail services within the Strathclyde area - from 22 May 2011, the basic concessionary fare will increase to 80p single and £1.20 return.
- Please note there is no change to the 50% discount available to concessionary cardholders for rail fares on journeys over 10 miles.
- For ferry journeys of 10 miles or less, the basic concessionary fare of 80p single and £1.20 return will apply.
- For ferry journeys of more than 10 miles fares will increase to £1.60 single and capped at £2.40 return.
- These fares are only available to Ferry card holders.

For further details on the changes, please visit www.spt.co.uk
SPT operate and administer the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme on behalf of the 12 councils in the west of Scotland.
www.spt.co.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Alchemy Plant and Contracting Ltd of Torosay View, Plot 6, North Connel, Argyll, PA37 1QX is applying for a licence to use John Allan Motors, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL as operating centre for 1 goods vehicles. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner Scottish Traffic Area, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/00763/FUL	Freshwater Farms Mallaig Point Industrial Estate Rd Mallaig	Alterations to fish farm building	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/00768/PIP	Land 50m North of Midfield Achnahully Arisaig	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/00769/PIP	Land 60m South East of Midfield Achnahully Arisaig	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/00837/PIP	Land to South of 4 Marine Place Mallaig	Erection of house (renewal of 07/00389/OUT10)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Education Scotland CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST SCHEME 1979

In implementation of the objects of the above Trust, the Governing Body may in each financial year award grants of such annual value as they think fit to assist applicants of either sex:-

- to obtain qualification additional to a degree associateship, diploma or certificate of a University or other institute of further or higher education ready obtained.
- to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present trained.
- to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered or are about to register.
- to undertake training in leadership and initiative.
- to benefit from recreational holidays in cases of physical or mental disability, whether permanent or temporary.

In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Governing Body shall:-

- satisfy themselves that the applicant is a Protestant, has completed his/her school education, but is not at the time of award, more than 25 years of age, and is ordinarily resident within the area of the former County of Argyll,
- Associate the names of Charles and Barbara Tyre with each award made under the scheme.

Further details and an application form may be obtained online at www.charlesand-barbaratyretrust.org.uk or from the Clerk to the Governors. Completed applications must be received no later than 31 May 2011, and applications received after the closing date will not normally be considered except in exceptional circumstances. Please note application forms will be accepted before results are received.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust, Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TW
Tel: 01880 820 277 Fax: 01880 820 722

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE SPECIAL CLASS AT BANAVIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Date of Meeting	Time	Venue
28 April 2011	7.00 pm	Council Chambers Lochaber House, Fort William

The Highland Council has issued a Consultative Paper, in terms of the Education Authority's agreed procedure to meet the relevant statutory requirements of appropriate legislation, regarding a proposal to close the Special Class at Banavie Primary School.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss the proposals with parents of children and members of the community who may in the future be affected by the above. Copies of the paper may be obtained from Mrs Rosemary Bridge, Acting Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager, ECS Offices, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NE, to whom written observations must be submitted no later than Friday 20 May 2011.

Scotgold Resources Ltd

Cononish Gold Mine, Cononish Farm, Tyndrum

Town and Country Planning [Development Management Procedure] [Scotland] Regulations 2008 - Advertisement of Public Event

Scotgold Resources Ltd are preparing to submit a planning application to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Planning Authority for a revision of the extraction and processing operations at Cononish Gold Mine which were originally permitted in 1996.

In accordance with the above Regulations a public event will be held in the Village Hall in Tyndrum on Thursday 7th April 2011. The venue will be open from 10.30am to 08.30pm.

Copies of plans and reports relevant to the proposal will be available for viewing and representatives from Scotgold Resources Ltd and planning and environmental consultants from Dalgleish Associates Ltd will be available to answer questions on all aspects of the proposal.

For parties unable to attend the public event, information may be obtained from Dalgleish Associates Ltd, Cathedral Square, Dunblane, FK15 OAH, by telephone on 01786 822339 or by email to karen.dalgleish@dalgleishassociates.co.uk or rob.latimer@dalgleishassociates.co.uk.

Comment sheets will be available at the public event for any members of the public or interested parties who wish to make written comment. Alternatively written comments, in relation to the newspaper advertisement or the proposal, may be sent by letter or email to Dalgleish Associates Ltd no later than Thursday 21st April 2011.

Please note that this is a pre-application consultation and that any comments made at this stage should be directed to the applicants and will be considered in the finalisation of the planning application. It should also be noted that comments made to the applicants are not representations to the planning authority. When the applicants submit the application to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Planning Authority there will be an opportunity for interested parties to view the finalised proposals and to make representations to the planning authority.

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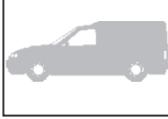


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- 07 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.2 TCE, 5Dr, Black, 18,000 miles.....£6,750
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- 12 A request

BIRTHS

MACCULLOCH - To Johnathan and Jess at Canterbury Hospital on March 9, 2011, a son, William Terry James. A wee brother for Aimee. First grandson for Archie and Donna MacCulloch, a great grandson for Jim Magee at Dunbeg and the late Ivy Magee and a great grandson for Marion MacCulloch and the late Billy MacCulloch, Oban.

VAUGHAN - At home in Hindley, Lancashire, on February 14, 2011 to Lynda (née Tolan) and Ian a daughter Iris Valentine. A sister for Owen, Cerys and Erin.

WEIR - Alex and Elizabeth Weir of Cadott, Wis., United States, son, Samuel Alexander Weir, born March 15 in Eau Claire, Wis., United States.

DEATHS

BROUGH - At Perth Royal Infirmary on Thursday March 17, 2011, Margaret, beloved wife of the late Eoin, much loved mother of Judy, Lynn and Alan, dearly loved granny, great granny, mother in law, sister, sister in law and aunt. Funeral on Monday March 28, service in Perth Crematorium at 12.30pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but if desired a retiring collection will be taken at the crematorium for Cancer Research UK.

DROOP - Dr Michael Droop, died peacefully on March 20, 2011. Funeral at Muckaam Parish Church, Taynuilt on Friday March 25, at 12 noon, followed by refreshments at the Taynuilt Hotel. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to A.B.C.D. Fund.

DUFFIELD - David, Joseph. Suddenly on Monday March 21, 2011. Much loved husband of Judith and sadly missed father, brother and grandpa. Formerly of Taynuilt. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed with Wm. Tyre & Sons, Largs.

EWART - Edinburgh. Neil Alexander Jarvie, aged 75 years, son of the late Tom and the late Bessie Ewart, passed away at St Columba's Hospice on March 12, 2011. Sadly missed by his wife and family.

MACLENNAN - Roselynn, Westburn, Oban. Peacefully in her sleep at the Western General Hospital on March 18, 2011. Roselynn, long time partner to Billy and a dear mother of Sheena, Jacqueline and Robert. Funeral service at Mortonhall Crematorium Pentland Chapel, Edinburgh on Friday March 25, at 10.30am, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

MACRAE - Peacefully at Lochbroom House on March 10, 2011, Anne MacKinnon, beloved wife of the late Kenneth, sister of Hugh, Flora and Archie and formerly of Carrachan, Treen. Funeral service was held at Church of Scotland, Ullapool on March 16, 2011.

