

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Clocks go forward

REMEMBER your clocks 'spring forward' one hour for the start of British Summer Time on Sunday March 25 at 01:00 GMT (02:00 BST).

Islay woman found dead after Bruichladdich fire

AN ELDERLY woman was found dead after a fire in her house on the Isle of Islay last Thursday.

A neighbour found 81-year-old Morag MacEachern in her house Glenfield on the outskirts of Bruichladdich on Thursday morning.

Her dog was also found to have died.

The neighbour went to check on Ms MacEachern after seeing the living room window blacked out with smoke. The fire had put itself out by the time Ms MacEachern was found.

Strathclyde Police said there was 'fairly extensive damage' to the inside of the house, but added that there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Nominations for council called for

THE NOMINATION period for local government elections on May 3, 2012 is now open, with anyone interested in standing for election advised to request a nomination pack or contact the council's election office as soon as possible.

Nomination forms and guidance for prospective candidates are available online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections, at local council customer service points or by calling the election office on 01546 603264. The last date for nominations to be received by the returning officer is 4pm on March 29.



Ring of fire for Queen's Jubilee

Town plans 'Obang' blaze

A GIANT bonfire is set to illuminate McCaig's Tower for miles around as part of ambitious plans for Oban to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Bid4Oban will collect as much waste wood as possible between now and June 2 for the midnight bonfire in the tower as it aims to create one of Britain's most spectacular tributes to the Queen's reign.

Permission for the unusual event was given by Argyll and Bute Council at a meeting on Tuesday. It is hoped the bonfire will draw interest from across the world.

Likely to be called the Obang Bonfire, it is hoped the company behind last November's spectacularly short show firework display, Pyro1, can return to put on a show to remember.

That, however, is still subject to permissions and availability.

The bonfire will be the highlight in a weekend of events organised to mark the Monarch's landmark celebration.

It is thought to be the first time the monument, finished in 1902, has been used for such a purpose.

Graham MacQueen, the man behind the proposal, said: 'There will be a bonfire within McCaig's Tower. It should be re-

ally spectacular with the flames visible through the windows and coming out of the top.

'It's an exciting event for Oban and it really will put the town on the map.'

'Last year, Oban went viral across the internet with the fireworks display and we hope this event could repeat that level of interest.'

Mr MacQueen's own removals business, MacQueen Brothers, will immediately start collecting leftover wood and pallets for the bonfire, while un-sellable furniture from the MacQueen Brother's Charitable Trust will be added to the pile.

The Sea Cadets have volunteered their services to ensure no unauthorised persons enter the tower on the day of the event.

Other celebrations organised for the weekend include a ceilidh organised by Oban's Winter Festival Committee on Friday, June 1, while there will be a special lunch for the town's volunteers at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on the Sunday.

Furthermore, both the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) and the Oban Lions Club have lodged applications to light brazier beacons on the official day of the Diamond Jubilee, Monday, June 4.



Appin Comical Carers, Plus One, above, were putting the finishing touches to their production, the Ginger Horror by Nick Newbold, on Monday night, ahead of this year's North Lorn Drama Festival. The annual event at Appin Village Hall got under way yesterday (Wednesday), and continues tonight ahead of Friday's final.

Blind woman's thief held in custody

POLICE have thanked the public for their assistance minutes after a woman pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday to robbing a blind, 92-year-old Oban woman last week.

Alice McNeil, 56, who appeared from custody after a warrant had been issued for her arrest for missing her court date the previous day, had been apprehended at Tyndrum on the Glasgow-bound train.

Sheriff David Hall deferred sentence on McNeil, calling for criminal justice reports after reading her criminal record which includes robbing a blind woman who was lost in Greenock in 2009. Six months earlier McNeil robbed four elderly women - an 87-year-old from whom she stole £100, an 82-year-old, a 76-year-old and her 67-year-old neighbour.

Previous defence agents for McNeil have confirmed she does not have any drink or drug problems.

Oban Police thanked the local community for their assistance with the investigation although they would not divulge the methods they utilised in catching McNeil.

McNeil, who could not provide an address to apply for bail, will be remanded in custody until sentencing on April 3.

Dunollie's 1745 House opens door

EXCITEMENT is building at Dunollie ahead of this weekend's official opening of the 1745 House to the public.

It opens just 18 months after the decision was taken to convert the old servant's quarters into a museum. Curator, Catherine Gillies, is busy putting the finishing touches to a building that is as alive with history as any in Scotland.

Opening from 11am this Saturday, visitors will be taken on a trip back to the house's heyday, with a range of artefacts found within the house on display.

While Dunollie is the seat of the Clan of MacDougall, Catherine says the 1745 House,

which remains true to its original layout, is much more than a simple trip through noble history.

'Yes, on one hand it details a lot about the old feudal system but also you can see quite clearly this was a community.'

Catherine paid special tribute to Graham MacQueen for his continued and considerable help in getting the museum open, to the local builders' merchants for providing items at cost and to the team of 30 volunteers in working tirelessly on the project.

No Argyll forest searches to follow Pillely murder trial

NO FURTHER organised searches of Argyll Forest are planned to find the body of murdered Edinburgh book-keeper Suzanne Pillely.

Confirmation from Lothian and Borders Police came after her former partner, David

Gilroy, 49, was convicted of her murder at Edinburgh High Court last Thursday following a lengthy trial.

There had been speculation that another co-ordinated search of the forest would take place after CCTV footage

shown in court tracked Gilroy driving through Crianlarich and Tyndrum on his way to Lochgilphead shortly after Pillely's disappearance on May 4, 2010.

However, a spokesperson for Lothian and Borders Police said: 'Any future searches will

be intelligence led but there are no immediate searches planned of the Argyll Forest area.

'Should any future searches take place they will be intelligence led as they have always been.'

Acting for the Crown, advo-

cate depute, Alex Prentice QC described 49-year-old Gilroy as 'cold and calculating' as he murdered his former lover and disposed of her body somewhere in Argyll.

Sentence will be passed on April 18.

Major funding takes timber off Mull roads

MORE than a quarter of a million pounds worth of funding has been granted to a £1million timber traffic project to relieve congestion on Mull's roads.

The Scottish Government has this week confirmed logistics company John Scott Transport (Floating Piers) Ltd has been given a grant of just over £350,000 Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) to install a floating pier at Pennyghael to enable the transport 220,000 tonnes of timber from three Mull estates to Troon and Corpach by sea.

Meanwhile, Forestry Commission Scotland's Strategic Timber Transport Scheme has contributed £387,000 towards the project for shore-side works at Pennyghael, and the upgrade of 10km of public roads between Bunnassan and Pen-



nyghael. The balance will be funded by the company itself. The move will mean 183,000 fewer lorries miles on Mull, the A884, A82 and A85 each year for the next five years.

Announcing the FFG funding, transport minister, Keith Brown, said: 'This government is committed to encouraging the transfer of freight

from our roads to rail and water. Projects like this contribute to our efforts to reduce carbon emissions.'

'The Scottish budget passed by parliament earlier this year announced extra funding for future FFG applications. This is another example of the way in which the grant can help businesses contribute

to a greener Scotland while remaining competitive.'

Forestry Commission Scotland's business development advisor, Cameron Maxwell, said: 'Getting timber to processing facilities and unlocking the timber potential in Scotland's forests is important for the Scottish economy.'

'The Timber Transport Fund has, over the years, invested tens of millions of pounds in projects that have helped to facilitate this process, while at the same time taking timber traffic off the road - and this is another great example. Removing thousands of tonnes of timber transport from the roads will have a very positive effect on the rural road network and will help make the environment cleaner, communities safer and businesses stronger.'

LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL



9 ONE-ACT PLAYS

to be performed by Drama Groups from all over Argyll at the Corran Halls, Oban on 28-30 March 2012 at 7.30 pm
Admission £5.00 (£4.00 conc.)
Season ticket £10.00 (£8.00 conc.)
Tickets available from the Corran Halls (tel 01631 567333)

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Glasgow interest in Gaelic re-opens classrooms

INTEREST in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in Glasgow is now so high that mothballed classrooms are to be opened up to meet demand.

The conversion, which has been funded by £200,000 from the Scottish Government will take place at the Woodside Campus of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic School). The announcement was made by Minister for Gaelic Alasdair Allan on a visit to the school. He was accompanied on the visit by Dinny McGinley TD, Irish Minister for State for Gaeltacht Affairs.

Inverarnan caravan fire victim still unidentified

CENTRAL Scotland Police has said the cause of a caravan fire at Inverarnan, near Crianlarich, in which its occupant died, is not suspicious.

However, the identity of the person killed in the fire has not yet been established and the force says efforts are continuing. The alarm was raised at 4am on March 13 when the caravan at the Drover's Inn was found to be burning.

A spokesperson for Central Scotland Police said: 'Investigations have revealed the fire is not suspicious. We are not able to identify the victim yet and we now are working to establish the identity.'

Police investigate Connel assaults

POLICE have investigated three assaults in the village of Connel in the last month, two of which involved schoolchildren.

Inspector Brian Auld last week told the village's community council an eight-year-old was the victim of an assault as the result of bullying and a 14-year-old was assaulted by a 15-year-old in a row carried over from the playground.

A 27-year-old was also assaulted in a 'domestic' incident. One other crime had been reported in the previous six weeks. Community council chairman Sandy Dunlop said: 'I think this is one of the worst police reports we've seen for assaults. The only pleasing thing is there has been no thefts.'

Isle of Tiree woman is Youth Worker of the Year

OBAN's Rachel Rowan, who helped establish the town's Youth Café, has been named as Tiree's Sophie Isaacson in claiming national awards for their youth work.

Rachel is part of the New Spin Project Team, run by Edinburgh's Citadel Project, which won two accolades at the YouthLink Youth Awards in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza Hotel - including the overall award for their outstanding inter-generational youth work, helping

young and old get together. Sophie Isaacson, meanwhile, won the full-time Youth Worker of the Year award for her extensive youth work within Tiree Community Development Trust.

Both received their awards from children and young people minister Aileen Campbell.

Rachel, 26, a former pupil of Park primary and Oban high school, was one of the founding members of the Oban Youth Café at the age of just 16.

After picking up the awards

with colleagues Andy Skea and Peter Hespell, she said: 'I've worked on the project for two years. The idea is to bring young and older people together. We have things like a café with indoor games and art projects, together with projects in sheltered housing.'

'Before the project, we had older people telling us they'd be afraid to go down to the shops because there would be groups of young people hanging about outside. Now they pop along to

see who they know in the group to say hello to.'

Rachel paid tribute to Oban Youth Café for helping her along the road. She said: 'I was involved with the café from the start and when I went to Edinburgh to study community education, I would come back in the summers and help with the café. I've got a lot to thank Oban Youth Café for.'

Sophie, 21, is a tireless worker for youth activities on Tiree, co-ordinating no fewer than

11 groups, from organising the Ch@ Room at youth café to running the Duke of Edinburgh Award and working with the Scouts/Brownies.

Asked how she reacted to winning the award, she said: 'It was frightening!'

'Coming from Tiree, where you're used to being in no more than five people's company at one time, it was a bit different standing on a stage in front of what felt like hundreds.'

'Aileen was really nice though

and chatted away so I was quite relaxed then.'

'It's good that this will raise the profile of Tiree and the work the trust does there. It's also great to have such huge recognition for the work I'm doing.'

'Thank you to those that nominated me and thanks also to the board of directors at the trust because they put lots of work into getting the posts in the ground. A big thanks also to the Robertson Trust, which funds my post.'



Trawler girls Catherine, Mairi and Caroline are appearing in a BBC ALBA series.

Skye's trawler girls become reality TV stars

THREE Isle of Skye women are starring in a new BBC ALBA documentary series featuring their work as deckhands aboard a trawler in the wild North Sea.

They each experience a long day on a Portree prawn trawler before teaming up for a three day voyage out of Oban.

Now Mairi MacLeod, from Fernilea near Carbost, Catherine Tinney from Portree

and Caroline Ross from Ellishader near Staffin join the crew of the Banff-based trawler *The Audacious* for the five-part 'Caileagan an Iasgaich: Trawler Girls'.

They face gale force winds, extreme sea sickness and hours of hauling nets and gutting fish in wet and freezing conditions off Shetland.

Mairi, 36, who now lives in

Glasgow, is a primary teacher in Condorrat, while 20-year-old Catherine is studying history and Gaelic at Glasgow University.

Caroline, 19, recently returned from New Zealand where she was travelling for seven months.

Produced by Caledonia TV for BBC ALBA, 'Caileagan an Iasgaich: Trawler Girls' is screened every Monday night at 10pm.

Barra parents back nursery status quo

Claim island council's plan for £62,000 spend is not best value

PARENTS on Barra have told their local authority that moving nursery provision into Castlebay's school is 'not in the educational interest of nursery or primary children'.

A detailed 35-page joint report prepared by parent councils from Castlebay and Eoligarry primary schools and Barra Children's Centre's voluntary directors, concludes Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's (CnES's) proposal to move the provision into two disused rooms within the school at a cost of £62,000 does not fulfil its aspiration to provide a better school.

With the Barra Children's Centre already offering good quality, purpose built facilities, they argue that refurbishment and a refit of the school 'does not reflect a best value approach to the provision of statutory pre-school education'.

Castlebay Community School's parent council has further asked cabinet secretary

for education, Argyll and Bute MSP Mike Russell, to look at the authority's handling of the plan, highlighting a number of concerns with the way it was devised and the handling of the consultation process.

'Morally dubious' Approximately 40 responses have been submitted to CnES's consultation, which closed last week. The responses are with Her Majesty's inspectorate for Education, whose findings will be published by May 10.

The council will then have until June 12 to further consider the proposal, when it will come back to its education committee.

In the joint report to the authority, the parent councils and children's centre say: 'Communities throughout the Western Isles are benefiting from new-build schools provided through the Western Isles Schools Project.'

'It is therefore morally dubious and against the interests of parity to expect families in Barra and Vatersay to accept a downgrade in the quality of pre-school facilities in the interest of a small annual saving.'

'Castlebay Community School Parent Council, Eoligarry Parent Council and the voluntary directors of Barra Children's Centre urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to abandon their proposal to relocate Castlebay Nursery and work with us in partnership to ensure that nursery children continue to be educated in the environment and language of parent's choosing.'

"Re-fit of school does not reflect a best value approach."

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Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
 Tel: 01631 568000
 www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Editorial Director
 Stewart MacKenzie
 editor@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor
 Stephen Norris
 snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter
 Euan Paterson
 epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter
 Steven Flanagan
 sflanagin@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
 Faith Orr
 for@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
 Richard Haddock
 rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

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

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 A warm welcome awaits you when you come to try some of the exciting range of activities on offer on the beautiful and unspoilt Isle of South Uist!

Friday 30th & Saturday 31st March - £30.00

Link up with fellow golfers at the Old Tom Open at Askernish Golf Course - 18 hole Stableford and Strokeplay - including a rare opportunity to test your Hickory Club skills
7pm

Local Foods Buffet at the exclusive-use Grogarry Lodge

Saturday 31st March - All events listed below are free!
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 Angle your ear to the fascinating history which has earned the South Uist lochs a reputation for some of the finest trout and salmon fishing in Europe....

9.30am - 12.30pm Photography Field Trip
 Focus in on an / Snap up the opportunity to photograph our unique natural landscape and wildlife with expert hints and tips to capture the perfect image....

2pm - 4pm East Coast Cruise
 Tour the Island's rugged East Coast and enjoy breathtaking views, wildlife and sights of local interest / history which are rarely seen from the Minch....

10am - 3pm Archaeology Trail
 Explore 6000 years of exceptional archaeological sites, from Neolithic tombs to Medieval Chapels - guided by Uist Archaeology...

9pm
 ...and if all the fresh air isn't enough to tire you, evening entertainment will tee off with the **Old Tom Open Prizegiving** followed by live entertainment with a lively ceilidh band

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Mull drivers warned as police target speeding

TWO PEOPLE were caught driving at more than twice the legal limit on the same day, as police stepped up speeding checks on Mull.

At 9am last Saturday, a 60-year-old female was caught driving at 62mph at Aros, and at 1.20pm the same day a 25-year-old man was clocked at the same speed going through the village of Salen.

These two incidents are on top of two other drivers being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for speeding, nine have been issued with conditional offers and 13 warnings have also been issued.