McARTHUR - Suddenly after a short illness, at the Inverclyde Royal Hospital, Greenock, on March 17, 2011, Mary McArthur, aged 86 years of Ardnahain Hotel for the Elderly, Dunoon and formerly of Kilmory Home Farm, Lochgilphead. Beloved daughter of the late Archibald and Margaret McArthur and much loved sister of Neil and the late Archibald, Hugh, John, Donald and Dugald. Dear sister in law of Avril and Peggy. A much respected aunt and great-aunt to all the family. A good friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Wednesday March 23, 2011, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery.

PARFITT - Peacefully at his home, The Cleft, St. Clair Road, Ardrishaig, with his family by his side, on March 18, 2011, Ken Parfitt, aged 88 years. Formerly of Kent and Fort William. Beloved husband of Margaret and loving father of David, father-in-law of Jacqui and grandad to Daniel. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Baptist Church, today, Thursday March 24, 2011. Thereafter a private cremation service will be held.

POVEY - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, Benderloch on March 16, 2011, in her 84th year, Isobel nee Henderson, much loved mother of Anne, Campbell, Evelyn and Stephen and a loving Nana. Sadly missed.

REFFIN - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on March 16, 2011, in her 80th year, Annie nee Dingwall, beloved wife of Peter, much loved mother of Margaret, Peter and Brian and mother-in-law of Iain and Charlotte, loving granny of Ailsa, Laura and Joshua and a dear sister and auntie.

ROSS - Morag (nee MacSparran) of Mulanje, Malawi. Peacefully on Wednesday March 16, 2011, aged 59 years. Dearly loved wife of Lindsay and much loved mother of Nicky and Stuart. Wonderful granny to Isla and Ross, dear sister to Peter, Archie and Fiona and daughter of the late Archie MacSparran formerly of Killochran, Isle of Mull. Always in our thoughts and hearts.

SNOWDON - Peacefully after a short illness on March 16, 2011, Alison, beloved wife of the late Charles, a dear mother and grandmother. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place on Thursday March 24, at Kilbrandon Cemetery at 1pm. No flowers, please give a donation to a charity of your choice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDONALD - The family of the late Jane (Jean) Livingstone would like to thank the staff at the Lynn of Lorne and Ossians, the doctors at the Connel Surgery and her faithful visitors. Thanks to D & A Munn for efficient arrangements, to the Rev. Catherine Knott for a comforting service and also the organist at the church. Thanks to friends for the lovely floral tributes, to all those who attended the funeral and to Soroba House for an excellent purvey.

MACKINNON - June, Garry and Nicky would like to thank all their family and friends for supporting them throughout Donnie's very sudden passing. Special thanks to Sandy, Sean, Ali, Dave, David Dougan, Dr Chris Ellis and the staff at N.T.S. Glencoe. Retiral collection gratefully acknowledged and will be donated to Gallop & Grind and Macmillan Nurses.

McGREGOR - Bet's family wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers. They also wish to thank all the staff at Glenaray Ward and the Marie Curie Nurses for the care and compassion shown to all during her short illness. Thanks to Rev. Roddy MacLeod for an uplifting and comforting service and to Donald MacDonalds for efficient arrangements. The collection for Marie Curie raised over £350.

MILLER - The family of the late Kathleen Joan Miller would like to thank friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy following our sad loss. Special thanks to all at North Argyll House, Doctors and staff in A & E and also Ward B at Lorn and Islands Hospital. Grateful thanks to Catriona and all at Hamish Hoey and Sons for their understanding and guidance.

IN MEMORIAM

ARMSTRONG - In loving memory of my dearest mother, who passed away March 23, 1975, also remembering dear friends Tootsie and Marie Campbell, Mrs Madge MacIsaac and Rev John MacLeod, also Donnie Ferguson a very kind and caring vet. Also remembering John Alan MacNeil, Barra and Miss Isobel Black, Torwood.

BUICK - In loving memory of Ann P. Buick, who passed away on March 23, 2010. You are always in our thoughts and dreams, and sadly missed. You were a fantastic wife, mum and Nana. Love you always Ewen, Bridget and family at home and away. xxx

CLARK - In loving memory of my dear sister Effie, who passed away on March 23, 2009. I do not need a special day To bring you to my mind The days I do not think of you I simply cannot find In life I loved you dearly And beyond I love you still. Your loving sister Mary, Kilninan, Torloisk Mull.

CLARK - In loving memory of my precious aunt Effie Clark, died March 26, 2009. My best friend - a mother in all but name Loved, missed always, until we meet again. Loving niece Mary.

DEMPSTER - In loving memory of our dear mother Morag Scouler who died March 24, 1986. Also her husband Kenny died December 1, 1989. Fondly remembered.

- By Hugh, Annabel and the grandchildren.

GRAY - In loving memory of Morag, a loving mum, gran and great gran, who died March 25, 2004. Words are few Thoughts are deep Memories of you We will always keep Sadly missed.

- Love Irene and family. xxx

LAFFERTY - In memory of my mother Isobel who passed away March 23, 2006. It's just a little But means a lot To say dear Ma I haven't forgot. - Love Kathleen x

LAFFERTY - In memory of my mother Isobel who passed away March 23, 2006. As angels keep their watch up there Please God let her know That I down here do not forget I love and miss her so. - Isobel x

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Lachie, a dear husband, dad, father-in-law and papa who died on March 21, 2002. Loved and remembered today and always.

- From Effie and family. Also remembering Neil, a dear brother and uncle who died on January 14, 2006.

MACKINNON - Fond memories of Bella, a dear sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who died on March 29, 2010. Always in our thoughts. - Effie and family.

McCLOUNNAN - In loving memory of my dear son Calum, who died at Dalavich on March 27, 2007. You always had a smile to share Time to give and time to care A loving nature kind and true Those are the memories I keep of you. Your loving Mum, Balephuil, Treen.

McCLOUNNAN - Precious memories of my dear brother Calum, who sadly passed away on March 27, 2007. Remembering you is easy I do it so every day Missing you is the heartache That never goes away Christine, Lachie, David, Karen, Joe.

McNICOL - Loving memories of dear parents and grandparents, Janet, died March 24, 1986 and Duncan, died November 29, 1987. Always loved and remembered Nellie, Tommy and family.

MILLIGAN - Bella. In loving memory of my granny who died March 26, 2010. Today, tomorrow, my whole life through I'll cherish the memories I have of you. Loved and remembered every day. - Shelly.

MILLIGAN - In loving memory of my mum Bella, who died March 26, 2010. Your presence I miss Your memory I treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never. Also remembering loved ones gone before. - Marie.

MOYES - In loving memory of Flora who died March 30, 1990. - Inserted by Ted and family, Inverness, Lerwick, Maryburgh and Selkirk.

PROSSER - In loving memory of Mary our dear mum, granny and great-gran who died on March 26, 1997. Forever in our thoughts Always in our hearts Loved and missed every day. - Betty and Iain. Treasured memories of our special Gran. - Marina, Cameron and Emma xx

PROSSER - Mary. In loving memory of a dear mum and granny passed away on March 26, 1997. Loved and remembered every day. - Frances, Tommy and family.

RYDINGS - In loving memory of Jack, died March 26, 2010. Always remembered. - From all the family.

RYDINGS - In loving memory of our dad and granddad Jack Rydings We can't have old days back when we were all together. But secret tears and loving thoughts will be with us forever. Sadly missed - Mark Paul Scott and Family

WILSON - In loving memory of my dear mum, Effie, who died March 24, 2010. The place you rest I visit And place each flower with care But no one know the heartache As I turn and leave you there xx - Your loving daughter Sheena.

WILSON - Fond memories of my sister, Effie, who passed away on March 24, 2010. RIP. Time may pass and fade away But silent thoughts and memories stay. - Inserted by Flora, Glasgow.

WILSON - In loving memory of Effie who passed away on March 24, 2010. Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Hughie, Flora and family.

WILSON - In loving memory of Effie a dear sister-in-law and aunt who passed away on March 24, 2010. When thoughts go back as they often do We treasure the memories we have of you. - Effie and family, Dunbeg.

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ECCLIESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 27 March 2011
Lent 3
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion08.00
Choral Mattins10.15
Sunday School and Crèche
Parish Eucharist11.30
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline,
Mull
Mattins11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist08.00
Evensong20.00

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CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
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David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

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North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

GRADUATIONS

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 27 March 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

Feeling the chill

THE INTREPID Lorn Gold Duke of Edinburgh group has continued training for its summer expedition to Morocco. Jonathan Sayer, Kirsty Pallas, Calum Peden and Alasdair Hoon used the Blackwater Hostel in Kinlochleven as their base for a weekend of winter skills activities under the auspices of experienced mountain leader, Andy Spink, director of Hebridean Pursuits Ltd.

On the first day they concentrated their training high up on Stob Coire Raineach in some pretty rough conditions and the next day they studied navigation and some fantastic drift ploughing on Beinn na Caillich.

Jonathan said: 'The weekend was awesome, but very tiring. At times we were ploughing through snow almost chest deep. It was very challenging.'

The training was a challenge for all, high winds, blizzards and the constant snowfall gave everyone food for thought.

Last weekend the group's thoughts changed to food of a different kind when they attended a cookery demonstration, along with 20 other local people, hosted by Alex Needham of the Waterfront in Oban. Alex kindly gave up an afternoon of his time to explain the art of filleting and preparing a salmon, donated by Scottish Sea Farms, and to reveal the secrets of several of the restaurant's delicious delicacies. The food was served with a glass of wine, donated by the Falls of Lora Hotel, for all to sample and made for a very convivial Sunday afternoon.

Almost £800 has so far been raised towards the group's £4000 target and a big thank you is extended to all supporters. If you would like to support Alasdair, Calum, Jonathan and Kirsty please phone 01631 720448 or email jonathan.david.sayer@gmail.com



Oban High School adventurers Jonathan Sayer and Kirsty Pallas take a break in a snow hole.

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A group of volunteers with a burning desire to clean up the Black Lynn pulled out a skip load of rubbish on Sunday. Shopping trolleys, picture frames, rubble, guttering, shelving, knives and a full dining set were taken out. Abdul Muslim in the Light of India Restaurant provided lunch for the 15 volunteers. Anyone wishing to assist with planting and painting around the Black Lynn should contact Graham MacQueen on 564848.

GRADUATIONS

Eilidh Grant
Graduated with a PDA in Photography from Glasgow Metropolitan College. Eilidh was awarded the PDA Photography Prize for her year. Eilidh is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High School. She is the daughter of Iain and Chrissie Grant, Oban.

Alison Rachel Baxter graduated in Bachelor of Nursing Science from James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland in December 2010. Alison is the daughter of Lex and Shirley McLennan, Mull Terrace, Oban. She attended Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch and Oban High School.

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Women at work
WOMEN celebrated their International Day with a new Fair Trade chocolate and a gathering. Identifying women who were an inspiration the event was described as 'awesome' as a young participant. Over the course of the evening women were involved in a workshop on the process and supply chain in bringing fashion to the high street, a fashion show courtesy of Oban's styling company Tonic. Pauline Cameron, who organised the event on behalf of Women at Work said: 'It was a great event and good to see women coming together in the town. I would like to thank everyone involved.'

Guides dig deep for Mary's Meals charity
GIRL GUIDES from North Connel have embarked on a schedule of special events to show their support for Argyll charity Mary's Meals. The girls, who took part in a sleep over at North Connel village hall, spent the night packing bags of goods for Mary's Meals volunteers to take to Africa. The group's soup lunch, held in Benderloch's Victory Hall after the Scout and Guide Thinking Day service at St Modan's Church, also raised £369 for the charity. The guides are now launching a prize quiz sheet to raise additional monies throughout March.

Teaching pupils how to sleep
COULD Argyll's schools be set to teach pupils how to sleep? Snoozing charity, Sleep Scotland, has developed a teaching pack to be sent to schools across the country to be used as part of the curriculum for excellence. The objective is to raise awareness of the importance of sleep for teenagers, claiming that gadgets and computers prevent pupils getting the nine hours of sleep they need. They say going without can lead to obesity, depression and stunted growth. While the council have no plans to make use of the packs at this stage, a council spokesperson says any decision will be up to each individual school. Should our teenagers receive lessons on how to sleep? Have your say on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/obantimes

THE MYSTERIES OF PLANTS REVEALED

THE LORN and Mid-Argyll Members of the Scottish Wildlife Trust met in the Marine Laboratory at Dunstaffnage to listen to a very informative and sometimes amusing lecture by Patsy Dyer, of Ardfern, entitled 'Secrets and Mysteries of our Native Plants'. Members were intrigued by the stories and are looking forward to the final lecture of the season on April 21 at the same venue, when Anne Youngman, a very enthusiastic speaker and Scottish Bat Officer for the Bat Conservation Trust, will speak on 'Going Batty in Argyll'. Members and non-members are equally welcome.

Muckairn Guild open night
STELLA Huntingford welcomed guests to an illustrated talk given by Dr Adrienne Swan and nurse Libby Dodson on their trip to Peru, where they worked on board the medical ship, Amazon Hope. They first had a few days walking the Inca Trail before working on board the Vine Trust's boat, treating people who would otherwise not have been able to reach medical attention. The vote of thanks was given by Rev Robert Brookes and a collection of £106 was taken for the Vine Trust.

Park chooses Zumba for PE

PUPILS at Park Primary School are the first in Argyll to have the dance fitness craze Zumba for their PE classes. Zumba teacher Magdalena Sadlik initially completed a four-week block of Zumbatomic classes with primary one to primary four pupils. This was followed up by a presentation for friends and family that was attended by more than 80 people. A four-week block was then organised for primary five to primary seven pupils. Magdalena has since rolled out Zumbatomic in Dunbeg and Taynuilt schools and at Soroba nursery. Zumbatomic is specifically designed for children aged four to 12 and focuses on the dance and fitness aspect of Zumba, rather than complicated technical movements, that can harm developing bodies. Magdalena explained: 'The children just love it and it really brings them out of their shell. At the ages of 10-12 the kids can be very self-conscious. 'The boys love it because it's not 'girly' dancing.'

Following the completion of the PE block of Zumba, the pupils in Park Primary School's Iona clan chose it as their treat for winning clan of the week.

Moderator calls for family support

THE MODERATOR of the Church of Scotland has renewed the church's pledge to support the families of the Mull of Kintyre RAF Chinook air disaster following the decision to have another enquiry into the crash that claimed all 29-lives onboard. The Right Reverend John Christie, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has also written to the Right Honourable Lord Philip who is leading a new investigation into the 1994 tragedy. It is hoped the enquiry by Lord Philip's Chinook Airworthiness Review Team (CHART) will ultimately clear the names of RAF pilots Flight Lieutenant Jonathan Tapper and Flight Lieutenant Richard Cook, blamed of gross negligence, although initially cleared by an RAF Board of Enquiry. Mr Christie said: 'It is almost inconceivable now that it has been nearly 17-years since the Chinook crash on the Mull of Kintyre. And to think that after all that time, still the families of the victims are unable to properly move on because of what they see as a gross injustice. I sincerely hope that the Ministry of Defence does review the findings of the inquiry.'