Mull police sergeant Mark Stephen said: 'We will continue to carry out speed checks in these areas, as some drivers are still ignoring the speed limits.'

'Clearly this irresponsible behaviour by some drivers is unacceptable and presents a real danger to other road users and pedestrians. People driving on the roads of Mull without the correct documentation and in a dangerous manner will be identified and dealt with accordingly.'

A85 'significant' diesel spill



The occupants of this car had a lucky escape after it left the road near Achnacloch.

A CAR crashed into a field beside the A85 at Achnacloch, near Connel, on Monday after there was a large fuel spillage in the same area.

Police in Oban confirmed that a 'significant' diesel spill from a lorry had been first reported around 11am by the concerned lorry driver. Police placed warning signs on the approaches to the danger area, however, a silver-coloured Vauxhall Vectra, slid off the road just after noon, coming to rest in a field.

The occupants, including a pregnant woman, were taken to hospital in Oban but released without treatment.

Man accused of knife-point robbery in Campbeltown

A GLASGOW man has been accused of trying to rob a Campbeltown shop at knife-point.

Francis Smith was arrested on Sunday evening and taken into police custody.

The 38-year-old appeared in private at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Tuesday charged with assault and attempted robbery and was granted bail after making no plea. Smith is accused of entering the One Stop Convenience Stop, known as 7-Eleven, Longrow, on Sunday, presenting the knife and demanding money from the shop worker.



Portree High School pupils Rebecca Shaw, Christina MacVicar, Calum Kelly, and Lorna Masson present Gael Dunan with the £1,400 cheque.

Portree students raise £1,400 to help Romanian orphanages

PORTREE High School pupils have raised £1,400 for the Romanian Orphanage Appeal.

A sponsored staff abscon from the school roof, organised by S6 student Christina MacVicar, made £1,000 and the pupil council contributed the remainder.

Gael Dunan, who retired from Portree High School in August, spent three months in Romania working with 80 children at an orphanage in Slatina in Romania. The children are aged from three months to 17 years and many have little or no clothes or shoes.

Miss Dunan is currently organising a collection of clothes, shoes and toys at Portree High School to send to the orphanage and will be returning there herself to help out in May.

Anyone who has items they could donate, new or used but in clean, good condition, can donate them via the school. Donations of money for the children can also be given to the school.

Newsdesk
 01631 568060
 editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

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

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

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

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

Advertising Sales Person
 Isobel Brown
 ibrown@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William
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 Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilhead
 Tel 01546 602345
 Fax 01546 602661

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Lorn Lines

AFTER another year of hard work, the 15th annual Lorn Drama Festival is set to entertain over three nights, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 28, 29 and 30, at the Corran Halls, Oban.

The usual mix of comedy and drama sees teams representing local drama groups from Appin, Kentallen and Duror, Benderloch, Carradale, Dalmally and Oban.

Curtain up is 7.30pm each night and the Corran Halls bar will be open for refreshments.

For further information about the festival contact martyngibson@phonecoop.coop.



THERE was a full house in the McCaig Room of the Regent Hotel on Monday March 12 when Oban Photographic Club hosted this year's Frank Walton Argyll Trophy.

The competition is competed for by the four Argyll camera clubs and was judged this year by Alan Gawthorpe from Aberdeen.

There were some stunning images put forward and the result was in doubt right up to nearly the end.

Results: 1 Helensburgh; 2 Cowal; 3 Oban and 4 Mid Argyll.

The judge's choice of best picture was one from Neil Ross of Helensburgh depicting a racing motorcyclist appearing to head straight for the camera.

The next meeting of the club is the AGM on Monday March 26 when a good turnout is hoped for.



Not only did pupils at this year's Lorn Mathsfest 2012 solve maths puzzles to win the contest, they had to answer some of the questions in French and Gaelic. The annual competition, held in Oban High School, saw 96 S1 and P7 pupils compete in groups of four throughout the day. The winning teams were: Beth Menzies, Scott Robertson, Mila Bicanovr, Eilidh Black and Jenny McIntyre, Alec Wall, Morven MacFadyen-Donald and Bronwen Davies.



THE EASDALE branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland agreed at the branch meeting on Saturday March 10 to donate £500 each to the following Service charities: Combat Stress, Erskine Hospital, Linburn (War Blinded), Ghurka Pensioners and SSAFA.

This £2,500 is the money raised during 2011 from holding a book sale, the annual summer sale and a raffle.

Branch secretary Jean Alexander said: 'We thank all those in the community who have generously supported us.'

Following the meeting, a minute's silence was held outside the Tigh an Truith Inn, in memory of the six soldiers who died in Afghanistan on Thursday March 8. Piper Jim Robb played *Flowers of the Forest*.



STUDENT chefs served up a treat at a Scrumptious Scotland evening at Argyll College, Oban, last week.

A delicious nine course meal was served to diners in the college's canteen, cunningly transformed to resemble a restaurant.

The would be chefs created the dishes using fresh, locally sourced ingredients including a shellfish plate of lobster, scallop, mussels, crab and langoustine.

There was also roast venison, wild mushroom consommé and Isle of Mull cheddar soufflé among the dishes.



OBAN Hospice is looking for volunteers to help run its shop which opened recently in Craighard Road, Oban.

If you have spare time and would like to help get in touch with hospice volunteers. Donations are also welcome.



Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra is £400 better off following a coffee morning and art exhibition in St John Cathedral Hall. Pictured at the event are volunteers Barbara Topping, Elsie Matheson, artist Lucille Michie and Christine Marlow. 15.111ar01



BODY zorbing and pin the tail on the bunny are just some of the fun activities on offer at an Atlantis Leisure fundraising fun day this Easter.

Organised by students at Argyll College UHI's Working in the Community course, the event takes place on Easter Sunday, April 8, with money raised going towards Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Among the fun activities on offer is an egg hunt from 11.30am-12.30pm, an inflatable pool, face painting and glitter tattoos.

There will be prizes for the best decorated eggs, a raffle and a baking stall.

The event will be held from 11am-2pm.



THOSE looking to spring into action for the local community will have the perfect opportunity to do so at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls next week.

Argyll Voluntary Action's event, next Thursday between 2pm-6.30pm, will host a range of fun activities for all the family, while volunteers and voluntary groups will be on hand to say how you can help them, be that on a one-off basis or regularly.

Current volunteers are also welcome and it is hoped Spring into Action will present an opportunity for ideas to be exchanged.

Everyone is welcome to the event. There will also be refreshments and home baking.

Dialysis push gains support

A CAMPAIGN led by a Taynuilt woman to have dialysis treatment available in Oban has made its way to Holyrood after her petition received nearly 1,000 signatures.

Cathy Reid began having dialysis treatment in August 2011 and travelled by taxi to Fort William three times a week.

Another Taynuilt resident travelled to Glasgow by taxi for treatment. The travel cost for both patients is estimated to be £63,000 per year.

At a public meeting last Friday morning in Taynuilt Village Hall, which was attended by 65 supporters and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, Mrs Reid made an

impassioned speech in support of her cause.

Taynuilt woman takes campaign and petition for Oban dialysis unit to Holyrood

She said: 'A lady from Oban, who travelled with me, found the journey most uncomfortable as she had a very sore back. She was recently

admitted to Raigmore Hospital and unfortunately has had to have one leg amputated.

'She will now remain in Raigmore Hospital indefinitely because there is no dialysis unit in Oban.

'Another lady, who has lived on the island of Mull for over 30 years, has had to sell her home and move to the mainland to be near a dialysis unit.'

Others at the meeting spoke emotionally about their experiences, including Wilma McIntosh, whose late husband councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, had to travel for dialysis treatment and also campaigned for a unit in Oban. She

said: 'Travelling 600 miles a week to the Vale of Leven and Stobhill really took it out of 'Skye' but he had fought to get dialysis treatment in Oban for years.'

Mr Russell paid tribute to his former SNP colleague, 'Skye' McIntosh, and told the meeting: 'I spoke to Nicola Sturgeon about this yesterday but I wish I had seen the number of people at this meeting before I spoke to her because there are more people here today than at the debate in the Scottish Parliament yesterday.'

'I support this campaign 100 per cent and will push hard to get this change made.'

Computer scam catches users

A SCAM that uses the Metropolitan Police logo to dupe online users into paying out money has already caught out several people across Argyll.

Internet users who have downloaded unauthorised material, such as free music, have had their screens frozen before a pop up message that appears to be from the Metropolitan Police instructs them to pay £50 to have their screen restored.

Police forces do not ask for payment in this manner.

Speeding at Kilninver - again

SPEEDING problems in Kilninver are continuing, despite police intervention over a number of weeks.

A man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal after being clocked driving at 50mph in the 30mph speed limit at 6.40am on March 13.

Elsewhere, the same day, a 42-year-old man was charged after driving through Connel at 56mph in a 30mph limit.

Tire Windfall Fund deadline

APPLICATIONS to the next round of the Tire Windfall Fund must be submitted by the end of the month.

Forms can be obtained from the rural centre, can be emailed, or can be downloaded from the trust website.

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Mull baby born in air ambulance 'doing just fine'

Euan thought to be first baby born in a helicopter in Scotland

THE NEWEST addition for a Mull family is back at home in Tobermory and 'doing just fine' - with his protective four year old sister keeping a watchful eye.

Little Euan Cameron made national headlines after being born in an air ambulance over Loch Awe on March 10 but now the family is just happy to be back at home and settling into a routine.

Delighted father Iain said: 'This is our third child but our first boy. His oldest sister has been very helpful and has been keeping an eye on Euan.'

A home birth had been planned but because of Euan's size an air ambulance was summoned to take Marion to Paisley. The healthy baby weighed 10lb 5ozs at birth.

Marion said: 'He is the only known baby to be born in a helicopter in Scotland so I think that is why it has turned into quite a big story, but for me it was just giving birth to my son.'

'The important thing for us was getting home the same night and back to the girls. They have both taken to him really well and are proud of him. Euan is settling in and we are trying to find our feet and get into a routine.'

She added: 'It is nice just to be back home, all well that ends well.'

Neighbours have been rallying round the couple who are grateful for all the support they've received from the community and the ambulance service.



Proud parents Marion and Iain are delighted with new arrival Euan.

Oban court case delayed by Sudan's civil war

A MAN arrested in London's Heathrow Airport for failing to appear in Oban Sheriff Court was delayed by Sudanese rebels in the war-torn African state.

On Monday of this week the accused's astonishing explanation for failing to appear earlier this month was accepted by the court.

Ibrahim Ashman was in the dock

on Monday after a warrant had been issued for his arrest after he did not turn up to a court date related to driving offences.

Mr Ashman explained he had been visiting his family after his father was killed in Darfur.

He had travelled to Sudan where he intended to spend only a few days before returning to the UK,

the court heard. Unfortunately for Mr Ashman there is only one primary road to the airport which had deteriorated following rebel fighting and had become impassable during his stay meaning he was unable to safely travel to the Sudanese airport.

When asked why Mr Ashman could not have contacted the court,

his defence agent, Stephen Macleod said: 'My client informs me the communications in the area were being switched on and off by the government in an effort to combat the rebel action.'

Mr Ashman's not guilty plea to the failing to appear charge was accepted by the Procurator Fiscal Depute.

Scottish Ferry Review meeting hears of complaints

A STATEMENT in the Scottish Ferries Review that ferries to the islands of Kerrera, Luing and Easdale were fit for purpose has sparked angry reactions.

The review, which is seeking responses by March 30, was discussed at a meeting in the Corran Halls, Oban, last Friday, at which RET, haulage costs and routes from Oban to the Western Isles caused most debate.

Complaints

But referring to the section of the consultation on Luing, Easdale and Kerrera, Highlands and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie said: 'Whoever carried out that part of the consultation must have had their ears stuffed with cloth.'

'I can tell you council officers have been driven to tears with the number of complaints about the Luing and Easdale ferries.'

Sandy MacTaggart of Argyll and Bute Council, which operates many of the ferries, conceded the Luing ferry in particular, the MV *Belahua*, was 'an aged lady'.

Western Isles councillor Donald Manford, who was also at the meeting, welcomed the review in principle, adding: 'Although it causes acrimony and grief, the Ferries Review is something that has been badly needed for a long, long time and no matter the distress, it is a damn good job we had it.'

Pupils pick litter at 1,000 pieces an hour

MORE than 1,000 items of litter were collected by school pupils during a clean-up of the beach at Oban's Corran Esplanade - in just one hour.

Concentrating on the section between the War Memorial and St Columba's Cathedral, the team of 25 Park Primary School pupils from P5/P6 and five adults collected more than 20kilos of litter as part of their quarterly Marine Conservation Society (MCS) clean.

Operating under the Adopt a Beach scheme, the pupils gathered 590 pieces of glass, 95 pieces of polystyrene, 44 pieces of plastic, 39 sweet/crisp wrappers, 38 glass bottles, 35 cigarette stubs and

29 plastic containers. Items such as a plaster, aerosol cans, nappies, corks, an unbroken lightbulb and car parts took the total collection to 1,145 items.

The school's deputy head teacher, Irene Bissett, said: 'I was quite surprised by the quantity but it's not the first time we've picked up that amount of glass. We do this four times a year but people should be aware bottles thrown into the sea come back and break up on the rocks.'

'There's a lot of dog walkers and children who use that stretch of beach.'

The clean-up was carried out in conjunction with the GRAB Trust.

Cruachan's injured climber is back on the hill

CHARLIE Ramsay, who broke three ribs on Ben Cruachan just three weeks ago after his first accident in 50 years of climbing, has returned to conquer the hill.

160 foot fall

The 68-year-old mountaineer, who ran around all Lochaber's 24 Munros in less than a day - establishing the famous Ramsay's Round hill race in the process - was determined to get 'back on the horse' as quickly as possible after the 160 foot fall.

He was carried off the hill by Oban Mountain Rescue Team, who had to dig a snow trench to get to him, and such were his injuries that he was unable to stand upright properly for more than a week.

Three could be his lucky number though, as it took him just three hours to reach the summit on Monday and recount his first ever 'crash'.

Charlie, who lives in Edinburgh and is a former member of Lochaber Athletic Club, said: 'It was interesting

because when I was walking up the hill I could hear water running - just as I did when I was being carried down in the stretcher.'

'I think psychologically I thought I'm back on the ridge as I heard water when I was being carried down on the stretcher.'

'When I did get back down I heard a helicopter. That brought it all back

'I think when you're faced with these things you get back and do it again quickly.'

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Mull Lines

A FORMER Tobermory High School pupil will run round the island in a wildlife charity challenge this Easter weekend. Caroline McKay, originally from the Ross of Mull, will go for a 127 mile run around Mull's coastline in aid of local charities. She will be raising money to support the work of The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and RSPB Scotland. Caroline said: 'I love Mull and I know how important the wildlife on the island is in terms of economy, tourism and the environment. 'My mum was a marine scientist and did lots of conservation work on Mull. She died of cancer in 2005 as she was just getting into running so this is a good way to honour her.' The challenge starts on Friday April 6 and Caroline hopes to finish by the Sunday. She has been training at weekends in preparation for heading up Benmore. Any runners or cyclists who want to support Caroline are welcome to join in and donations can be given at runaround-mull.co.uk.

A MULL man is taking on the big power companies – as part of a group that aims to use people power to lower prices. Alex Thomson, from Bunnassan, has joined The Big Switch project, organised by the 38 Degrees group to try and reduce his bills. He said: 'I think the electricity companies are ripping people off. They are overcharging customers and their profits are far too high. I am fed up of it. 'If I can even get the price of my fuel down five or 10 per cent by joining this group that would be brilliant. If we could all do it as a group that would be even better.' He added: 'There must be elderly people who, like myself, are struggling with bills and getting the prices down would be great.' The organisation has teamed up with experts at Which? and will haggle with power suppliers to get the cheapest deal for those who have signed up. More than 200,000 people have already signed up. The group registration closes on March 31 and there is no obligation to accept the offer from the power companies. Full information is on the 38 Degrees website.



David prepares for his mile in Tobermory.