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SHINTY ROUND-UP

Fixtures

Saturday, March 26, 2011
All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated

Co-operative MacTavish Cup 1st Round
Caberfeidh v Lochcarron
Robert Morrison
Inverness v Beauty
John Angus Gillies
Kilmallie v Glenurquhart
Colin MacDonald
Lovat v Kinlochshiel
Innes Wood
Newtonmore v Skye
Evan MacRae
Strathglass v Fort William
Graham Cameron 3pm

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup 1st Round
Inveraray v Bute
Charles Young
GMA v Oban Celtic
Robert Baxter

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenorchy v Kyles Athletic
Ted MacDonald
Kingussie v Oban Camanachd
David Mitchell 3pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour v Lochside Rovers
Duncan Kerr
Kyles Athletic v Ballachulish
George O'Rourke
Taynuilt v Kilmory
Graham Irving

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Lovat
Billy Witherspoon
Glenurquhart v Newtonmore
John Slaggie
Glengarry v Kilmallie
Dougie Cameron
Kingussie v Skye
David Mitchell 12 noon
Kinlochshiel v Lochaber
Graeme MacMillan

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish v GMA
Ronnie Campbell
Bute v Inveraray
Gus Campbell
Strachur v Col Glen
Euan Pearson
Tayforth v Aberdeen
Jim Innes

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Ardnamurchan v Aberdeen Uni
Douglas Ferguson
Beauy v Caberfeidh
Kevin Cheeseman
Lochroom v Boleskine
Barrie Dallas
Lochcarron v Inverness
Jock Matheson
Strathglass v Lewis
Iain Kennedy 12 noon

Women's shinty
Fixtures March 27 2011

South Division Two
Aberdour v GMA
Cowal and Bute v Dunadd

Results

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Fort William 2 Oban Camanachd 0
Glenurquhart 0 Kingussie 0
Inveraray 7 Glenorchy 0
Kyles 7 Lovat 1
Newtonmore 4 Kilmallie 1

Marine Harvest North Division One
Inverness 1 Caberfeidh 5
Kinlochshiel 2 Beauy 0
Lochcarron P Skye P
Strathglass 1 Lochaber 6

Marine Harvest South Division One
Bute 12 Oban Celtic 0
Kilmory 1 GMA 4
Lochside Rov 1 Ballachulish 0
Taynuilt 2 Kyles 0

Marine Harvest North Division Two
Kilmallie 2 Newtonmore 3
Kingussie 3 Glenurquhart 2
Lochaber 1 Glengarry 5
Lovat 7 Kinlochshiel 2
Skye 0 Fort William 3

Marine Harvest South Division Two
Aberdour 1 Bute 5
Ballachulish 0 Inveraray 5
GMA 1 Col Glen 4
Tayforth 5 Strachur 3

Marine Harvest North Division Three
Aberdeen Uni 15 Lewis 0
Ardnamurchan 0 Lochcarron 5
Beauy 2 Boleskine 0
Caberfeidh 7 Strathglass 0
Lochroom 3 Inverness 0

Women's shinty
North Division Two
Strathglass 5 Lochaber 4
Skye P Glengarry P

First cup ties of new season

Meanwhile...
Premier league leaders Kyles at Glenorchy as Oban Camanachd head for Kingussie

SHINTY's first cup ties of the new season get underway this weekend with two first round ties in the Glasgow Celtic Cup and six ties in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup.

Bute, now playing their shinty in South Division One, return to Premier Division Inveraray for what could prove a tough test for the home side. In the other South cup tie, Oban Celtic travel to play Glasgow Mid Argyll knowing that only their best form will carry them through.

In the North, the top tie of the day could be the all-Premier clash of newly promoted Kilmallie and Glenurquhart at Canal Park, Caol. Of the other five MacTavish ties, perhaps the visit of Kinlochshiel to Premier side Lovat could provide Saturday's cup shock.

Last Saturday's league programme saw Kyles Athletic maintain their place at the top of the Scottish Hydro sponsored Premier Division table with a comfortable 7-1 home win over Lovat. Roddie MacDonald put Kyles ahead after three minutes with Dunkie Kerr adding a second before the half-hour. Greg Matheson brought Lovat back into the tie within three minutes of the start of the second half but Fraser MacDonald scored Kyles' third two minutes later before a double from Grant Irvine, another from Roddie MacDonald and a late goal from Tom Whyte completed a good day for the Tighnabruich faithful.

Kyles' trainer James Perlich said: 'We seem to be scoring goals consistently, which is something we haven't done in previous years, and we are likely to be fielding the same team for the third game in succession. We had a good result against Glenorchy in the first game of the season, so we are confident we can get a result there but the real test will be the next three away games at Inveraray, Newtonmore and Fort William. That's when we'll find out if we are playing as well as we think we are.'

Lovat coach John MacRitchie said improvement is needed after the Kyles defeat, but his cause will be helped by the return of Ewan Ferguson after a full centre missed the Kyles game through work commitments.

MacRitchie said: 'We have always had it hard against Shiel, they beat us 3-0 in a pre-season friendly although we were missing a number of players.

'We will need to take our chances, but we should be stronger in the middle of the park with Ewan back. Hopefully we can get a positive result, because after that we have three home games to look forward to.'

Kinlochshiel coach Johnston Gill is under no illusions that

SHINTY

Lovat will be a tough nut to crack. 'It's another hard one,' Gill said. 'I would imagine it will be a close game. They have a lot of good players and very sharp forwards - you don't knock in three goals against Newtonmore without being a good side. But we are looking to win because the next round would be against Kingussie, who are not setting the heather on fire at the moment.'

'Shiel are likely to be at near full strength with Graham Morrison and Zander Grant making a return to the squad. Gill added: 'We will play our usual game - we are a good passing team but the way the surfaces are at the moment it does not suit us.'

At Fort William, Gary Innes opened the scoring with a third minute goal and when youngster Ewan Campbell added Fort's second 20 minutes later, Oban Camanachd could have been in real trouble. However, the visitors rallied, although they rarely troubled the home goal and there was no further scoring.

Fort William cousins Ryan

'We have to be aware of that and there is no way we will underestimate them. We will put out our strongest team available, make no mistake about that. 'We know to expect a tough match, although having the first of our 'sinners' back from suspension, Adam Robertson, is a bonus.' Liam MacIntyre will return from suspension next week and John MacDonald the week after, MacIntyre said.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Diarmid MacMillan said his side matched Fort last weekend and the goals lost were simply down to lapses in concentration.

This Saturday, Camanachd have a full squad to pick from. Diarmid said: 'Kingussie's draw against Glenurquhart gives us confidence but even if we don't get anything from this game, we'll know what to expect next weekend.'

Kingussie were held to a no-score draw at Drumnadrochit with both sides producing scoring chances but failing to find the clinical finish. Kingussie had the opportunity to score from the penalty spot after referee Billy Witherspoon penalised Glen's



Fort William's Gordie MacKinnon with Oban Camanachd defender Daniel Cameron at An Aird

said the lack of a goal scoring threat has long been a problem for the club. He said: 'It's a perennial concern for us. We don't score a lot of goals and we rely on our defence to keep us in games. We've got a couple of young boys who've come up, so we'll give them a chance to get and see what they can do.'