THE EPIC 1,000 mile relay from Mull to the Mall in London kicked off in Tobermory last Friday. David Black, aged 17, had the honour of running the first mile and completed it in eight minutes. Before the race, the youngster from Salen said: 'I'm feeling a bit nervous but I'm excited and proud to be the first runner and to be putting Mull on the map. 'I'm glad to be doing it for Sport Relief. I really enjoy competing and taking part in events, so this was such a good chance. It's something I really wanted to get involved with.' After handing over to Gerry Kangley from Tobermory he added: 'I feel it went really well, it was a good mile. It was nice that everyone came out to support me at the start and the big send off was my favourite bit. 'I really enjoyed it even though it was a bit tough running up the hill out of town. The weather even stayed dry too.' Runners travelled around Mull, heading for Glenforsa, Ardnamcross and Craignure before crossing on the ferry to Oban.

Marooned yacht could set Scottish recovery precedent

Storm leaves Connel with 10-tonne headache

CONNEL Community Council could be about to set a Scottish precedent as it investigates how to move a stricken yacht from the village's tidal shoreline.

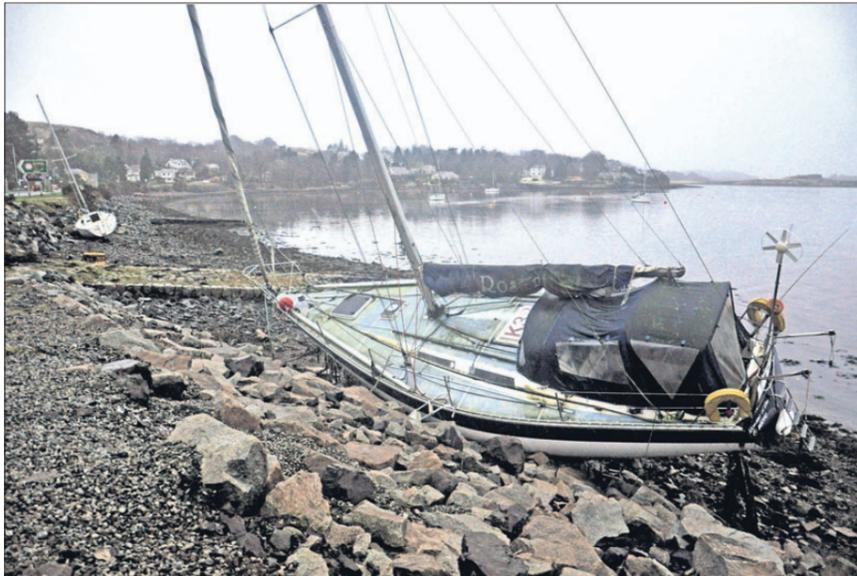
Two yachts were ripped from their moorings at the entrance to Loch Etive and dumped onto rocks opposite the main A85 road during December's storms. While one of the vessel owners is known within the village and has plans to re-float his stricken yacht during the next high tide, the other vessel is badly damaged and the owner cannot be traced.

Legislative first Having been stranded on the rocks for more than three months, there is concern in the village this yacht could become an eyesore and a target for vandalism.

However, moving the badly damaged 10 tonne yacht would require hiring a mobile crane - something the Connel council could never afford.

The community council is now hoping to persuade Argyll and Bute Council to invoke legislation never before used in Scotland for this purpose - the Abandoned Vehicles Act.

A councillor attending the meeting said: 'The costs are very high here because moving it requires a crane. I've spoken to Mark Steward, the marine and coastal development manager at the council, about this. He said he knew of the Abandoned Vehicles Act being used in England but not in Scotland.'



December's storms left two yachts dashed on the rocks on the Connel foreshore and left high and dry.

During discussions the community council was informed that because the boat isn't a hazard to shipping or any other water-borne activities, there is no safety requirement to move the vessel.

Neither is there a risk of oil or fuel spillage, so it isn't an environmental hazard and even

tracing the owner of the land is proving something of a challenge.

One option is to report the yacht to the police as abandoned, ask the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Receiver of Wrecks to take responsibility and hope Argyll and Bute Council will pay for it to be moved.

The receiver would store the yacht locally for a year to give the rightful owner time to claim the boat and compensate the public purse. If the owner did not come forward in that period, it would become the property of the Crown.

Community council secretary Les Stewart said: 'We really

don't know how to deal with this. It's a bit of a problem.'

One councillor attending the meeting said she would speak to Mr Steward again, while another said he would take the matter up with the council's health and safety department to see if an alternative solution could be found.

Rural affordable housing gets major boost

PROPOSALS to build affordable housing in three of Argyll and Bute's rural communities have been given a major financial boost.

Argyll and Bute Council's executive agreed to award grants totalling nearly £1million to schemes in Ardfern, Iona and Islay.

The three successful bids to the council's Rural Housing Development Fund (RHDF) were: ACHA's plan for four three-bedroomed houses and four two-bedroomed flats at Leodamus Place in Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, total bid from RHDF of £479,865; Fyne Homes' submission for four two-bedroomed flats and two three-bedroomed houses in Ardfern, £293,667, and Iona Housing Partnership's proposal for two two-bedroomed properties and one three bedroom house on the Isle of Iona, £180,000.

Island with some of worst roads in Scotland to lose resident engineer

Isle of Mull baffled by council decision to make post redundant

THE ROADS on the Isle of Mull, recognised as some of the worst in Scotland, are to lose their resident engineer - with decisions on local maintenance and repairs likely to be made more than 120 miles away by road - on another island.

Argyll and Bute Council has decided to make the resident roads engineer's post on Mull redundant.

The decision, which comes in the wake of a survey which found Argyll and Bute had some of the worst roads in Scotland - and the Isle of Mull as having some of the worst roads in Argyll, has sparked fury from islanders.

Rory Forrester, who sits on Mull Community Council, said: 'The council hasn't looked at the reality of the situation, a lot of the roads are in a poor condition and losing someone who can make executive decisions about repairs is a blow. 'Our road network is just about



The Isle of Mull has some of the worst roads in Argyll.

manageable and it will make life considerably more difficult if our roads deteriorate.'

The survey by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation found that 18.4 per cent of the area's network were listed in the worst category.

With the roads on Mull arguably the worst in Argyll the decision to, reportedly, have the engineer on the island of Islay,

situated six hours away by road and sea, cover both islands has baffled residents.

Mr Forrester added: 'If there is a problem on the roads, like the landslide in Dervaig, it is going to take at least 24 hours for someone to look at it.'

'The change will - in the short term - only have an impact if there is an emergency but long term it will mean we lose

our voice to get through to the council and we have managed to resolve a lot of issues because of that.'

Noting that, in the past, the council has been willing to listen to residents, Mr Forrester said: 'We knew there was to be restructuring but we were under the impression that the role was to be saved.'

'It is critical we are not left in this position and the council is just going to have to change its mind.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the move: 'We have gone through a streetscene and roads service review which has resulted in a restructure.'

'The post of Island Technical Officer on Mull has been made redundant and redeployment has been offered.'

Road dependant businesses, such as Mull Taxi Service, could also be affected.

Owner Alan Robson said: 'That is a big shame, she'll be missed. We need to know how to contact someone in authority when the roads are deteriorating.'

'We need to know what plans the council have to fix the roads instead of finding out at the last minute that there will be delays.'

Mr Robson noted that for some visitors there could be safety implications: 'For people who don't know the island's roads there could be an impact on road safety,' he said.



Mark Beaumont gave a presentation on his adventurous career in Oban during a five-date tour. 15_1212mark01

Adventurer comes to Oban

HE HAS taken on some of the world's most challenging journeys but adventurer and film maker Mark Beaumont last week admitted some trepidation about coming to Oban.

Having contacted the Corran Halls - the venue for his presentation, 'My Adventures So Far' - he was told just 10 tickets had sold, one week before the event.

But the 29-year-old needn't have worried, as a near sell-out crowd of 100 attended his talk last Thursday, one of only five in Scotland.

Mark's public profile has rocketed since 2008 when he made his first BBC documentary during a successful attempt to complete the quickest circumnavigation of the earth on a bicycle.

Since then he has cycled from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, climbing the highest peaks in North and South America.

But his first expedition was with his dad and two friends, which he planned as an 11-year-old, from Dundee to Oban.

That first trip took us about three days,' Mark, from Glenalmond, Perthshire, told *The Oban Times*.

'I did the journey again with a friend when I was 18 and we managed it in about seven-and-a-half hours.'

'I came back from that trip and thought to myself: 'Where next?'. The trips just got bigger and bigger after that.'

'The hardest part was getting to the starting line of that first major expedition; lots of people have these ideas but do they actually get to the starting line?'

'On that first trip, the round-the-world record attempt, the BBC gave me a Handycam with a view of seeing how it went and possibly making a half-hour programme on it.'

'It was a punt. By the time I was halfway round and they had seen the stuff I was sending them, it was a four-part series and by the end they told me it was going on BBC1 primetime - but I'd had to go out there and do it to prove to them it was worth it.'

Mark's profile has given him the opportunity to help would-be adventurers with advice and his book and his presentations have sold well. But his rise to fame was never intended. 'I've always wanted to be a documentary maker and that goes hand-in-hand with the adventures,' he added. 'If I wanted to make money I would have followed up my degree in economics and politics and followed my friends to London!'

Mark's latest adventure was an ill-fated attempt to row across the Atlantic from Morocco to Barbados, which ended in the six-man crew being rescued 520 miles from their destination.

'I wouldn't row the Atlantic again,' said Mark, who is due to be married in three weeks. 'Not just because of the accident but I didn't enjoy it enough and I wouldn't want to put my family through that again.'

Reels to Ragas on island tour

CONTEMPORARY music ensemble Red Note will be joined by acclaimed tabla player Kuljit Bhamra as part of a tour of the Hebrides next month.

The four day From Reels to Ragas tour, which begins on April 11, will see the acts bring Bhangra and bagpipes to the islands of Coll, Barra, Harris and Skye as part of a project to bring global and Indian music to the islands.

Concerts will follow free workshops.

Robert Irvine, artistic director of Red Note said: 'We are so excited to be collaborating with such a world renowned artist as Kuljit, a musician from the very top of his field, and to be given the opportunity to share this fantastic music with the people of the Hebrides.'

Ragas to Ragas visits Coll's Arniagour Village Hall on April 11, Castlebay Community Hall on Barra on April 12, The Mission House on Harris the following day, before the tour ends at Skye's Aros Centre on Saturday April 14.

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Argyll moves for Fairtrade zoning

Kintyre, Helensburgh, Cowal, Mull and Iona move Fairtrade forward

HAVING already established itself as a Fairtrade town, Oban has been helping the rest of Argyll gain Fairtrade status. The recent Fairtrade Fortnight held in the town was themed 'The next step' and focussed on how Oban and Lorn volunteers could spread the use of Fairtrade products to businesses and venues throughout the county.

Fairtrade stalls were held in the Co-operative and Tesco stores for a week and hundreds of leaflets, stickers and other material were handed out.

Oban Fairtrade group member Murdoch MacKenzie said: 'In Argyll and Bute generally there seems to be quite a lot of progress.'

'Kintyre is becoming a Fairtrade area. Helensburgh is moving forward on several fronts, a well-attended meeting was held in Bunnassan, Isle of Mull, and both Dunoon and the Isle of Iona have Fairtrade status.'

'Hopefully, sooner rather than later, Argyll and Bute will become a Fairtrade Zone.'

Generous grant 'In Oban and Lorn, with a generous grant from the council, we have produced a new Fairtrade Directory and two new banners. There are now 84 entrants in the directory including shops, cafes, guesthouses, workplaces and churches.'

Park Primary School has gained Fairtrade status and other schools in Dunbeg, Luining and Lismore are working towards it.

The Steering Group ordered materials from the Fairtrade Foundation which were distributed to Dalnally, Lismore, Appin, Benderloch, Taynait, Kilchrenan, Dalavach, Connel, Dunbeg, Kilmichael Glassary and Oban.

This year the Co-operative invited Joseph Kiprono K Cheruot, a distinguished tea producer from Kenya, to visit the UK.

He visited Oban and Lorn, as well as Glasgow, Fort William and Inverness.

Overhead fault leaves Appin powerless

RECENT disruption to power supplies in Appin was caused by a fault on the overhead network, according to Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution.

Residents reported seeing a flash from the transformer at Annat and heard a bang on March 11, which led to 371 properties having half power or no power at all.

A spokeswoman for the power

company said the loss of supply was due to a faulty switch near Kinlochlaich Cottage. She added: 'We would like to thank customers for their patience following the interruption to their supplies on Sunday, to carry out emergency repairs to our network. Our engineers were made aware of a fault and isolated supplies to carry out the repairs quickly and safely.'



Pupils get to grips with live crabs, lobsters, langoustines and scallops. 16_1125easchool03

Seafood promotion comes to school

FIRST year pupils at Oban High School were treated to a variety of slimy creatures - and tasty seafood - as part of the Seafood in Schools campaign.

The project, also visited by primary school pupils, aims to show youngsters where seafood comes from, how it gets to your plate and why it is good for you.

Organiser Catriona Frankitti said: 'We want the pupils, from

a health and wellbeing aspect, to understand why eating seafood is important. But we also want them to understand that eating local produce is vital to the community and sustainability.'

The event, held last week, allowed pupils to handle live crabs, lobsters, langoustines and scallops. They also got to examine the anatomy of a fish. The students also sampled a

variety of seafood including hot and cold smoked salmon and trout, marinated herring and dressed crab.

The day was supported by industry members, with Stuart Cannon from Kames Fish Farming, Judith Vajk from Caledonian Oysters and Walter Speirs, chairman of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers, all in attendance.

Taynuilt court case postponed following death of high profile solicitor

THE trial of a Taynuilt man accused of firearms offences at Bridge of Awe has been postponed following the death of Paul McBride QC.

The case against Michael Doherty, aged 47, of The Stead-

ings, Fanan's Farm, was due to take place in Oban Sheriff Court on April 17, but on Monday the court heard 'extremely exceptional' circumstances meant it could not progress as planned.

Mr McBride, one of Scotland's

highest profile solicitors, was due to defend Mr Doherty but died during a trip to India earlier this month. Furthermore, an illness in the family of the senior partner of the firm acting on behalf of Doherty, David

McKee, and the sequestration of Procurator Fiscal David Glancy to the Crown Office resulted in much of the groundwork having been undermined.

Appearing on behalf of Mr McKee, agent Laura Russell

said advocate Mark Moir will be taking over the case, but would not have time to prepare for the April 17 trial. She added: 'In these unusual and extreme circumstances, I'd ask for a postponement to this trial.'

Procurator fiscal John Service said: 'It is unfortunate this case will be unable to proceed as originally planned but there are exceptional circumstances here due to the death of Mr McBride.'

Sheriff David Hall rescheduled the trial for August 9. Doherty is accused of four separate offences, committed between February 1 and August 1, 2010. He denies all charges against him.

Tuk tuks may take to streets in Argyll

THEY are a more common sight in urban areas of Asia and Africa but the tuk tuk, or motorised rickshaw, could become a feature on the streets of Argyll.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning, protective services and licensing committee were due to decide yesterday (Wednesday) whether to update the council's list of vehicles approved for use as a taxi or private hire. Council officers have recommended the committee allows the inclusion of tuk tuks on the list of vehicles approved for private hire. However, they also recommend refusal of the tuk tuk to be used as a taxi.

According to the report, the council has received requests to consider including tuk tuks and trikes on the list of approved vehicles.

Oban store thief jailed for 135 days

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to 135 days in prison after admitting breaking into a George Street store with the intent to steal.

Unemployed Michael Roy Gowans, 49, whose address was given as Room 1, Balmoral Hotel, Craighard Road, Oban, had previously admitted forcing his way into the shop on January 30.

Sheriff David Hall said Gowans' track record for similar offences and the seriousness of his most recent offence meant a custodial sentence was his only option.

Sentence was backdated to January 31, from when Gowans has been in jail.

Community land conference on Mull

THE ANNUAL conference for Community Land Scotland (CLS) was held in Mull last week, hosted by the North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWC).

The event was attended by more than 70 delegates and speakers. Guests were invited to visit Langanmull and West Ardu Woodlands - owned by NWMWC - to see potential housing sites, new crofts, timber extraction and haulage route.

Speakers included John Watt of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Professor Jim Hunter who spoke about the Community Land Movement and read from his new book.

CLS was formed in 2010 to represent and promote community groups which own, or hope to own, land.

Closed Connel primary school to re-open soon

PARENTS in Connel are celebrating after it was claimed Achaleven Primary School will re-open in August.

Two Argyll and Bute councillors told last week's meeting of Connel Community Council that, as long as there are children registered to attend the school, the local authority would have 'no option' but to open it.

The news has been welcomed by the four parents who registered their children to attend from the start of the new school year in August, who say they felt winning their battle to re-open the mothballed school for this coming term was vital if it was to be permanently saved.

Other parents have now been urged to put their past difficulties with the school behind them and start afresh there.

Speaking at the meeting, one of the councillors said: 'If there are pupils registered for the school there is no question the school will have to open.'

The other confirmed: 'If the pupils are there the school will open.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Fiona Ferguson's oldest daughter Hannah turns five in September and will be first of three sisters to attend Achaleven when it re-opens. Younger sister Abbi turns three at Christmas and Kenna is currently six months old.

She said: 'We're all delighted because we've been behind the school the whole time.'

"If we didn't fight for the school to be open this coming year, we don't think it would ever have reopened."

Connel parent
Fiona Ferguson

'We live just a few yards from the school and it'd be such a shame not to have it open. It is sad that so many parents felt it necessary to take their children elsewhere.'

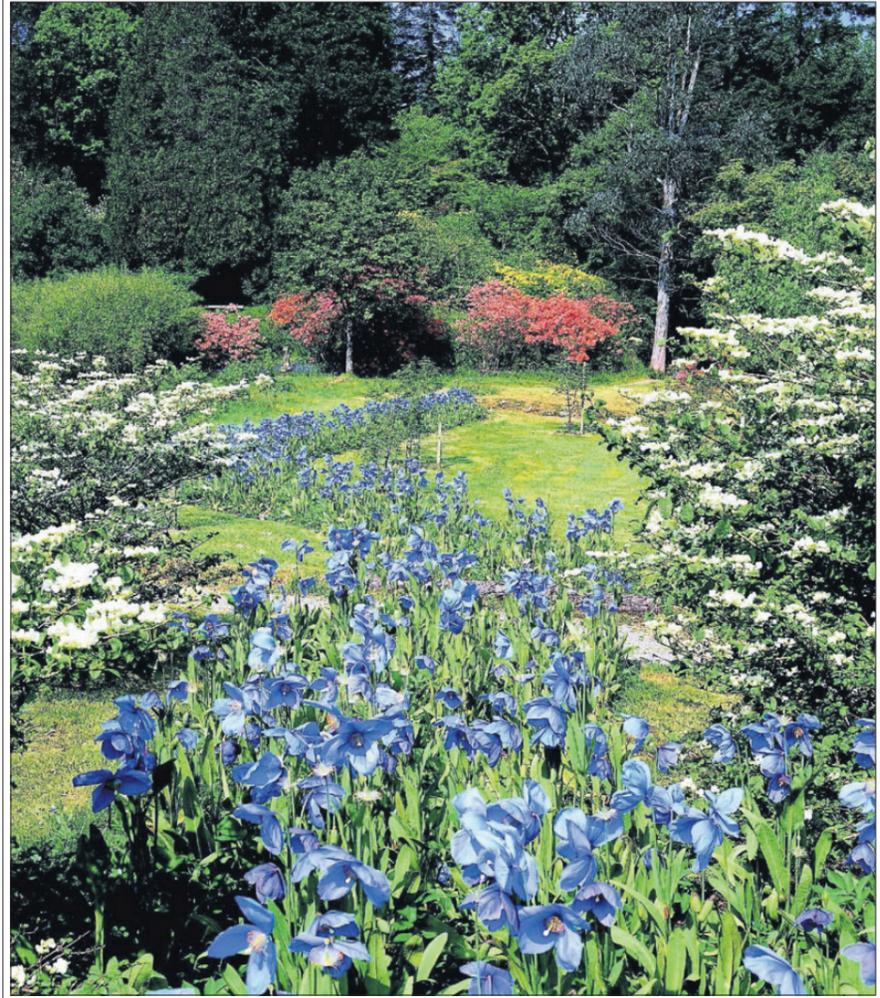
'If we didn't fight for the school to be open this coming year, we don't think it would ever have re-opened.'

While some parents blamed the way the school was run for deciding to take their children elsewhere, no official complaints were lodged with Argyll and Bute Council.

With that in mind, Mrs Ferguson hopes the re-opening of the school will offer a new platform to build from.

She said: 'We don't want a repeat performance of what happened in the past. Let's just start fresh with a clean slate.'

The decision to mothball Achaleven came in June last year - days after the Scottish Government announced a moratorium on rural school closures - after the school roll dropped from more than 60 in 2006 to zero just five years later.



The Blue Himalayan Poppy is among the delights in Crarae Garden.

Crarae Gardens on track for summer season

ONE OF Argyll's most famous gardens is gearing up for the busy summer season - with staff working hard to get it ready for visitors.

Crarae Garden in Minard, near Inveraray, was badly hit by storm damage over the winter

months with high winds felling more than 200 trees.

Staff have been clearing the debris but some areas of the garden will remain closed off to the public.

Head gardener Nigel Price said: 'The garden took a pound-

ing in the winds earlier this year and we have had a big clean up operation to contend with.'

'Some areas of the garden are still closed off to the public, but there is plenty to enjoy and we hope to be able to open more areas as the weather improves.'

The garden, which boasts a vast and exotic array of plants and trees, has a programme of events planned this summer, starting with a Cadbury Easter Egg Trail which runs over the Easter weekend from Friday

April 6 until Monday April 9.

Drivers hit 70mph in village, claim

SPEEDING in Connel is to be looked at again by police after residents claim they recorded motorists hitting 70mph in the village.

Connel Community Council heard last week that, since February 1, a total of 21 people have been caught exceeding the speed limit in the village, five of which were serious enough to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Two drunk drivers were also caught as part of recent high profile campaigns.

A further 48 drivers were warned about their driving or the

condition of their vehicle, while six drivers were reported for various other offences including failing to display a valid tax disc and driving without insurance.

However, the checks were carried out at the 30mph section of the village and member, David Gibson, said the 40mph stretch of the A85 at the north of the village was much worse, particularly between 7am and 9am and 5pm and 7pm.

He said: 'I've actually been overtaken a number of times doing 30mph before the 40mph limit comes in. I used the com-

munity council's speed gun there in the past and recorded people doing 70mph.'

Some of the worst offenders, he added, were lorries and buses.

Pointing out that there was a national speed limit review underway that would take account of such problems, Inspector Brian Auld of Strathclyde Police said stopping distances made policing the site for speed difficult. In order to operate a speed trap, traffic must be allowed a safe stopping time of three seconds while in visibility of a speed gun.

Temporary closure ahead for Connel Bridge

CONNEL Bridge looks set for a temporary closure towards the end of next month to repair damage caused by a recent collision.

Connel and Ardchattan community councils have been asked by Scotland Transerv if there are any events scheduled in the communities that could be affected by the work, so that the likely dates do not clash.

Other minor structural repairs, including concreting, will be carried out by Scotland Transerv during the closure to minimise disruption.

Connel Community Council's Les Stewart said: 'If anyone knows of an event, let us know because they are usually really decent about it.'

Meanwhile, the continued lack of streetlights on the bridge, because of a fault, is to be raised with the company this week.



Pupils at Rockfield Primary School, Oban, were amongst the rag bags recently as the latest charity uplift was undertaken. The rag bag collection weighed a total of 1294kgs and raised £647 towards next year's P7 trip to Ardentinny outdoor centre.

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Cemetery dig may yield clues to Dasher 'cover-up'



Archaeologists could soon uncover the graves of 60 sailors

By Jennifer Lyon

IT HAS BEEN a campaign lasting almost 70 years, with many setbacks, but now, at last, relatives of the seamen who died in one of the worst British naval disasters of the Second World War believe that they can discover where bodies of their loved ones are buried.

Excavation

Lawyers acting for North Ayrshire Council have finally agreed to legal moves that will allow the excavation of a patch of ground at Ardrossan cemetery, a decision that campaigners believe, will solve the painful mystery of HMS Dasher.

The decision by the council's legal department will allow archaeologists to peel away the topsoil from an area where it is thought that the bodies of more than 60 sailors were dumped in a pit - which is unmarked - apparently because the Royal Navy was desperate to keep the true cause of their deaths a secret.

New book

However, author and historian John Steele and his wife Noreen from Ardrossan have revealed in a new book that design faults in the US-built vessel's 1942 conversion into an aircraft carrier caused petrol spills.

All it took was a spark from a cigarette and the ship's fate was sealed.

The Dasher began life in 1941 as the Pennsylvania-built merchant ship, Rio de Janeiro,

but when heavy losses of allied shipping in the Atlantic compelled the Admiralty to seek extra aircraft carriers to protect the convoys, it was turned into

an aircraft carrier and renamed HMS Dasher.

Her crew had concerns over their new ship's safety from the beginning and there were persistent reports of a smell of petrol in the hangar where the aviation

fuel pumps were stored.

On March 27, 1943, Dasher set off on a U-boat hunt, with 75,000 tons of diesel, plus fuel for its aircraft.

'At 4.40pm, when Dasher was five miles off the Isle of Cumbrae, there was a horrendous explosion,' said John Steele. 'The hangar was an inferno and the intense heat caused the anti-aircraft gun bullets to explode.'

The ship took just eight minutes to sink.

Men jumped into the Clyde but many died a fiery death as pools of diesel and aviation fuel caught fire.

Those rescued by vessels in the area were warned by a senior navy officer never to talk about what had happened.

Thirteen of the bodies brought ashore were buried with military honours at Ardrossan cemetery and another seven were buried at Greenock.

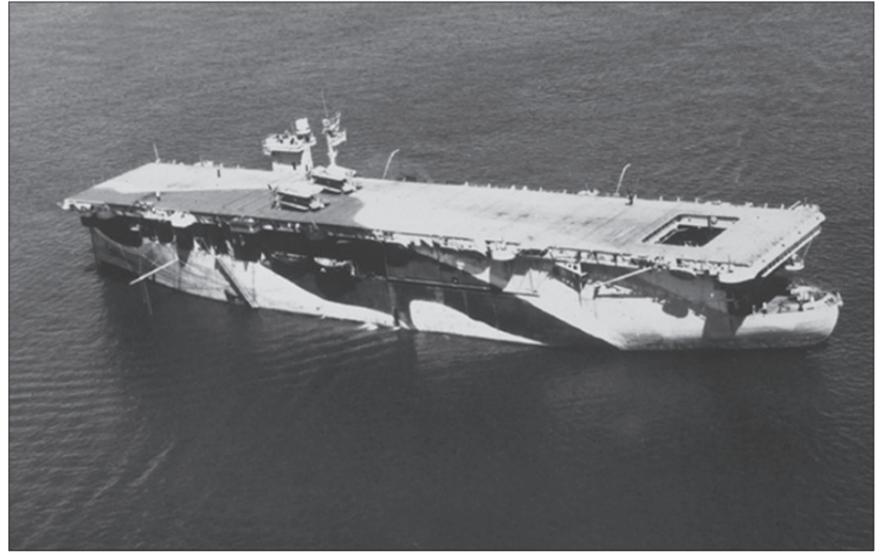
However, dozens more, washed up along the Ayrshire coast, were apparently taken away by the Navy and never seen again.

Mr Steele also believes that at least 26 of the Dasher's dead were unceremoniously buried in two unmarked graves at Ardrossan cemetery.

'The secrecy at the time was an insult to those who died, the survivors and the bereaved,' said Steele. 'The British and the Americans argued about who was responsible for the



George Humphreys, who witnessed the sinking of the Dasher from further up the Clyde, is pictured laying a wreath overboard at the site of the wreck. 01_b14das02



In 1941 the Pennsylvania-built merchant ship, Rio de Janeiro was turned into an aircraft carrier and renamed HMS Dasher. An explosion sank the Dasher in 1943, killing 379 men. The official cause has never been revealed.



A memorial is held each year on board the Brodick to Ardrossan ferry to remember the men lost in the HMS Dasher disaster. 01_b14das01

HMS Dasher remembered

At 10.20am on Saturday 24 March this year a small memorial service will take place onboard the MV Caledonian Isles as the ship passes quietly over the war grave of HMS Dasher.

The CalMac ship will leave Ardrossan at 9.45am and sail to Brodick on the Isle of Arran. On board - as in years gone by - will be the last few remaining survivors of the incident, as well as family and friends of those lost on that fateful day.

This is a chance for them, not only to remember, but also to pay tribute to the courage of those who died that day.

The service of remembrance at the stern of the ship will be led by Ron Marston, the secretary of the HMS Dasher Association, while single roses and wreaths will be cast in to the sea in memory of those who perished.

When the vessel berths at Brodick another short service will be conducted at the Dasher Memorial at the pier before the remembrance party return to Ardrossan on the MV Caledonian Isles.

For more information about the Dasher day of remembrance contact Ron Marston at hmsdasher1943association@talktalk.net or on 02920 703790.

catastrophe and the entire affair was suppressed, to our lasting shame.'

'The bereaved families were never made aware of what had happened,' Mr Steele added.

Campaigners have tried for two decades to find out exactly where the bodies were buried so that they can erect a memorial at the site but they have had their appeals for help rejected

by a succession of official and military organisations.

The campaigners secured an important breakthrough recently when North Ayrshire Council agreed to co-operate with plans to excavate an area in the cemetery where the bodies are believed to lie.

Research by archaeologists from the University of Glasgow last year appeared to suggest

that there could indeed be bodies buried in an unmarked plot.

Mr Steele, whose interest in the ship was sparked by a casual conversation with two local pensioners, said: 'After nearly 70 years, these people at the very least deserve a plaque at their last resting place.'

'The whole Dasher episode has been kept from public knowledge for far too long.'

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AS THE clocks go forward this weekend and the longer, brighter days approach Inveraray businesses are preparing to welcome a host of visitors to the Royal Burgh.

But reminding Argyll folk to make the most of the attractions on their doorstep this spring Inveraray residents are ready to offer a warm welcome to their Argyll neighbours in search of a good day out.

At the top of Inveraray's visitor attractions is Inveraray Jail. A living museum, renowned all over Scotland, the jail houses real people portraying life in a 19th century prison.

Visitors have the opportunity to interact with costumed characters, watch courtroom trials, talk to prisoners, meet the warden, go to jail and witness cell life, sample the punishments, browse the exhibition of prison artefacts and plan their escape.

The gift shop at Inveraray Jail is also home to some fantastic gifts for men, women and children. Currently home to a host of jewellery, handbags, books, toys, art and stationary, guests could leave jail with a present in hand.

Fashionistas in search of bespoke, one-of-a-kind outfits can also drop into Redshank of Inveraray.

Providing traditional clothing with a modern twist, Redshank has been catering to the individual's style for decades. Offering bespoke fashion for tartan lovers, Redshank's is works energetically to produce garments as rich as the personalities of those who wear them.

After a hard day shopping and sightseeing in the royal burgh

a host of local eateries will be waiting to revive the weary day-tripper.

Brambles bistro and cafe on the burgh's main street offers a cosy corner to rest and enjoy for a heart-warming lunch or dinner. Famed for its tasty cakes and homebaking, Brambles is the perfect eatery for those with a sweet tooth.

The renowned George Hotel is always waiting to welcome those in search of a drink, meal or place to stay for the night.

The George, at the heart of the Royal Burgh has always had an enviable reputation for ambience, friendliness and its cuisine. With its original solid stone flagstoned floors and four roaring log and peat fires, the George is a lively haunt for local characters with a wide choice of real ales, 100 malt whiskies and an extensive wine list.

Enjoying a place in the good pub guide and the good beer guide, the George Hotel has long been attracting people to Inveraray from near and far.

For those who prefer to eat on the go, David's Takeaway and the Pier Shop are the perfect pit stops.

The Pier Shop, over looking Loch Fyne, is the perfect place for people seeking a coffee, sandwich and confectionary to go, whilst David's Takeaway on the edge of the main street is a treasure trove of home-baked treats, buns and ice cream.

For those venturing a little further around Loch Fyne, they will find the famous Tree Shop in Cairndow. Famed both for its food and its plants, shoppers can pick up some delights for the garden and home whilst treating their taste buds.

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CONNEL

CONNEL Surgery will introduce a new website, online appointment booking system and new signs in the coming months.