A run of second-half goals at Inveraray piled the early season pressure on Glenorchy with Gary MacPherson opening the scoring for the home side within the first five minutes. Russell MacKinlay doubled Inveraray's lead before the interval and, with 25 minutes left to play, Inveraray upped the pace and scored another five goals in five minute intervals - MacKinlay finishing with a hat-trick and two-a-piece for Gary MacPherson and Euan McMurdo.

Glenorchy manager Allan MacKechnie says the two heavy defeats inflicted on his young side are down to the absence of his main players.

He added: 'It will be another two or three weeks before we get anything close to our first team and at the moment we are asking boys who were not in the first team last year in division one to step up to the premier league.'

'I want the boys to put in a better performance against Kyles than they did in the first game of the season.'

Goalkeeper Graham MacKechnie could make a comeback from injury on Saturday against Kyles. It was also a flurry of late goals at Newtonmore where the home side had to come from a goal down to score four in the last 20 minutes against a Kilmallie side which proved a hard nut to crack.

Liam MacDonald's goal at the end of the first 45 minutes separated the teams until Danny MacRae level in the 70th minute. Glen MacIntosh gave the home side the lead five minutes later, with MacRae and David Cheyne completing the fightback in a 4-1 win.

Newtonmore manager Norman MacArthur told *The Oban Times*

he was impressed with newly promoted Kilmallie. He said: 'It was a good game but we struggled a bit. We missed chances early on and we got a bit tense.

'It was just a case of getting that first goal, then we relaxed.' Norman admitted this week's opponents, Skye, were an unknown quantity for him. He said: 'I haven't seen Skye, so I don't know what they're like. We've just got to go out and get a result.'

Kilmallie coach Johnnie Morrison knows finding the net against a Glenurquhart side renowned for its stuffy defence will be no easy matter. 'They are quite hard to break down, but I think they do struggle to score goals.'

'Hopefully home advantage will make the difference and if we can continue our improvement we will give ourselves a real chance of winning. The boys feel that there is much more to come, but it's all about getting up to the pace of the game at this level. The cup is a bit of a bonus for us this year and I am reasonably confident, but I have a lot of respect for Glenurquhart because they are a tough team to beat.'

Kilmallie will be without Ewan Stoddart and Iain Robertson through work and social commitments for Saturday's tie, Morrison said. Robbie MacFadyen and Stephen MacAllister are likely to be drafted into the squad from the second team.

Skye coach Nui MacDonald has no fears about taking on 'the big boys', Newtonmore.

'Shockie' MacLennan went over on his ankle and we have a couple of long term injuries, but apart from that we should be OK. 'It is quite a few years since we went down there and the majority of the boys have never played at Newtonmore. But we have nothing to lose, nothing is expected of us and everybody is looking forward to it.'

Bute galvanised their lead in South Division One with a crushing 12-0 home win against Oban Celtic. Roberto Zavaroni netted five times, with Hector Whitelaw

scoring a hat-trick. There was also goals for David Whitelaw, Gordon MacMillan, Robert Walker and Stuart Strathie.

A single David Lafferty goal after 36 minutes was enough to give Lochside Rovers full league points against Ballachulish whose manager Willie Sutherland was devastated not to have got something from the game.

'We should have won it on our second half performance when we hit the post twice, hit the crossbar once and their keeper made three great saves,' he said.

Two Stuart Scott goals saw Taynuilt earn a home win against Kyles and Taynuilt coach Fraser Inglis has challenged his team to continue the same form. He said: 'The boys didn't do themselves justice in the first game against Ballachulish but last weekend they were nearer the standard they can play at.'

The question is whether they can get to that level again against Kilmory. South Division One is a harder league so we'll need to produce our best every week. You can't get carried away with one good result.'

Three goals from Craig Anderson of Glasgow Mid Argyll proved the undoing of Kilmory at Lochgilphead as the visitors recorded a 1-4 away win. Fulton Ross added GMA's fourth, with Denis McGarry on the scoresheet for the home side.

In North Division One, Lochaber proved too strong for Strathglass at Cannich with Lachie Campbell scoring a hat-trick as the Spean Bridge side cruised to a 1-6 victory. Stewart Callison netted twice, with Shaun Nicolson completing Lochaber's scorers - Raymond Fraser scoring for Strathglass.

Lochaber manager Michael Delaney said the scoreline did not reflect the closeness of the match. 'It wasn't as easy as it looked,' he said. 'It was 2-1 at halftime, and then we had to withstand 15-20 minutes of pressure. But once we got the third goal we didn't look back. Their keeper had a good game but we were ruthless.'

Leagues

	P	W	D	L
Scottish Hydro Premier Division				
Kyles	2	2	0	4
Newtonmore	2	2	0	4
Fort William	2	2	0	4
Kingussie	2	1	0	3
Inveraray	2	1	0	2
Oban Camanachd	2	1	0	2
Glenurquhart	2	0	1	1
Kilmallie	2	0	2	0
Lovat	2	0	2	0
Glenorchy	2	0	2	0
Marine Harvest North Division One				
Kinlochshiel	2	2	0	4
Lochaber	2	1	0	2
Caberfeidh	2	1	0	2
Beauy	2	1	0	2
Strathglass	2	1	0	2
Lochcarron	1	0	1	1
Inverness	2	0	1	1
Skye	1	0	1	0
Marine Harvest South Division One				
Bute	2	2	0	4
Lochside Rvrs	2	2	0	4
GMA	1	1	0	2
Taynuilt	2	1	0	2
Kyles	2	1	0	2
Ballachulish	2	0	1	2
Aberdour	1	0	1	0
Kilmory	2	0	2	0
Oban Celtic	2	0	2	0
Marine Harvest North Division Two				
Newtonmore	2	2	0	4
Glengarry	2	2	0	4
Fort William	2	2	0	4
Kingussie	2	2	0	4
Lovat	2	1	0	2
Skye	3	1	0	2
Lochaber	3	1	0	2
Kilmallie	2	0	2	0
Glenurquhart	3	0	2	0
Marine Harvest South Division Two				
ColGlen	2	2	0	4
Bute	2	1	0	3
Tayforth	2	1	0	3
GMA	2	1	0	2
Strachur	2	1	0	2
Inveraray	2	1	0	2
Ballachulish	2	0	2	0
Aberdour	2	0	2	0
Marine Harvest North Division Three				
Aberdeen U	3	3	0	6
Beauy	3	3	0	6
Lochcarron	2	2	0	4
Caberfeidh	2	1	0	2
Boleskine	2	1	0	2
Lochroom	2	1	0	2
Inverness	2	0	2	0
Strathglass	2	0	2	0
Ardnamurchan	2	0	2	0
Lewis	2	0	2	0

'It was the youngest squad we've had - we had six under 17 players in our side.'

The Spean Bridge side have a free weekend due to a bye in the first round of the cup and will hold a training session on Saturday morning. 'It's disappointing,' Michael said. 'We'll still be in the cup on Saturday night but it would have been good to follow up this performance with another game straight away.'

Two goals from Neil Fraser was enough to give Kinlochshiel victory over Beauy at Kirkton, while Kevin Bartlett scored four times, including one from the penalty spot as Caberfeidh won 1-5 at Inverness. Mark MacDonald scored Caber's fifth, David Higham opening the scoring for Inverness in the 15th minute.

Highest score on the day was Aberdeen University's 15 - 0 win in North Division Three over new boys to the league structure Lewis Camanachd. With the tie switched to Craigard Park, Glengarry, Jamie Beaton scored six and Kenny MacLeod, five.