The announcements were made by new practice manager Jessica Woodhouse at Connel Community Council last week when she formally introduced herself to the community.

Jessica takes over from Gail MacGregor, who retired in December having worked at the surgery since 1985.

Originally from Norwich, Jessica shadowed Gail for a few months before taking on the role.

She said: 'In the next few weeks new there will be new roadside signage to attract passing trade for the coffee shop. There will also be a big new sign on the front of the building itself.'

'A new website is coming soon as well, with online appointment booking. That should make booking an appointment much easier.'

'Also, we may have some automated doors in the practice. We have had comments from mothers with prams and wheelchair users that the current doors are difficult to get through so we're looking at that.'

Currently, 4,902 patients are registered with the surgery.

HOLIDAYMAKERS to Connel should enjoy renewed facilities and amenities after steps were taken to revitalise the village's benches.

Taking advantage of the Community Payback Scheme (CPS), which has replaced community service, the benches were removed to Lochgilphead by the council-administered team to be sanded and repainted. Meanwhile, Connel Community Council is speaking to Glensanda Quarry about getting new stones for the Falls of Lora car park.

A number of other schemes are planned for the village using CPS in the near future.

ISLAY

PORT Charlotte Primary School's Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday March 24 from 2 to 4pm at the school.

There'll be lots of fun activities for everyone, a cuppa

and baking and great raffle prizes.

Port Charlotte Primary School's Tuck Recipe Books will be on sale.

The school thanks Green Bug Productions for use of the binding machine for the booklet.

CÒISIR Ghàidhlig Ìle held its annual choir dinner on Friday March 16 at Port Charlotte Hotel.

As usual, most members attended and a delicious meal was followed by plenty of singing at this sociable evening. Choir president Fergus Muir spoke briefly of choir events during this last year. Following the recent death of choir member and Gaelic tutor Robert Forrest, everyone remembers him with great affection and respect.

'Discussions are under way within the choir about use of donations from choir members, matched by the choir's funds, to set up a suitable tribute to Robert. Several suggestions have been put forward. Amongst them were proposals to offer a memorial cup to Mòd Ìle for open solo singing or funding a bursary for learners of Gaelic song.'

IF ANY reader is the last holder of, or knows the whereabouts of, the Cultoon Cup or any pony class cups or other Ellister Show perpetual trophies,

please can they be returned to Jane Dawson, Ellister Lodge, telephone 01496 860 311, or to Andy Wiggins.

Alternatively, contact either of them so that arrangements can be made for the cups to be collected. The Ellister Show is being re-instated this summer, and the cups will be awarded at this year's show. **SC**

SPEAN BRIDGE

FÈIS Lochabair is staging a fèis teachlaich (family fèis) in Spean Bridge Primary School on Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

The event, aimed at parents who would like to spend part of the day in a Gaelic environment, will give children an opportunity to play and learn Gaelic songs whilst the parents learn, chat or pick up new skills in Gaelic.

All levels of Gaelic speakers are welcome. For more information contact Maria MacInnes on 01397 704132.

BENDERLOCH

A NEW stall holder at a producers market in Benderloch has been impressing visitors with her unique cupcakes.

Catherine MacKenzie had her first day as a stall holder selling 'heavenly' pies and pastries at the Local Origins Rural Network (LORN) last Thursday.

She said: 'This is a good opportunity to get to know people and spread the word. The pies and scones have gone down really well and people really like the cupcakes.'

'Some are so impressed with them they say they don't want to eat them.'

The market, held every second Thursday, also has other soon to be stallholders including a butcher who will be carrying out demonstrations.

And there has been the recent addition of a permanent craft store on the site, with everything on sale made locally in Benderloch.



Catherine MacKenzie displays her produce at the market in Benderloch.

Secretary of LORN Jill Bowis said: 'It is about more than the market. It is about sustainability and it is a meeting place for the community.'



Scout leader honoured

Benderloch's Rev Jeff McCormick, left, is presented with a certificate to mark his 15 years' service as a Scout leader with the 37th Argyll Ardochattans Scouts. The presentation, by John Campbell on behalf of Scout headquarters, was made at North Connel Hall.

INVERLOCHY



Jumble sale raises school trip funds

Inverloch Primary School played host to a jumble sale run by children in the P4 class recently. Items such as books, clothes, computer games and home baking were on sale, with each table costing £5 to run. The youngsters also set up their own bric-a-brac stall with the money going to their funds. Class teacher Nicola Lamont told *The Oban Times*: 'We were raising money to pay for our class trips. We've been to Glenfinnan Visitor Centre, West Highland Museum and Lochaber College. We've had lots of help from mums and dads and people across the school.'

ARDNAMURCHAN

ARDNAMURCHAN High School pupil Kaitlin Hutchison won a best performance commendation at the recent FilmG awards at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow.

The school had entered 'Mairi', with Kaitlin in the lead role, in the 12 to 17 age category. The film sees Mairi in a courtroom accused of killing her illegitimate baby, her lack of English leaving the judge unconvinced of her innocence.

All the entries to the competition can be viewed at www.filmg.co.uk

TAYNUILT

A WHIST drive was held in Taynuilt Hall on March 9.

Nine tables raised £160 for North Lorn Senior School. The cardmaster was Leslie Servant. Prizewinners: Ladies: 1 May MacKenzie, Oban; 2 Marilyn Henderson, Kilchrenan; 3 Molly Campbell, Taynuilt; 4 Marina MacInnes, Taynuilt. Consolation prize: Peggy MacIntyre, Dalavich. Travelling prize: Mary Mitchell, Taynuilt. Gents: 1 Brenda Maclean; 2 John Ross; 3 Andrea Harris; 4 Florence Anderson. Consolation Prize: Christine Allen. Travelling prize: Alison Boyce, all Taynuilt.

GLENUIG

SKYE-BASED Peatbog Faeries are to play Glenug Hall this Saturday before a standing only audience.

The Celtic rockers headlined this year's Edinburgh Hogmanay party and were described as 'the future of Celtic dance music' at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2012. The action gets underway at 8pm.

EASDALE

AN EASDALE Primary School pupil has won a prestigious award from Royal Mail for his letter writing skills.

George Croft, aged 10, won a special achievement prize for his letter to Tom Daley, the Olympic diver, about what the Olympics means to him.

George competed in the Scottish heat of Royal Mail's annual Young Letter Writer competition which aims to recognise the nation's best young letter writers and encourage children to be creative through letter writing.

Royal Mail's Olympic Director Mark Thomson said: 'I was very impressed with the creativity of George's letter. Excitement is building about the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and this was evident from the entries we received.'

The competition was open to all children aged between 7 and 11, with a Special Achievement award, for children who overcame particular difficulties to enter.

BROADFORD

MORE than 30 people attended an informal event at the Broadford Hotel last Monday to discuss becoming involved in their local health services.

The coffee and conversation workshop discussed the effectiveness of the Skye and Lochalsh Reference Group.

NHS Highland set up the group in 2010 with the aim of boosting community input into decisions made on which health services should be provided where and how. But its future is uncertain amid concerns it has fallen short on delivering what it promised to do.

Locality general manager Alison Phimister said: 'This is just the start of a process to find out what people in Skye

and Lochalsh feel about involvement and engagement with health and social care services.

'We felt it was time to review the way in which the reference group operates and to find out whether there is a desire and/or need for a different forum.'

Ideas
'We want to ensure that we are capturing all the ideas and good work already happening and developing an ongoing relationship with local people.'

A report on the workshop would be circulated to everyone who attended and those who were invited but unable to attend. The report will also be sent to all members of the reference group.

Newsdesks 01631 568000/01397 703003

INVERLOCHY

LOWER Station Yard in Crianlarich is looking a lot better after the community rallied to clear years of rubbish and unchecked weed growth.

Crianlarich into Action's (CIA) two days of voluntary work, supported by rangers from the National Park, who also provided tools, saw the yard gutted. Not even sodden weather could stop the volunteers coming out in force.

More than 20 people took part over the course of the two days, with that number alone turning out on the second of the days.

CIA's Alan Smailes said: 'All in all this was a great display of community spirit, which is the basis and overriding principle of the CIA.'



Volunteers turned out in force to help Crianlarich into Action clear years of rubbish and return Lower Station Yard to a manageable state.

MORAR

MORAR Community Council secretary Dierdre Roberts has announced she is standing down as secretary after nine years in the job.

Jackie MacDonald is taking over with immediate effect.

TORLUNDY

NINE staff from a Torlundy-based biomass company have attended an industry event in Austria.

The HWEnergy team visiting the 'Energiesparmesse' trade show undertook factory training with the company's suppliers and viewed new equipment.

The show provides a glimpse into how Austria has successfully promoted renewable energy in general and biomass in particular.

Upper Austria, with a population of 1.4m, alone boasts more than 50,000 biomass boilers in 300 large-scale district heating schemes.

HWE boss Bruno Berardelli said: 'That provides an indication of what the future of biomass in Scotland could be and an indication of what could happen if Renewable Heat Incentive targets are delivered.'

INVERGARRY

AN INVERGARRY woman has brought out a book on the intricate craft of making tatted, or handmade lace.

Lindsay Rogers says her book *Tatting Collage* was published 'with the aim of helping novice tatters to develop their individual masterpieces'.

Ms Rodgers is well known at the Christmas Craft Fair in Invergarry for her tatted jewellery and also enjoys meeting tatters who visit the locality on holiday.

She had been embroidering and tating as a hobby since childhood until she joined the worldwide Ring of Tatters in 1987.

She was invited to teach in Japan where some of her work has been exhibited.

Tatting is traditionally used for doilies and edging handkerchiefs or collars, but with imagination can be put to many other uses.

MORVERN

Fond farewell to Dr Gomez

A LARGE number of friends and well-wishers gathered in Lochaline Village Hall on Thursday March 8 to say farewell to Dr Frank Gomez and his family.

Dr Gomez, who has been one of Morvern's GPs for several years, is leaving the area to take up a post in Swindon.

In their brief time in Morvern, he and his family have made many friends which was manifest in the huge turnout and the large sum of money collected in the parish for his presentation. During the evening, reference was made to Dr Gomez's professional skill, his constant interest in his patients and his sense of humour which was often a tonic itself. Dr Gomez and his wife and children were the recipients of a number of presents including a large framed colour photograph of Lochaline featuring his house and the surgery, flowers, a piece of Celtic jewellery and a wallet of notes.

Dr Gomez was thanked for all that he had done for the community.

Because of their popularity they will be very sadly missed. A magnificent buffet supper of some of the finest home-made food produced in Morvern was donated and served by volunteers.

Live music was provided by Rory Malcolm throughout.

ABERFELDY

ABERFELDY furniture maker Angus Ross was chosen by Forestry Commission Scotland to create the prizes for the first RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards.

Held this month, the awards celebrate Scottish conservation, honouring the people and projects who have helped conserve the country's stunning natural heritage.

Angus is regularly sought to make contemporary bespoke furniture and artworks for clients both home and abroad. This is the second time the 48-year-old has been asked by the Commission to design and make an award. Working predominately with locally-sourced native timber, he used Scotland's nature as inspiration for his design. He said: 'The awards have an abstracted plant form created by an uplifting spiral of different native woods - oak, ash, elm and gean. A simple element is repeated, building on and supported by the element next to it - rather like nature and the achievements of the award winners.'

TIREE

FOLLOWING the success of Tiree High School's Gala Day Dance for older pupils, the Parent Teacher Association is hosting a disco for P1-P7 pupils this weekend. Held at An Talla this Saturday, March 17, between 2pm-4pm, admission is free and there will be refreshments, games, prizes and a raffle. Adults should accompany the children, brothers and sisters are welcome.

WIN!
A four night stay for two in South Lakeland Worth £500

Abbey House Hotel

Only a fifteen minute drive from the southern tip of Windermere, Cumbria, lies the award winning Abbey House Hotel. Designed by world renowned architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens, the hotel is set in 14 acres of stunning grounds, with 61 individually designed bedrooms to suit every taste. Many dignitaries have stayed here including King George V, the Prince of Wales and the Queen Mother.

The Oban Times has teamed up with Abbey House to offer two lucky readers the chance to enjoy a wonderful four night stay at the hotel, bed and breakfast. Plus, winners will receive a glass of champagne and afternoon tea on arrival.

The Oban Times
TOKEN ONE

To enter, simply collect four tokens - we are printing one token this week and for the next three weeks.

Full details on how to send in your tokens will be announced April, 12, 2012.

Reader Offer
Exclusive to readers of The Oban Times, Abbey House Hotel is offering bed and breakfast for only £75 per night based on two people sharing a double or twin room, subject to availability. The offer ends on September, 30, 2012. Please quote reference code OT when booking. For further information go to www.abbeyhousehotel.com or telephone 08448262095.

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
bonnie babies
 competition 2012



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How the competition works

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

The closing date for entries is Monday, March 26, 2012 at 12 noon.
 See page 13 or enter online at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies

 Zander Glen 4 months Stirlingshire	 Harry Vesty 9 months Preston	 Connie Redman 8 months Isle of Islay	 Skye Slezas 5 months Ballachulish	 En Na Chen 18 months Oban	 Max Walker 14 months Oban
 Ollie Graham 2 months Campbeltown	 Olivia Douglas 14 months Oban	 Ruby Johnson 12 months Wirral	 Lewis Cattanach 8 months Isle of Mull	 Jasmine Aitkenhead 18 months Oban	 Kaiden Fair 12 months Oban
 Natalia Sobczak 15 months Fort William	 Ryan Thomas MacKinnon 10 months Taynuilt	 Stuart Alexander Stubbs 18 months Cambuslang	 Callie Dunn 8 months Oban	 Ruaraidh Maclean 19 months Isle of Mull	 Rowan MacCorquodale 35 months Oban

Vote for this week's finalist!

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

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

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



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

 Lewis Robert Douglas 16 months Oban	 Andrew MacCalman 10 months Glasgow	 Jack Allan 3 months York
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Stornoway ferry fare protest

FERRY fare campaigners the Outer Hebrides Transport Group (OHTG) are to stage a protest rally in Stornoway town centre on Saturday at 1pm. The event will include a cavalcade of vans, cars and lorries and a rally with speeches from OHTG members.

The group wants the Scottish Government to postpone the removal of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) subsidy from lorry fares from March 31. The government has set up a £2.5million transitional relief fund to limit fare increases to 50 per cent. RET pegs ferry fares to equivalent transport costs by road.

High school pupils graduate from boxing academy

TWENTY Kinlochleven High School pupils graduated from Nether Lochaber 'Claymores' boxing academy on Monday night.

Craig McAvoy of Amateur Boxing Scotland led the ceremony, which featured routines learned in nine weeks of training in non-contact boxing at the club's base on Kinlochleven Business Park.

Only 10 clubs currently participate in the scheme across the country and the event was the first of its kind in Scotland. Cash Back for Communities sponsors the initiative.



Music festival hits the high notes

Talented young musicians Francesca Rose, left, and Corran Wineberg were among the winners at Lochaber Music Festival, which concludes with a Grand Festival Concert in Kilmallie Hall tonight. The five days of competition saw some exceptional performances and entries well up on last year. See full report and photo coverage, page 4. 20_12music12

Lochaber schoolgirl to carry Olympic flame

A LOCHABER schoolgirl has been announced as one of the 8,000 torchbearers carrying the Olympic flame on its journey round the British Isles in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in June.

Lorna Linfield, from Muirshearlach, Banavie, will run with the torch around 300 metres along the A82 near Fort William on June 9 as the flame heads to Inverness.

Lochaber High pupil Lorna, 12, is believed to have been nominated by someone at the school.

She helps with the Mary's Meals charity, which supports schoolchildren in developing countries, and is a member of a traditional Gaelic music group.

The school is currently running several Olympics-themed activities and will have an Olympics-style sports day in June.

Depute head teacher Paul Reynolds said: 'We are really proud Lorna will be part of the Olympic torch-bearing team.'

The torch will stop at Glencoe, Ballachulish, Fort William, Spean Bridge, Fort Augustus,

Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit on Saturday June 9.

Stornoway will welcome the torch on June 11, starting with a relay at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's offices on Sandwick Road at 6.30am.

The Olympic flame will travel through the town to Lewis Castle College, before being taken to Stornoway Airport.

Comhairle convener Alex MacDonald hoped local people would get involved by 'lining the streets of Stornoway'.

Communities step closer to shore control

COASTAL communities across the West Highlands have welcomed moves that could see them taking control of foreshores and local waters from the Crown Estate.

A hard-hitting Scottish affairs committee report, launched in Inverness on Monday, criticised the agency as profit-driven 'tax collectors' more concerned with filling Treasury coffers than helping local people.

It recommends the Scottish Government should assume responsibility for coastal assets on condition it hands over management of them to local bodies.

If Secretary of State Michael Moore backs the findings, harbour associations, yachting clubs, community companies and councils along the western seaboard could be freed of paying the Crown Estate rent for everything from slipways to moorings. More than that, part or all lease revenues from fish farms and future offshore renewable energy schemes could be used by local communities to fund regeneration projects.

Morvern Community Development Company chairman Robin Smart believes gaining control over coastal assets could be a gamechanger.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

would make a big difference to us and become major possible revenue stream if that's the way it goes. We were afraid the whole thing would fall into the hands of the councils. Our revenue would be from ferry slipways, pier structures and moorings. I think it could make the seabed a lot more accessible for local folk for different projects.'

Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae said: 'We have Plockton Harbour CIC here and they have to pay for having their moorings - so they would be pleased if the money was going to the community instead. The Crown Estate over the years have taken a lot of money out of Plockton since the CIC was formed.'

Robert MacMillan of Mallaig Harbour Authority said 'a substantial four-figure sum' was paid annually for using the harbour and the port's new marina.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'From Mallaig Harbour Authority's point of view we pay an annual sum of money to the Crown Estate Commissioner for the outer harbour and its £9million development on the seabed which we do not own.'

'Any development we wish to do currently involves paying an annual fee and it would be nice if that was not the case.'

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley spent years spearheading efforts to have local councils and communities in charge of their own coastline.

He said: 'The report is perfect. It completely endorses our written submission. What needs to happen now is that the Secretary of State for Scotland must enter into urgent discussions with the First Minister to ensure that devolution of the Crown Estate responsibilities to a local level are implemented as quickly as possible.'

Community Land Scotland also welcomed the report. Director Lorne Macleod said: 'Today is a significant moment toward achieving the radical reform of the Crown Estate we have been arguing for.'

A Treasury spokesperson said the Government would consider the recommendations and give a full response 'in due course'. The Crown Estate's commissioner in Scotland, Gareth Baird, said: 'Our commitment to Scotland and its economy remains full and wholehearted and we will be studying the report's recommendations closely.'

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Thieves target Glencoe House

THIEVES have targeted a former Lochaber hospital undergoing work to transform it into holiday accommodation.

Valuable household goods, builders' tools, plumbing materials and alcohol were taken sometime between 5pm on Sunday March 11 and 8am the following day from Glencoe House. The missing valuables had significant sentimental value to the owner. Anyone with information is urged to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361.

Deer shooting rule change welcomed

UNREGULATED shooting of pregnant female deer out of season is to be banned, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) announced this week.

From April 1, landowners must obtain special authorisation to shoot in-calf red and roe deer on their ground.

Until now, bodies such as Forestry Commission Scotland, conservation groups and farmers could shoot any deer 365 days a year - including females either

pregnant or with young calves - if they were thought to be damaging crops or woodland.

But changes to the Deer Act, which cover close seasons and owner-occupier rights, mean any deer culled out of season can now be shot only under authorisation from SNH.

Robbie Kernahan, SNH head of wildlife operations, said the rule changes followed protracted negotiations with all interested parties and were designed with

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

animal welfare in mind. He told *The Oban Times*: 'This allows us to put in place positive controls about how deer are shot in the close season and specifically prevents the shooting of female deer in the close season. The changes allow us to better regulate what goes on in the close season through better governance.'

Mr Kernahan reassured owners and occupiers they would not need authority from SNH every time they wanted to cull deer to protect their interests. A general licence running from April 1 to March 31 would still permit deer culls to prevent damage to farmland or enclosed woodland, he said.

However, those wishing to cull hinds between April 1 and a still to be confirmed date in early autumn must now apply to SNH for a specific licence.

The changes will also allow SNH to authorise night shooting in the interests of public safety - for example, where there is an increased risk of deer-vehicle collisions.

Over the harsh winter of 2009-10, *The Oban Times* reported wholesale close season cullings of red deer seeking shelter in woodland. Lochaber stalkers warned their jobs would be at stake if the killings continued. John Cameron, stalker at

Kingie Estate near Invergarry, welcomed the new regulations.

He said: 'It's good for deer welfare. By April the hinds are quite heavily in calf and anybody with respect for deer would not shoot them in that condition. Killing them after the calf is born is even worse, because it will just die without its mother.'

The shooting season for red deer hinds runs from October 21 to February 15, and from July 1 to October 20 for stags.

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Flinterspirit grounding issues timely reminder

WITHIN hours of the emergency towing vessel *Anglian Monarch* slipping quietly away from the Minch, when funding for her extended contract ended at the beginning of this week, the potential maritime disaster that campaigners vociferously forecast almost came to pass.

Those who have advocated the need for emergency rescue tugs to be permanently based on Scotland's dangerous west coast could not have written the script as the sea drama unfolded.

While the *Anglian Monarch* disappeared over the horizon, the 6,500 tonne Dutch cargo ship *Flinterspirit*, entered the waters of the Minch on her way from Sweden to Belfast with a crew of 10 and a cargo of steel and timber. The 370ft vessel ran headlong onto rocks off North Uist sparking an emergency rescue bid. Coastguards alerted lifeboat crews in both Barra and Stornoway and were forced to call on the northern isles-based *Anglian Sovereign* from her base Shetland, however, before the huge tug could reach the Uists, the crew of the *Flinterspirit* succeeded in refloating their stricken vessel on a rising tide.

With massive oil tankers among the commercial vessels that utilise these west coast shipping lanes on a daily basis, this week's North Uist incident serves as a timely reminder that a potential maritime disaster in terms of loss of human life and long-term environment destruction is becoming increasingly likely.

Unlike other areas of the UK, Scotland's west coast has no commercial alternative to these emergency vessels supplied under the umbrella of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

For politicians to simply cast the problem at the door of local authorities is not only irrational, it is irresponsible.

GLASGOW LETTER

Uist and Barra Piping Competition

THE ANNUAL Uist and Barra Piping Competition has a prestigious reputation in the piping world and this year's competition, held in the College of Piping, certainly lived up to the high standards expected.

Thirteen pipers competed in the Ceol Mor competition in the morning with 14 in the afternoon in the Ceol Beag and Puirt Cruinn competitions.

The day's prizewinners were: Ceol Mor, 1 Iain Spiers; 2 Niall Stewart; 3 Douglas R Murray; 4 Finlay Johnston; 5 Pipe Major Gordon Walker. Ceol Beag, 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker; 2 James Murray; 3 Niall Stewart; 4 Douglas Murray; 5 Iain Spiers. Puirt Cruinn, 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker; 2 James Murray; 3 Allan Russell; 4 Donald MacPhee; 5 Niall Stewart. The Glasgow Highland Club Silver Medal and 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, Pipe Major Gordon Walker. The Angus John MacDonald Challenge Trophy for the winner of the Hornpipe and Jig, Pipe Major Gordon Walker. The Charles Hepburn Rose Bowl for the Overall Winner, Pipe Major Gordon Walker.

Ceol's Craic

THIS month's meeting of Ceol's Craic will, in fact, be Leabhar's Craic starting at 12.30pm in the CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street.

The day will have films, talks, question and answer sessions and will, as is traditional, finish with music. Featured on the programme will be Aonghas Dubh, as part of the celebrations for his 70th year. Dublin-born Gaelic poet Roddy Gorman, the short film 'The Glen Road', travel writer Maureen MacLeod, Margaret Callan's book launch and Irish singer songwriter and guitarist Gearoid McLaughlin.

Clydebank ceilidh

FOR ITS penultimate ceilidh, Iain Campbell from Mull made an excellent job of ensuring this was a relaxed and entertaining evening.

His wife Janet and Dougie Gillespie were the Gaelic singers with Ann Hepburn and Carol MacLean also singing.

Daryl Lynch made his debut piping at Clydebank, Murdo John MacLeod played selections on the box and Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist.

Next up for the 'Bankies' will be its popular Erskine Charity Ceilidh on Friday April 20.

Bearsden ceilidh

COMUNN Taobh an Iar brought its 2011-2012 season to a close at its recent concert in Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie, when the singers were Joy Dunlop, Rachel Deans, Donald Iain Brown and Bill McMillan.

John MacMillan played fiddle selections, Graham Richardson was the piper and Kirsteen Grant the accompanist in this enjoyable concert chaired by Peter MacDonald.

Oban High School FPs

THIS year's Oban High School Former Pupils' dinner dance in the Crowne Plaza Hotel was very successful. Maureen MacMillan, who served as an MSP for the Highlands and Islands from 1999 to 2007, was the guest speaker. Gunna Sound provided the dance music for the sizeable crowd which attended.

East Kilbride Mod

PLEASE note that the dates of the East Kilbride Mod will be Friday May 25 and Saturday May 26 and not as previously advertised.

Islay Association

THE RECENT 150th birthday concert can still be heard on Clan Radio.

Diary dates

Thursday March 22: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Flossie Malaviale, Salsa Celtica, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm.
Friday March 23: Glasgow Skye Association Cothrom na h-Oigridh, Gaelic School, 7pm. Scottish Music Vocal Showcase - part of Gaelic week for first year students - Royal Conservatoire for Scotland, 7.30pm. Peatbog Faeries, Perth Concert Hall, 8pm.
Saturday March 24: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Partick, 7.45pm. Stirling Provincial Mod Committee Ceilidh Dance, Logie Kirk Hall, Alloa Road, Stirling, 7.45pm, Willie McFarlane Duo.
Thursday March 29: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, John Hinselwood Band.

Friday March 30: Ceol's Craic - see above, Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am. Stirling Gaelic Choir Concert.
Saturday March 31: Ceol's Craic - see above.

Pub scene

IT WILL be very much a T'ree weekend in the Park Bar with Gunna Sound playing on Friday and Trail West on both Saturday and Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Parting Glass on Friday and Country Folk on Saturday.

Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Fiunary Forest 'Lumber Jills' - 1960s

Iain Thorner of Morvern, submitted this week's flashback photograph which features a group of Forestry Commission girls in Fiunary Forest, Morvern, in the late 1960s. Known as the 'Lumber Jills' they are, left to right: Elsie King, Catherine Cameron, Peggy Maclean, Margaret Smith, Marlene Mackinnon, Mima Cameron and Sandra Maclean. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Underhand path threat

The threat by the John Muir Trust (JMT) that it will close the famous Steall Gorge path at the head of Glen Nevis if it doesn't win an international conservation prize is amateurish and underhand.

In taking on the stewardship of the head of Glen Nevis, which the late and much respected travel writer Tom Weir fought to save from being destroyed by a hydro electric dam in the 1960s, they must have realised the track from the upper car park to the Steall Falls would require on-going maintenance and budgeted accordingly.

When will the JMT and other new age conservation groups accept that they cannot protect the public from themselves?

What are they proposing - concrete flagstones, aluminium posts, steel cables and notices ordering walkers to beware? They might as well erect a notice at the foot of Ben Nevis proclaiming 'Dangerous mountain, keep off'.

The Steall Gorge Path is an historic right of way which the JMT cannot close. Any attempt to restrict access to it will force the public to find alternative routes up to the Steall Falls which will inevitably lead to accidents and possible loss of life. Are they prepared to accept that responsibility and to ignore the right to roam legislation?

Should the JMT fail to win the £25,000 prize, perhaps Cameron McNeish - JMT's so called 'ambassador' who appears to be so enamoured by the Steall Gorge - will make up for it by donating that sum. I have written to him several times about Glen Nevis but he has never replied.

Iain Thorner, Knock House, Morvern.

Inquiry launched into high prices in remote areas

Sir, On March 1 the UK coalition Government cut fuel duty on islands by five pence a litre.

The Government is determined this fuel duty cut will be passed on to motorists and not go into the pockets of the fuel distribution companies.

If any islander is suspicious that the five pence fuel duty cut is not being passed on to the motorist, please let me know and I will investigate.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has launched an inquiry into high prices in remote areas. If you live in a remote community, the OFT would be extremely interested to hear your views on the issues that are most important to you in relation to the supply of goods and services in your particular locality.

Details can be found at www.of.gov.uk/remcom. You can either respond online

or to Remote Communities Team, Office of Fair Trading, 23 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7HX. I hope a lot of people will respond. This is an opportunity to put pressure on companies to remove some of the extra charges they impose on sales to people living in remote communities.

Alan Reid MP, 95 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon.

Work alongside NHS 24

Sir, At the risk of being abandoned by my GP, we read that GPs at their conference are to call on the Scottish Government to scrap the NHS 24 hour service.

The reasons being given are that there have been a couple of cases of patients dying after taking NHS 24 advice.

Question is, just how many more poor unfortunates have succumbed to a GP's advice and died?

Thankfully very few medical mishaps happen in proportion to successful medical outcomes, no matter which service is being used.

I may seem a bit cynical but are NHS 24 GPs trying to enhance their monetary rewards by ensuring NHS 24 is scrapped?

Rather than trying to castigate NHS 24, GPs would do well to work alongside them for the sake of all of us who use the NHS.

Bob Harper, Anstruther Fife.

Nothing cleaner than wind power

Sir, It is perhaps ironic that the letter from Malcolm Kirk vaunting the cleanliness of nuclear power should appear in the February 23 edition of *The Oban Times*, the very day of the BBC Two programme 'This World; Inside the Meltdown'.

Briefly, it was a first-hand account showing the aftermath of the tsunami in Japan about a year ago. This giant wave caused the meltdown of the nuclear plant at Fukushima resulting in many immediate deaths, plus the terrible lingering deaths of countless more people from radiation sickness, together with much subsequent weakness in others during the following months and years. This would all have been so much worse if it had not been for the unbelievable courage of those who flew in with water and others who created a piped source of water from the sea up to the nuclear plant.

What about our own country? Have we really forgotten Selfield/Dounray? The very name was changed to try and disguise this terrible place. How many of us realise that the movement of animals between farms and markets in Cumbria was forbidden until quite recently? And this nuclear disaster happened many years ago.

Have we forgotten about Chernobyl and the terrible deaths and continuing pollution over hundreds of square miles? It is

not just human error that may cause nuclear disasters but the unforeseen force of nature.

Nothing could be cleaner than wind power, solar panels or a hydro scheme. It is useless to try confusing the issue by saying wind turbines are noisy - not if properly installed. And as for the effect on creatures, either domestic or in the wild, I have been a working farmer for more than 50 years and know from experience that creatures are quick to adapt to any unusual development. To survive over the millennia, they have had to.

As for the so-called visual impact, many people find these turbines totally elegant.

Jill Galbraith, Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

Stick to the facts on windfarms

Sir, I am not wildly enthusiastic about Rory Young's windfarm plans for Clachan, as the amount of energy produced is a drop in the ocean in terms of the big energy picture.

However, I found it particularly ironic to see him compared by Tony Dalton on your letters page recently to 'tobacco executives who swear that their products are not injurious to our health'. The current organised campaign of climate change denial is fronted by an array of 'think tanks' like the Global Warming Policy Foundation in the UK and the Heartland Institute in the US. This highly disciplined and well-funded international movement is effortlessly recruiting a huge unpaid and unwitting army of windfarm protesters and feeding them climate change and renewable energy misinformation. In the US, many of the organisations campaigning to disrupt and harass the worldwide effort to research and plan for climate change are the self-same organisations that used a campaign of denial and misinformation to sow doubt when the big tobacco firms were fighting their final battle against the incontrovertible medical evidence that their product was killing people. These 'think tanks' and 'foundations' are funded by the mining and fossil fuel industries and others with a major stake in preserving the current energy regime.

With regards to the other anti-wind letter in the same issue, from Alan Thompson, his claims of the cost of renewables to the consumer in 15 years time are wildly speculative and certainly not backed by the regulator Ofgem as he suggests. Indeed, a recent Ofgem report clearly stated that the role played by renewable energy subsidies in increased utility bills was minor and that rising gas prices were by far the biggest cause of the increases. Anyone thinking about demand, resource depletion and politics for a few minutes will surely conclude that fossil fuel prices will inevitably continue to rise. Meanwhile, as with any developing technology, research and development plus economies of scale mean that renewables will be becoming increasingly competitive.