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If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

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Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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Ellis scores a hat-trick, but one was at the wrong end

'I'll just put it down to a bad day at the office' - Calum Maclean

Fosters Highland League Cup
Fort William 2,
Strathspey 3

FORT WILLIAM midfielder Michael Ellis had the ball in the net three times against Strathspey on Saturday – but unfortunately one was at the wrong end.

Fort were hoping home advantage would help them through to the next round of the cup, but fellow league strugglers Strathspey Thistle picked up their first ever away win at this level to move into the last eight.

Despite being cheered on by a small but noisy group of fans, the match started badly for the home side when a free kick from the right of the box hit Michael Ellis and bounced into the net after eight minutes.

Ellis made amends for his error 10 minutes later when he connected with a Sean Ellis cross to make the score 1-1.

After Strathspey regained the lead 10 minutes later, Fort pushed

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Strathspey back but were unable to find an equaliser before half-time. The visitors were awarded a penalty just two minutes into the second half which keeper John Campbell was unable to keep out, making the score 3-1.

The Lochaber side were given a way back into the match five minutes later when the referee ruled a Sean Ellis shot had been blocked by a Strathspey player's arm, but Iain Maclellan's spot kick was saved brilliantly by man of the match Willie Ridgers, who also kept out the rebound.

Fort managed to score from the resulting corner with Michael Ellis nodding in his second of the match before he was taken off with a head knock.

Fort continued pushing but were denied on a number of occasions by their former player Ridgers. Fort manager Calum Maclean

FOOTBALL

said he was disappointed with how his side played. He said: 'We never played very well on Saturday. The second half we battled away a bit better, but I'll just put it down as a bad day at the office.'

Home Game
Attention turned back to league action last night (Wednesday) when Fort took on Rothes at Claggan Park, and they have a home game on Saturday, this time against Brora Rangers.

A number of first team players, including Sean Ellis, John Campbell, Stephen Hendry and Michael Gillespie, will miss the weekend game.

Calum said: 'We'll be looking for three points to move level with Rothes and put Strathspey to the bottom. We've got a few players missing for Saturday, but we'll bring some boys up from the reserves and the young boys will get a chance.'



Fort's Michael Ellis watches on helplessly as the ball rebounds off his shin into his own net. 10_f12for01

Livercaol close in on championship

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LIVERCAOL moved a step closer to clinching the Ali Young indoor football league title with a comprehensive 4-1 win against Achintore FC at the Nevis centre on Sunday evening.

The result means they are five points clear of second-placed Lochaber Leisure with just two games to go. Lochaber Leisure beat NGTW 3-0 to move two points clear of Goon Squad, who lost by the same scoreline to Ballachulish.

Funky Five still have a chance of snatching second after their 3-0 win over Caol left them four points behind Lochaber Leisure.

Caley Jags good run of form continued with a 3-0 victory against Crazy Crofter, who are now seven points adrift at the bottom. All Trades stay fifth after they defeated HW Energy 3-0.

Braes Road Run

ATHLETICS

SKYE and Lochalsh Running Club will hold their Braes Road Run of 4.5 miles on Saturday – three months after it was originally scheduled.

Athletes are asked to meet at Braes Village Hall. All races in the series are open to the over-16s with registration from 11.30am and the races starting at noon.

Entry is £3.00 (£1.00 for SLRC member). Anyone can join the club on the day for just £15.00 for a full year membership. Points are awarded for SLRC members over the entire series.

Time trials

CYCLING

WEST HIGHLAND Wheelers' time trials start in April, sponsored by Nevis Cycles.

The trials start on Tuesday nights in April with a Loch Eil 10-mile trial at 7pm. Riders are asked to meet at 6.30pm at the old paper mill entrance.

Lochaber Marathon plans underway

MARATHON

PREPARATIONS are well underway for the annual Lochaber Marathon on Sunday, April 10.

The race begins at the Nevis Centre in Fort William at 11am and takes in a 26.2 mile route along scenic Loch Eilside.

There is an extensive prize list of over 60 awards and commemorative gifts are given to all finishers.

Registration is on Saturday, April 9 from 2.30pm-6pm and on Sunday, April 10 from 8.30am-10.30am at the Nevis Centre.

The course record for men is currently held by Simon Pride of Forres Harriers at 2.21.21, while Claire Pauzers of Herne Hill holds the fastest woman's time of 2.50.12.

Start/Finish is at Fort William Shinty Field next the Nevis Centre.

Ample parking is available and spectators are welcome to come along and cheer on the around 500 runners as they set off.

Drinks stations are positioned along the route to ensure athletes keep hydrated throughout the race. Prize giving is at approximately 4pm at the Nevis Centre, where refreshments, changing and showers will be available.



Children take to the slopes for skiing lessons

CHILDREN from Glencoe and Duror took to the hills recently for four days of skiing lessons at Glencoe Mountain Ski Resort recently.

The Snow Life School's ski package gave the chance for

pupils in P4 to P7 at both primary schools to take part in classes from British Association of Snowsport Instructors qualified instructors.

The resort also laid on special juice and snack treats for the children in the Plateau Café. Associate head teacher of Glencoe and Duror Marilyn Macdonald said: 'The highlight was racing the chair by skiing down the access route from the Plateau to the car park.'

SKIING

'Parents, children and staff of Glencoe and Duror Primary wish to thank Angela and her team for a well organised and fun four days.' f12ski1no

World Trial Championships coming to the Fort in July

UP TO 8,000 spectators are expected to descend on Fort William when Nevis Range hosts the UK leg of the 2011 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 July.

The 36th running of the biggest and best motorcycle trial competition series on the international calendar sees Lochaber join venues in Germany, France, Japan, Spain, Andorra, Italy and Poland as one of the eight championship locations.

The UK World Trial 2011 also marks the second year of a three-year plan that will see the prestigious FIM Trial des Nations being staged at Nevis Range in 2012 – the first time the inter-country competition has visited the UK mainland since the competition started in 1984.

Completed
The championships will see 60 of the most accomplished and skilful motorcycle trials riders from 15 countries battle it out for valuable points towards the 2011 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship World Pro (male only at Fort William), World Junior (male and female) and World Youth (male and female) titles. The event promises to be a real

war of attrition between riders as the Fort William round is the second last in the series and title chances will be on the line.

Dougie Lampkin (2010 World number 7), who has dominated the modern era of the sport with twelve World Championship titles to his name, will be leading the UK charge and will be joined by elite riders James Dabill and Michael Brown.

Podium Place
Top international riders hoping to claim a podium place include the in form Toni Bou (current and four times World Champion) and Adam Raga (2010 World number 2), from Spain and Takahisa Fujinami (2010 World number 3) from Japan.

With the support from EventScotland, The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Fort William event will be the only world status trial to be hosted in Great Britain during 2011.

Jake Miller, from L+M Events, organisers of the UK World Trial, said: 'We are delighted to be bringing the SPEA FIM Trial World Championship back to Scotland once again, and to have the chance to see the best riders

on the planet do battle in such an incredible setting.'

'Thanks to the kind co-operation of both the FIM and Nevis Range we have managed to secure a date that now falls in the school holidays, which should allow more families and fans to be able to enjoy what promises to be yet another memorable event.'

Paul Bush of EventScotland said: 'The 2011 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship was a great event with the spectacular scenery of Ben Nevis combining with a well-organised championship to create a spectacle for everyone who attended or took part. EventScotland continue to support this event which attracts many international visitors to the local area and puts Scotland on the map as the perfect stage for events.'