Subsidies are a temporary and necessary stimulus to kick-start this process. Windfarm objectors should stick to the truth and to the real planning issues when battling these developments.

Nick Bowles, Balvicar, Oban.

Well organised and fair meeting

Sir, Regards 'Wind farm vote not representative of communities', I also attended the meeting in question as a community councillor from an adjacent area.

The opinions expressed do not tally with the facts which are: The residents had notification of this meeting through various mediums and more than 70 were in attendance.

Only those who choose to voice an opinion can be counted. In this case, apparently, 90 per cent were against this application.

Those checking online will see that the letter sent on behalf of the community council was not, as erroneously stated, just based on this meeting but also on a poll taken beforehand, which the chairperson of the meeting read out, whereby every member of the community had postal deliveries of a leaflet asking them to respond both to their community chairman and to the planners with their opinions so that the 'whole' community was given the opportunity to be heard.

No supporters of the application present had anything positive to say about this particular application, only wind power in general - which was not the issue under discussion. It is surely right those most affected by any such applications take the available opportunities to voice their opinions. Conversely, it is also a democratic/undeniable right for campaigners for wind power to express their opinions.

Finally, having been rightly corrected by the chairman for inadvertently giving my own submission in the wrong section of the meeting, I can vouch for the professional handling of procedures, as also voiced at the time by a councillor who congratulated Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council on a well-organised and fair meeting. The subsequently published report by your journalist was, as usual, fair and unbiased.

Christine Metcalfe, Taigh a Luana, Loch Avich, Taynuilt.

Family research

Sir, I am researching the history of my branch of the Ritchie family, in particular my great grandfather Walter Ritchie.

On his marriage certificate of June 7 1870, Walter's father's name is Robert Godley, which I understand to be the family name of the Lairds of Barcaldine.

I have been unable to find a birth record for Walter but think he was born into a Ritchie family in Annan, Dumfriesshire, in 1846 and took his mother's name. His family lived and worked around Longtown and Mossband in Cumberbund and were workers on the Netherby Estates. Walter appears on the 1861 census, aged 15, working as a servant at Inch Farm for Christopher Graham of Netherby. One of my relatives found a later connection with the Godley family to the Grahams of Netherby and when the actor Campbell Godley hired Netherby Hall to present entertainment in the 1980s.

I would be grateful to hear from anyone with information about Robert Godley and his family and anyone with relevant Ritchie family history.

Derek W Ritchie, 35 Waver Street, Silloth, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 4DG.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

MO BHEANNACHD Sgitheanach air a' Hearach!
'S e daoine gasta a th'anns na Hearaich uile ach tha am fear seo sònraichte airidh air a mholadh air sgàth 's gum bheil e air ceist inbhe na Gàidhlig a thogail às ùr ann am Pàrlamaid Lunnainn. Chan eil còlas sam bith agam fhìn air a' Bhall Pàrlamaid seo agus chan aithne dhomh gun do nochd e uidh ann an Gàidhlig roimhe, ach mar a dh'èirich dha luchd-taice a' chànain anns gach àite, tha mi glè thoilichte gum bheil e air a' ghluasad seo a dhèanamh. Tha e daonnann feumail suidheachadh inbhe agus ire na Gàidhlig a thogail anns a raon phoilitigeach oir tha sin a' cur an cuimhne Bhùill Pàrlamaid anns gach partaidh gur e cùis a th'anns a' Ghàidhlig a bhùineas dhaibh uile agus gum bheil dleastanas aca a gleidheadh mar phàirt chudromach de dhuilchas nàiseanta na dùthcha.

Ach ged a tha am foillseachadh air a' chànain luachmhor, chan eil mi fhìn idir a' creidsinn gun dèanadh e cus feum còirichean nàiseanta a shireadh dhi aig an àm seo. Tha mi ag aontachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Micheal Foxley is eile ann a bhith ag argamaid gur e àrachadh àireamh luchd-labhairt a' chànain as cudromaiche an-dràsta, agus airson greis den ùine romhainn!

Nuair a bha sinn a' deasbad mion-chùisean Achd na Gàidhlig is e a' dèanamh a shlighe tron Phàrlamaid ann an Dùn Èideann, bha mòran ag argamaid gun robh còir againn strì airson reachdas còirichean dha na Gàidheil. Leis gur e lagh nàiseanta Albannach a bha gu bhith san Achd, bhiodh sin a' ciallachadh gum foadadh duine sam bith seirbheisean poblach àraid iarraidh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an àite sam bith san dùthaich. Ach ged is e rùn math a bha sin, b' e firinn na cùise nach gabhadh leithid de lagh còileanadh leis nach eil luchd-obrach poblach gu leòr againn feadh Alba aig am bheil sgilean Gàidhlig gu leòr gun leithid de seirbheisean a libhrigeadh.

Chan eil cus feum ann an lagh nach gabh cur an gnìomh agus sin mar a' thaobh còirichean farsaing air seirbheisean Gàidhlig aig an ìre seo.

Chan eil mise air chor sam bith ag ràdh nach còir dhuinn amas a dh'ionnsaigh leithid sin de shuidheachadh, ach tha mòran eile a dh' fheumas sinn a chòileanadh an toiseach agus Gàidhlig a neartachadh!

GAELIC supporters everywhere will be grateful to Tom Harris MP for raising the subject of Gaelic again at Westminster. It is a useful opportunity to remind MPs of all parties of their shared responsibility for the protection and survival of this language and culture which is an important part of the national heritage of the UK.

While I welcome this latest focus on the language, I share the view of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and others that our key priority over the coming few years must continue to focus on language acquisition and strengthening Gaelic user numbers in our communities.

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

Times Diary

SUCH is the fear of being sued, many companies now insist management do not write negative references for former employees.

One manager thought long and hard over a request for a reference for a former workmate who had developed a reputation for skiving. The reference advised his new would-be employer that: 'A man like him is hard to find.'

FARMER'S daughter Elizabeth MacKinnon tells us she was approached by a primary school teacher friend recently who wanted to bring her P6 class to the farm to let the children see the animals.

In addition to the cows and calves, sheep and lambs, pigs, ponies, hens, cats and dogs, Elizabeth introduced the kiddies' favourite - her collection of 24 pet rabbits. She told them all their names, explained the different breeds, different colours, what they were fed on, where they slept and how to groom their furry coats.

Elizabeth asked: 'Do you want to clap them?' An enthusiastic round of applause broke out.

GLENORCHY Shinty Club's 2-1 victory over Oban Celtic in the opening game of the South Division One season was one of great relief for the entire area, as it represented Glen's first victory in over a year.

For one player, however, the victory was particularly significant - as it meant he could finally get a haircut.

After two defeats at the start of the premier league last season, goalkeeper Andrew Smith, aged 20, vowed not to get his hair cut until Glenorchy won a game. Little could he have imagined that it would be over a year before he visited a barbers again, as the Glen lost all 18 of their league fixtures as well as being knocked out of every cup competition at the first hurdle.

'It started off as a bit of a tongue in cheek comment, but as the defeats piled up I became more and more determined to help us to win,' said Andrew.

'My fringe became so long I had to pull it out of my eyes every game - a few of the lads were saying I should get a haircut but there was no way I was going down that route!'

After the opening day victory, the Glasgow student went straight to a barbers.

'When I walked in, there were two hairdressers and both of their faces were a picture when they saw me,' he said. 'I'll not be doing it again in a hurry. The whole year the lads were ripping me, calling me Simba, Rupert Grint and Ed Sheeran. I'm just glad we finally got a win under our belts and hope we can keep going and start a bit of a run.'



Andrew Smith: before and after.

SUGGESTIONS that the age at which you can vote in elections should be lowered to include teenagers has prompted Alan Johnston to take the logic a step further.

He hints that not only should 16-year-olds be allowed to vote, they should be allowed to include the language of social media within their selection process.

The ballot papers would therefore not only carry space for an X against the prospective candidates' name, but a box to allow a further comment such as OMG or LOL!

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

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.

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YOUR LETTERS

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith.

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

False claim car had been stolen

A FORT William man told police his car had been stolen – then after he sobered up remembered he had left it a friend's house the day before.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard police officers spent eight hours investigating Alexander Brown's claims – until he phoned the next morning to say he had parked it in Caol and left the keys with a friend.

Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan said Brown was 'intoxicated' when he reported the supposed theft.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey ordered the 40-year-old to be of good behaviour for one year.

Brown, of 3 The Malt Barn, Old Glenloch Distillery, pled guilty to falsely telling police officers his car had been stolen on July 26.

Pair deny breaking into minibus

TWO LOCHABER men have denied breaking into a minibus in Corpach on New Year's Day with intent to steal.

Liam Johnstone, aged 21, of Aon Sealladh Na Beinne, Camaghael, and Kevin Sabiu, aged 17, of Harland, Glen Nevis, both pled not guilty to breaking into the minibus on Hillview Drive.

The pair are due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on May 24.

Man accused of car fire threat

A FORT William man has denied threatening to set fire to a police officer's car during a phone call to Inverness Prison.

Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Antonio Sabiu pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by telling a woman at the jail he was going to burn the officer's car. The charge also alleges he made threats of violence towards the constable in the presence of other officers.

Sabiu, of The Willows, Achintore Road, was on licence after being released from prison two weeks previously after serving three years for supplying class B drugs, the court heard.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey ordered the 54-year-old be kept in police custody until the trial on March 29, calling the charge 'a serious offence'.

History in the making at crofting elections

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

IT WAS history in the making on Friday as crofter candidates gathered at the Town House in Inverness hoping to become the first ever elected representatives on the new Crofting Commission.

Five commissioners' places were up for grabs – Shetland, East Highlands, Western Isles, West Highlands and South West Highlands. Arnie Pirie had already been elected unopposed for Orkney and Caithness.

The electronic count of thousands of postal votes went smoothly, taking just over two hours to complete.

The occasion was not without surprises as crofters confirmed their legendary disregard for rank or reputation.

Both Highland Council convener Michael Foxley and TEC services chairman John Laing failed to be elected, beaten by Coll's Colin Kennedy and Ian George MacDonald from Braes, Isle of Skye, respectively.

Another shock came in the East Highlands, where Nethy Bridge crofter Marina Dennis, a Crofters Commission representative for 10 years, lost out to veteran Kinraig crofter Donnie Ross.

Brought up in Roy Bridge, Ms Dennis failed by just seven votes. Her father John MacDonnell was grocery manager with the Co-op in Fort William and grandfather Alan crofted at Inverroy.

Returning officer and Highland Council chief executive Alistair Dods declared Shetland first, with Kathleen Ann Sinclair of Scousburgh elected.

Mr Ross won East Highlands, before Murdo MacLennan took the Western Isles, defeating Roderick MacDonald 941 to 609 in the fifth count.

The alternative vote election saw candidates with fewest votes after each round drop out, with his or her votes redistributed to the next preferred candidate until a clear winner emerged.

Mr MacLennan, who currently sits on the Crofters Commission, told *The Oban Times* after the declaration: 'I am honoured to be elected to represent the crofters of the Western Isles.'

In this new scenario I hope to continue my work within the new commission in taking aspects of crofting development forward to the Scottish Government.'

From nine candidates standing in the West Highlands, Ian MacDonald, Sandy Murray from Strath Halladale in northwest Sutherland and Mr Laing were in contention with 354, 205 and 215 votes respectively after the opening round. Mr Murray overtook Mr Laing to become sole remaining challenger, but Mr MacDonald won strongly by 641 votes to 366. The victor, absent from the count because he was involved in events marking the history of crofting on Skye, put his success down



Ian George MacDonald: hand of history on his shoulder

Video of this available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK

to campaign strategy. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I thought that the vote would be split among the candidates because it is such a huge area. My campaign acknowledged that while people might vote for their local candidate, I would be happy for them to put me down in second.'

Mr MacDonald, 61, who retired as deputy head teacher at Portree High School in 2006, said a priority would be using the Crofting Reform Act to get absentees back on their crofts.

'We need to promote population retention – that's the most important thing,' he said. 'There will need to be genuine jobs for folk in rural communities – you can't rely on crofting alone.'

'Also very important is CAP reform – we need favourable conditions for crofting, not 'slipper' farmers. We must get young people in, as the average age of crofters is well over 60. Unless we can do that the industry will die on its feet.'

He added: 'My great grand-uncle was one of the prisoners carted off to Inverness from the Battle of the Braes in 1882 – so there's a bit of history there. My croft is only a quarter of a mile from the site.'

The final seat counted, the South West Highlands, saw Mr Kennedy win by 21 votes from Donald Campbell.

Voting to ensure decision-making was speeded up, Mr Kennedy said: 'To my fellow crofters in Argyll and the southwest Highlands, I'm absolutely delighted to be voted in as your representative and I look forward to doing my level best to assist you at all times.'

Returning officer Mr Dods said: 'I'd like to congratulate the successfully elected board members and wish them all well in their new roles.'

Three commissioners were appointed by government – Susan Walker and William Swann from Slet, and Sandy Cross from Shetland.

The Crofting Commission comes into effect on April 1. Environment minister Stewart Stevenson will attend the new commissioners' installation at Inverness on April 2.

See www.obantimes.co.uk for video message from Colin Kennedy.



Harris and Lewis crofter Murdo MacLennan shows his feelings as he is elected as Western Isles commissioner. 20_f12elections03



Colin Kennedy and wife Karen show their delight as the result is declared. Mr Kennedy will represent the South West Highlands on the Crofting Commission. 20_f12elections01



Returning officer and Highland Council chief executive Alistair Dods announces the West Highlands result. 20_f12elections04

"We need to promote population retention – that's the most important thing."
Ian George MacDonald.



From left, Crofting Commission candidates Michael Foxley, Sandy Murray from Strath Halladale in Sutherland and East Highlands hopeful Marina Dennis, right, in pensive mood as the count continues. Mr Murray's wife Debbie, second right, also keeps a close eye on proceedings. 20_f12elections02



Election officials scrutinise votes set aside by the computerised system for checking. 20_f12elections05

Newsdesk
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Angling club AGM and prizegiving

KINLOCHLEVEN Angling Club handed out the prizes for the season at its annual general meeting in the Highland Getaway on Friday night, with Stuart Symmers winning the overall championship.

First fly award also went to Mr Symmers, while Gary Gardner picked up the trophy for second fly.

Mr Gardner and Alan Blair won the pairs trophy and Sandy Wilson was given the open award.

Mary Robertson handed out the trophies and was given a bouquet of flowers by the club.

The AGM followed the prizegiving, where secretary Trevor Bodenham stepped down. He was given a card and a new angling jacket as a leaving present by the committee.

Club treasurer Gary Gardner said: 'I want to say thanks to Trevor for all his hard work over the years.'



From left: Mary Robertson, Gary Gardner, Stuart Symmers and Trevor Bodenham. 20_f12fsh01

South Uist hosts major conference on climate change impact on coasts

SOUTH Uist will next weekend host an international major conference examining how climate change could impact and threaten remote European islands and coasts.

Entitled 'The Sea as Our Neighbour: Adapting to Climate Change by Coastal Communities and Habitats on Europe's Northern Periphery', the event follows three years of work involving coastal communities in southern Iceland, northern Norway, western Ireland and the Outer Hebrides.

Project leaders CoastAdapt says the conference will give local people, the comhairle and

national government an understanding of what actions can be taken in the face of rising sea levels.

South Uist's Atlantic seaboard is particularly vulnerable and has suffered severe erosion to its machair dunes in recent years.

The conference, in Southend Community Hall, Daliburgh, will be held over March 27 and 28. The comhairle is the lead partner in the CoastAdapt project, which is part funded by the EU Northern Periphery Programme and in the Outer Hebrides by the Scottish Government.

Organisers set Gallop and Grind date

ORGANISERS of one of Lochaber's biggest charity fundraisers have set the date for this year's event.

And the 2012 Gallop and Grind on Saturday September 29 promises to be bigger and better than ever. All entrance fees and money raised go directly to the event's charity, The Sharon Fraser Memorial Trust Fund, Cancer Care in the Highlands.

Money raised at last year's run and cycle from Lochaber Leisure Centre is already making a difference to families affected by cancer, trustee Karen MacInnes said.