The main competition day will be Sunday with Saturday's timetable offering a mixture of unique and exclusive activities including autograph and meet and greet sessions with top riders, official practice and mid-blowing displays by Scottish street trials sensation Danny MacAskill.

Locals miss out on winning the Wee Duathlon



DUATHLON

TWO LOCAL athletes just missed out on winning the Wee Duathlon after a hard fought race through Glen Nevis on Saturday. Refurbishments at Lochaber Leisure Centre meant the swimming section of the Wee Triathlon had to be cut out, but more than 40 competitors still took part in the revised event.

After a close race between the front three, Hamish Barbour finished first in a time of 1h, 1m and 40s, just five seconds ahead of Inverloch's Graham McNab. Ben Dodman of Corpach, who was leading after the first short run section, came in third in 1h, 2m and 21s.

Fort William athlete Nix Forster lead the ladies race the entire distance and finished in 1h 6m and 2s, more than four minutes faster than the next female competitor Rebecca Lunn.

Spook Munro of No Fuss said: 'It was a cracking wee course and we will be back in 2012.'

Competitors make the transition from running to their bikes for the second stage of the duathlon. 10_f12race01



Ewen Bowman hands over his sponsorship cheque to Hugh MacIntyre, chairman of the club, and committee member Alistair MacIntyre.

Kilmallie secure long term future

KILMALLIE Shinty Club's Scottish Hydro Premier league campaign has received a boost after Duisky haulier Ewen Bowman renewed his long-standing sponsorship of the Canal Parks outfit.

Mr Bowman has backed the club through thick and thin for over 20 years. Club officials are delighted the businessman had

again pledged his support as Kilmallie get their season underway in the top flight for the first time in five years.

Clubhouse
The sponsorship deal is not the only piece of good news for Kilmallie – the club will soon have a brand new £130,000 clubhouse completed at Canal Parks. Officials have also just signed

a new lease for the field with Scottish Waterways, securing their long term future at the Caol pitch.

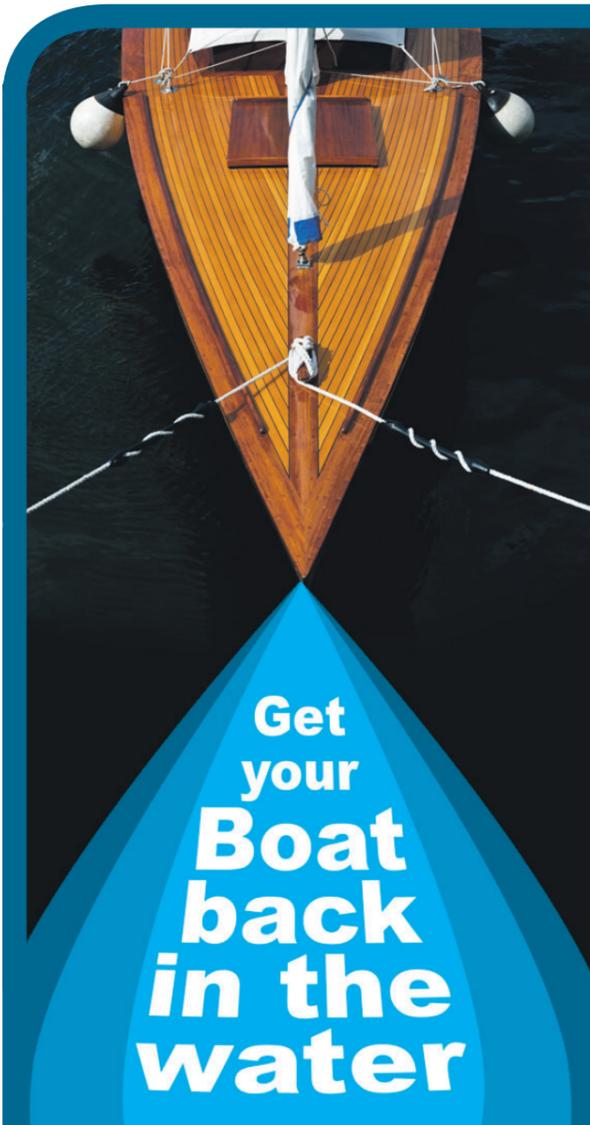
Kilmallie welcome Glenurquhart in the first round of the Co-op MacTavish Cup on Saturday – and coach Johnnie Morrison reckons his side have 'a real chance' of progressing. See shinty preview inside.

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Weather
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Thursday
Grey Cloud.
Winds light, west, south westerly.
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C

Friday
White Cloud.
Winds light, north, north westerly.
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook
White Cloud.
Winds light south easterly.
Temperatures 3°C to 7°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree -Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay - Moderate

FRIDAY

Tides
Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler
Telephone: 01631 562550

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 24, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.42 0.5 08.25 3.6 15.05 0.9 20.49 3.5	
Fri	03.31 0.9 09.06 3.2 15.55 1.2 21.38 3.2	
Sat	04.27 1.3 09.57 2.8 16.55 1.5 22.49 2.9	
Sun	05.34 1.6 11.52 2.5 18.10 1.7 **** **	
Mon	00.57 2.8 07.03 1.8 15.03 2.6 19.50 1.7	
Tues	02.34 2.9 08.53 1.7 15.57 2.8 21.08 1.5	
Wed	03.25 3.1 09.49 1.5 16.15 3.0 21.58 1.3	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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Rockfield win cricket festival

The high interest shown suggested the festival could be a permanent fixture for years to come

ROCKFIELD Primary School won this year's Oban Cricket Festival in the climax to a tournament that involved around 100 children.

The festival, held at Atlantis Leisure for primary seven children, is run by Oban Cricket Club and Active Schools and encourages youngsters to try the game.

Cricket taster sessions and coaching classes were held two months before the tournament and one of the coaches, Ronnie Kelly of Oban Cricket Club, said the high standard of play and interest shown by the schools suggested the festival could be a permanent fixture for years to come.

The tournament on March 3 was attended by pupils of Rockfield, Park and St Columba's schools, all of whom had taken advantage of taster sessions.

Cricket coaches Ronnie Kelly, Malcolm Mackenzie and Hugh Nicolson, together with Active Schools Co-ordinator Dale Kupris, provided coaching on how to play cricket. Ronnie said:

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

'Feedback from the children has been very positive, many declaring cricket to be very enjoyable to play, if not always to watch on the TV!'

After the completion of the taster sessions, the children competed for the Oban Cricket Festival Shield, provided by tournament sponsors, Oban Veterinary Surgery. A total of 12 teams were entered and these were separated into two groups. Although Rockfield 1 and Park 3 advanced to the final, special mention was made of a strong team from St Columba's, who were eliminated despite having won all their games, but scored fewer runs than the team from Park School.

The final was held in Atlantis Leisure's main hall and the noise from the other children helped create a unique atmosphere which helped spur on the competing teams to produce some memora-

CRICKET

ble cricket that resulted in a very tight finish.

Batting first, Park scored an incredible 100 in their allotted eight minutes.

This looked an impossible target to overcome but some determined batting from Rockfield saw them draw the scores level and, agonisingly for Park, Rockfield were able to scramble the winning run just as the whistle for time was blown.

Dale Kupris paid thanks to the schools and the volunteers who contributed to what was a fantastic day of cricket, which fittingly ended with such a nail-biting final.

Tristan Carre from tournament sponsors, Oban Veterinary Surgery presented the shield to the winning team, Rockfield 1. Best boy of the tournament was awarded to Alexander Kilmurray from Park Primary School and best girl was won by Rachel Campbell from Rockfield.



As the Oban Express Primary Football League nears its completion, there was a large turnout of players and spectators at the Oban all-weather Community Pitch on Sunday, despite the miserable, wet conditions. A feature of this week was Fun Fours for the junior league. Our picture shows action from the game between primary one teams Spartak and Ben Lora. 15_112f001



Rockfield 1 with teachers Fiona McCormick and Isobel Boyd and cricket coach Ronnie Kelly.

Tunnocks are back on board West Highland Yachting Week

TUNNOCK'S has announced it will once again support West Highland Yachting Week, Scotland's famous west coast regatta that runs from July 29 to August 5.

Joint Regatta Committee chairman David Waltho said: 'We are delighted to have Tunnock's back on board at West Highland Yachting Week. The company has always been a loyal supporter of the event and our competitors now associate the Tunnock's

brand as very much part of the week.' Boyd Tunnock, CBE, managing director of Tunnock's of Uddingston, is an enthusiast and former competitor at West Highland Yachting Week with his well known yacht named Lemarac - caramel spelt backwards! He said: 'We are happy to give support to this popular yachting event - one that has a very loyal following and is enjoyed across the board.'

Whisky has also announced its support for West Highland Yachting Week, the second year of support from Tobermory Whisky. Katherine Crisp, Tobermory Brand Manager said: 'The distillery looks forward to welcoming both competitors and spectators to enjoy a dram or two.'

YACHTING

West Highland Yachting Week is also unique in being a 'moving regatta' based around Craobh, Oban and Tobermory and promotes itself as being a different

type of event with a challenge for everyone, from family participation in the white sail fleet to top class racing in the spinnaker fleet.

Tunnock's is to sponsor the spinnaker classes again this year and these will be known as the Tunnock's fleet.

WHYW 2011 celebrates its 64th anniversary and is shaping up to another exciting event with strong

Oban High School pupil Julie makes a 'spectacular' debut for Scotland

AN OBAN High School pupil has described her Scotland under-20 rugby debut against England in Newcastle as 'spectacular'.

Despite the Scotland team's heavy defeat, 17-year-old Julie Campbell from Benderloch said her 15 minutes on the pitch, during which she almost scored a try, was a fantastic experience.

'It was spectacular and great fun to be involved in,' said Julie, who has played at under-18 international level for the past three years.

'You walk into the changing room and there is your Scotland shirt with your name and number on it.'



Julie Campbell pictured before her Scotland under-20 debut.

Because she is under 18 years of age, Julie was not allowed to play her preferred position of second row. She came on at number eight for the newly-formed under-20 team and almost made a telling contribution.

Julie explained: 'In the last minute of the game we had a scrum five metres out. I took the ball to the line but no-one came with me and I was stopped just short of the try line.'

Julie is currently playing with Oban Lorne ladies and Oban High School's under-18s team. She has plans to go to Glasgow University when she leaves school this year.

Convincing win for Lorne Ladies

LADIES RUGBY

OBAN Lorne ladies scored another convincing win over Grangemouth in the National

Two League in their final home game on Sunday.

The ladies touched down five scores in a 29-5 victory at Glencruitten, while the reverse

fixture in Grangemouth ended 49-0 to the ladies in green.

Broken Nose Tries came from Donna Smith, Dee Bradbury, Jen MacLennan, Julie Campbell and Katie Ritchie. Donna also scored two conversions.

Jen, whose try was a fantastic individual effort, played on despite suffering a suspected broken nose. The team's final league fixture is on April 3 away to Edinburgh team Lismore.

Oban Lorne's Karen MacCorquodale is halted just short of the try line following a driving run through the Grangemouth defence.

15_112rug03



New playing kit for Lochside Rovers

Lochside Rovers took to the pitch against Ballachulish at Mossfield on Saturday with a new set of strips, courtesy of sponsor Cuan Mor. On hand to present the strips was restaurant owner Paul Sloan. A David Lafferty strike was enough to give Lochside the win on Saturday and maintain their perfect start to the season. For a full shinty round-up see page 20. 15_112lochside01

Easter football festival

FOOTBALL

ARGYLL and Bute Council Football Service are running the ever popular Easter Festival in Oban on April 4 to 8.

For further information regarding the course or to obtain an application form please contact Football Development Officer Martin Rae on 01631 572194 or martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

A Scottish Football Association Level 2 (Coaching Youth Footballers Certificate) course will be held in Oban on Sunday 10 and Sunday 24 April from 10 am till 4pm.

This is the next step on the coaching ladder following the Level 1 course held at the recent Argyll and Bute Coaching Weekend in February.

For further details on the Level 2 course contact Martin on 07767 391843.



Young Ben Coates races past his marker before thumping an unstoppable shot high into the net to score for Oban Saints Under 13s in an impressive 4-2 win over Dalvait at Oban Community pitch last Sunday. 17_112f001

No game for Oban Saints seniors

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team have no game this Saturday. They only have four games left - Cambria home, Kilpatrick away and Aikenhead Thistle home and away.

Unfortunately for Saints, Cambria and Kilpatrick drew in the Scottish Cup last weekend, so the replay takes place on Saturday and they can't play Aikenhead as they have a West of Scotland cup tie, so it looks like another idle weekend for the Oban lads, although they are trying to arrange a friendly match.

Tobermory golf

GOLF

THE CLOSING event of the winter season, the Winter Medal Final, took place on Sunday in blustery damp conditions.

Winter medal winners and qualifiers played to a high standard with Dodo MacLean only just pipping Eoghann MacLean to the title of winter champ.

Both scored net 29 with Dodo playing the last three holes in one-under par (four below his handicap).

Scores: 1 DA MacLean 38-9 = 29; 2 E MacLean 35-6 = 29; 3 J Cowe 36-5 = 31.

Saints youth results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

WEEKEND results: Under 13s 4, Dalvait 2. On target for Saints were Ross MacMillan (2), Ally MacLean and Ben Coates.

League Cup quarter final - Clydebank BC 2, Under 14s 10. Netting for Saints were Connor Howe (4), Jamie Easton, Allan Buchanan, Stewart Twort (2), Fraser MacFarlane and an own goal.

Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game.

Next weekend's fixtures: EDFC Thistle v Under 13s; EDFC v Under 14s; League Cup quarter final - Westerton United v Under 15s; Under 16s no game.

Brothers win open pairs competition

BOWLING



IT WAS a home win when brothers Ian and Ronald MacMillan won the North Connel Bowling Club's open pairs competition.

Anthony Nolan tournament

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALLERS throughout Argyll are being urged to support the Anthony Nolan Trust and compete in the charity's annual football tournament.

The Joanna MacVicar Memorial seven-a-side football tournament kicks off on April 30, at Ropework Park in Lochgilphead, and organisers want boys and girls teams to compete for the cup final.

Funds raised from the charity match will be used to help and support those living with leukaemia.

Entrants to the football tournament must be aged 16 and over. For more information contact Ian MacInnes or John Sweeney on 01631 569995 or email anthynolan.oban@strathclydefire.org.

Want to be a referee?

REFEREES

DUE to a shortage of qualified referees in Argyll and Bute, the Scottish Football Association would like to run a refereeing course in Lochgilphead within the next few months.

For further details contact Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae on 07767 391843.

Is your sport here?

Contact Euan Paterson on 01631 568026 or e-mail him at: epaterson@obantimes.co.uk