'This year £5,000 from the Gallop and Grind event has been donated to the Inverness branch of CLIC Sargeant, a charity that provides support to children and young people who have cancer,' she said. 'The funds donated will be specifically used to provide a much-needed holiday for five families, living in the Highlands, to CLIC Sargeant's holiday house in Prestwick.'

In addition, £4,070 was donated to the Maggie's Centre at Raigmore to fund one year of nutrition and tai chi workshops, which will greatly improve the quality of life for patients with cancer.'

She added: 'The Gallop and Grind committee would like to express our sincere thanks to all sponsors, participants and volunteers who have contributed so much to the success of previous events.'

Anyone wishing to support the charity can register at www.gallopandgrind.co.uk.

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With Easter fast approaching, yacht and boat owners across the west coast and beyond will be thinking about an exciting sailing season ahead.

Some will be ahead of the game and will be keen to get their boat in the water. Others, perhaps hampered by the poor spring weather, will need to carry out some extra maintenance – either way, The Oban Times is here to help.

Have a look at our boating feature for everything you need to get you boat back in the water. From trailers to repairs, you'll find what you're looking for here.



Trail West

For over 30 years Trail West has supplied boat trailers and launching-trolleys for a wide variety of craft throughout the Highlands and Islands. More and more owners of boats up to 3 tonnes in weight enjoy a freedom of mobility and increased usage by keeping their craft on a trailer. The legendary Roller Coaster range open up new horizons offering ease-of-launch and recovery in a single-handed operation without necessarily getting wet! For the owners of larger boats Trail West offer a wide range of general-purpose trailers for moving gear and equipment. Their bespoke range includes small covered trailers, engine transporter trailers, enclosed van trailers up to longer transporters for those bigger items.

Trail West is an Aladdin's Cave for anyone who tows and their overstocked shop will meet most demands – as their ad says 'You name it, we've probably got it!' Repairs and servicing of ALL makes and types of trailers are everyday events and

the extensive range of parts & accessories held in stock minimise the turnaround time. This is the West Coasts One Stop Trailer Shop!!!



Creran Marine

Creran Marine's new workshop units have been very busy over the winter months. The units each measuring 14m x 8m are available for short or long term hire and since completion early last year have been proving very popular with owners of both leisure and commercial craft. Each unit has single and three phase electric outlets along with powerful extractor fans and high quality lighting. Creran Marine owner Ewen MacGillivray said "This new facility means that boat owners who would normally have to wait until spring time for warmer and drier weather before work could be carried out on their boats can now have it completed in doors over the winter months allowing vessels to be launched earlier in the spring extending their sailing season".



A&R Way

Superb quality wood-work is available in Mid Argyll from A & R Way Boatbuilding. The company specialises in building new wooden boats, yacht restorations, major refits, re-decking, wooden spars and much more. Recent and on-going work reads like a roll call of the great west coast boat builders: 1922 Dickies of Tarbert

Yawl, 1921 Wm. Fife launch, new twin engine installation in 1904 yacht and refurbishing a Curries launch. New clinker boats are built, one being a local traditional Oban Skiff. Adam is passionate about the local historic sailing fishing boat types and is reviving them. He says, "many of these designs lend themselves beautifully to modern leisure use and have unique and lovely lines, when times are tight it makes sense to keep a smaller boat at home on a trailer and cruise any coast or loch. With facilities at Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead and a slipway in Tarbert they are ready to help.



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Stuart Liddell from Inveraray was one of the big names at the final Tayside winter ceilidh of the season.

WORLD famous piper Stuart Liddell delighted the audience at last Saturday's final winter ceilidh in Tayside with a varied selection of pipe tunes.

Stuart was part of a 'special' line-up to mark the end of the winter. Stuart also accompanied top class highland dancer Eilidh MacInnes, who appeared to have limitless reserves of energy during her wonderful dancing performances on stage.

Well known Connell musician Sileas Sinclair had toes tapping and excelled during her sets on the accordion while the highly talented Esther Swift from Edinburgh gave beautiful performances on her clarsach.

Argyll ladies Gaelic choir Atomic Piseag sang several enjoyable songs and there were fine solo performances from choir members Audrey Paterson, Jane Basford and Fiona Munro as well as a memorable duet performance from Christine Johnston and Josie Campbell.

Mod gold medallist Joy Dunlop was an impressive Bean an Taighe, keeping proceedings flowing smoothly throughout the evening.

The committee thanked all the people who helped during the winter ceilidhs, particularly those members of Tayside Gaelic Choir who collected entrance money and sold raffle tickets at each ceilidh.

Oban kicks off One Show's charity relay

THE GAZE of millions of eyes across the UK fell on Oban on Friday as the BBC's One Show kicked off its Sport Relief challenge in style.

Teaching assistant Tracey Lockhart was the most colourful runner of the day as the prime time BBC One programme broadcast live from Station Square as the show's One Show 1,000 moved from Mull onto the mainland.

Dressed as Bananawoman, the 38 year old from Oban - who took up running a few weeks ago - only had time for a quick word with presenter, Lucy Siegle, before taking off on her one mile run. Speaking shortly after she completed her stretch, Tracey said: 'I was nervous before the start but so many people were out supporting me. I am really proud of myself that I've done it and achieved something that has made a difference.'

1,000 people run a mile She handed over to fellow Obanite, Gordon Binnie, 41, and the baton was later passed to Dunbeg's Arlene Ditchfield, 36, and 34-year old husband James, who ran despite the fact they are awaiting the arrival of their first baby.

Speaking before her run, Arlene said: 'I'm used to running but I've done less since I became pregnant.'

Asked if they'd be competing, James said: 'We're running it together because I love her.'

The charity challenge was kicked off by Salen's David Black in Tobermory, who finished the first mile in just eight minutes. He handed over to Gerry Kangley, Tobermory, as the programme launched its effort to get at least 1,000 members of the public running a mile, 24 hours a day over nine days.

The route for the One Show 1,000 takes in towns from across Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales before the grand finale on The Mall in London on Sunday.

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38 year old Oban teaching assistant, Tracey Lockhart is interviewed live on television before her run. Picture Kevin McGlynn

what's on oban

Every Thursday > Ceilidh Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 9pm-11pm

Every Thursday > Club Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am

Every Saturday > Club Night with DJs
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm-2am

Friday 23rd March > Tim O'Connor
Markie Dans 9.30pm

Saturday 24th March > Jon MacKenzie
Markie Dans 9.30pm

what's on lochaber

Friday 23rd March > Nightclub with DJ Irish Al.
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Clock

Saturday 24th March > Nightclub 10pm till 2am
Fort William Skipinnish Ceilidh House Beat the Beats

Saturday 17th March > Jim Hunter & Graham Flett
Glenueig Hall 8pm, www.glenueig.org.uk

Saturday 24th March > Peatbog Faeries
Glenueig Hall 8pm, www.glenueig.org.uk

Wednesday 28th March > Scottish Dance Theatre
Sunart Centre, Strontian 8pm, www.sunartcentre.org

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Syed Rofi of Café Mango with musicians Ruari Edmond, Hannah MacRae and Helena Rose

Musical dinner boosts funding for Lochaber Music School

DINERS have raised £700 for Lochaber Music School - thanks to the generosity of a Fort William restaurant and local suppliers.

Some 60 people enjoyed a fine meal at Café Mango, which included produce from Lochaber Game, Brake's, Letterfinlay, and J M Breckenridge.

Thanking everyone involved in making the evening a success, Lochaber Music School director Peter Rose said the money raised would help the school to continue providing the 'highest quality musical provision' for around 130 Lochaber children.

Orphan charity race night

THE LATEST Argyll fundraiser for a Zimbabwean charity will be held tomorrow (Friday) when a race night takes place in the Spinnaker Restaurant.

The Pelandaba Orphan Charity was set up in March 2011 to allow orphaned children in the country attend school.

Organiser, and charity member, Cindy MacDonald said: 'We are linked to the UK based charity Zimbabwe A National Emergency (ZANE).

'Pelandaba is a suburb of Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe and home to the Matabele people. When Mr Mugabe decided to solve the monetary problems within the country by changing the currency to US dollars overnight, elderly people of all races were suddenly penniless.

'ZANE was established to help house and feed those who found themselves in dire straits with no means to work or raise funds to survive.

'Last year by holding four events and by receiving help from Achaohish Primary School, we managed to raise over £3,000 to keep 31 children in school for the year.

'There is no future for these children unless they have access to education, so it is so important they get this chance.'

South Knapdale Parish Church has since held a Taste of Africa quiz night on March 3 and raised more than £800 for the charity.

Iain MacCorquodale at the Spinnaker Restaurant has lent his premises for the forthcoming race night and will provide a two-course meal and a glass of wine at a very generous price to encourage people to come out for a fun night. Many local businesses have supported the cause by sponsoring the races.

The Lochgilphead Round Table will be running the event aided by members from Oban. Tickets can be bought from the Spinnaker Cafe or by phoning Cindy Macdonald on 01852 500638.



Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain welcomed Oban man and former Oban Camanachd Club captain and former president, Iain MacIntyre, to the town's Free Church Hall on Friday, as he recounted tales of his shifty days to the interested audience. 15_112commun1



Sequence choir at the Glasgow Music Festival, with conductor Janet Fergusson, left. Photo courtesy Ian Raper, Photocall North East.

Ladies choir takes to the stage at Glasgow Concert Hall

BENDERLOCH-based ladies choir Sequence decided to take their singing talents further afield last week to the Glasgow Music Festival.

Thirty-four members of the choir travelled to Glasgow to perform at the Glasgow Concert Hall, the biggest stage they have ever sung on, where they joined other mixed, ladies and barber shop choirs from the Glasgow area.

Choir conductor Janet Fergusson, Benderloch, said: 'I think we conducted ourselves adequately against the other choirs. I was very happy with the performance that we put on.'

Experience The choir sang a Newfoundland folk song called 'She's Like the Swallow' and 'Rhythm of Life' from Sweet Charity.

'It gave us experience in a big auditorium that we have never had before,' added Janet.

The choir, which is made up of women of all ages, including three sets of mothers and daughters, from Benderloch, North Connell, Connell, Tayside and Oban, is looking forward to performing at the Mid Argyll Music Festival tomorrow (Friday) and also at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban in May.

'We have two ensembles competing at these events as well,' said Janet.

'It will be more relaxing than Glasgow because we have been to both events before. Although it was nice to try Glasgow out, we are looking forward to our local festivals - but we could do with more choirs for competition.

'It's all about entertaining and that's what we like to do.'

Local Producers Market

Thursday 29th March
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Tralee road
10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

The Oyster Bar

Great Beers, Fabulous Scenery, Fine Dining

Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile 2012
Sunday 25th March 2012

The Oyster Bar and Restaurant,
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One mile, three mile and six mile events.
Coastal running or walking. All events leave at 12 noon.

Register online at www.sportrelief.com or contact Sheila Lawson on 01852-300121.
Alternatively, register on the day between 10am and 11.30am.

The Square, Ellenabeich, Easdale, Isle of Seil, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4RQ
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Annual Boat Jumble & Car Boot Sale

Craignish Village Hall, Ardfirn
Saturday March 24th
from 10.15am - 2pm
Nautical & non-nautical bargains; new and nearly new items.
Bring all the family for a great day out!
Entry - £2 (includes refreshments).
Details - 01852 500689

Lom Agricultural Society Family Ceilidh

With The Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band
Saturday 24th March
North Connell Hall
8pm
Licenced, Buffet
Tickets £10 available at door
Under 16's free of charge and must be accompanied by an adult

Lochawe Village Hall Table Top Sale

Saturday 31st March
From 11.00am - 3.00pm
To book a table £5
Telephone Rhona on 01838200452

Spring into Action

Argyllshire Gathering Hall
Thursday 29th March 2012
2pm - 6.30pm
More information Contact Argyll Voluntary Action
Tel 01631 564839

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain Ceilidh

In Masonic Hall, Oban
Saturday 31st March 2012
at 7.30pm
Mary MacMillan, Steven MacIver, Morag MacNeill, Jimmy Cameron, piper Cameron Bennett
Music: Findlay Bennett and friends
Chairman Peter Henderson
Admission £5

Want to try Horse Riding Driving? TRY A DRIVE

Saturday 31st March 2012
Upper Soroba Farm
(By kind permission of J & S MacLachlan)
11 am - 2pm
Anyone is invited to have a go!
A wheelchair friendly carriage is available
If you would like further information call 0845 2411376
Event organise by Argyll RDA Driving Group
Donations welcome

COLONSAY BOOK FESTIVAL

Isle of Colonsay Village Hall
Weekend of 27 - 29 April
Guest authors: Liz Lochhead, Alexander McCall Smith, James Robertson, Margaret Elphinstone, Kenneth Steven, Sophie Cooke, with Robin Laing (singer & whisky writer)
£8 per event or £40 for a weekend pass
Tickets and info from colonsaybookfestival@hotmail.co.uk or 01951 200067

Meur Lochabair ANNUAL HARRIS CEILIDH DANCE

West End Hotel, Fort William
Saturday, March 31st @ 7.30pm
Singers: John Murdo Morrison, Janet MacGregor, Freddie MacKenzie, Cathie Rachel Morrison.
Music by Ian Angus MacLeod.
Admission £8

Rockfield School PTA Daffodil Tea

Saturday 24th March
10.00am - 12 noon
Entry adults £2.00 - children £1.00
Teas @ coffees & home baking, home baking stall, bottle stall, hock-a-duck, lucky dip and much, much more
Competitions for school children
Easter Bonnets, Decorated boiled eggs
Early Level - Pre-5 & P1
First level P2 - P4, Second Level P5 - P7



April edition OUT NOW!

Inside this month:

- MMA hits Oban
- Humble Habitats - with Kate Humble
- With a little help from our friends

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bonnie babies competition 2012

WIN £500 worth of vouchers

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Enter your baby today!

Enter online or by post
We are now open for entries! Bonnie Babies 2012 is open to babies and toddlers born on or after April 12, 2009. To enter by post please send us a photograph along with a signed entry coupon (see left) to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Please make sure you write the name of the child, date of birth and a contact telephone number on the back of the photo. Should you wish for your photo to be returned, please also enclose a stamped addressed envelope. We will do our best to return your photo but please make a copy just in case. To enter online visit www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.

After you have entered your child into the competition, look out every week in The Oban Times to see when your baby appears. You can find all the competition rules and terms and conditions online at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies or call 01631 568000. More details on page 8.

The closing date for entries is 12noon, Monday 26 March, 2012.

ENTRY FORM

Child's name.....

Child's date of birth.....

Tel:.....

Address:.....

Name of parent/guardian.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

I agree to all terms and conditions applied to this competition.....

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

Terms & conditions: The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2012 competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after April 12, 2009. Only one entry per child. By entering the competition and by filling in the parental consent form that is provided with your entry, you, the parent or guardian, consent to the reproduction of your child's photograph in The Oban Times Bonnie Babies feature in the paper and online and in any other related Oban Times Bonnie Babies promotions. If you do not wish for your child's photo to appear in the newspaper or online then you should not enter the competition. The Oban Times cannot take responsibility for the safe delivery and safe return of the entrant's photograph. Photos posted in without an enclosed stamped addressed envelope will not be returned. Poor quality photographs, which are out of focus, difficult to see the child's face, ripped, torn or folded, will not be accepted as an entry and will be returned to the sender providing a stamped addressed envelope is supplied by the entrant. By sending in your photograph, you agree that you have read and understand the Oban Times have the right to publish the names and details of the entrant without payment for the purpose of promoting The Oban Times Bonnie Babies campaign. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. Photocopied entry forms will not be accepted. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.



Plan for tomorrow... Make a will today

MAKING a will is one of the most important things you can do to protect your family should the worst happen; so it's vital you get it right. From making sure you know the ins and outs of inheritance tax, to making sure the right people benefit from your estate, it is one of the most important documents you'll draw up.

It is fortunate then that you don't have to go too far to organise everything, as the firms listed here will be more than happy to help you put your affairs in order. There are other things to consider too to protect your interests; establishing power of attorney should you become incapacitated

in some way is something many people don't consider until too late. Thankfully, this is a service your local solicitor can provide and they can talk you through the ins and outs of what the status means. So take time to speak to one of the firms in your area and figure out what will be best for you.

DM MacKinnon Solicitors 'I MUST WRITE A WILL - SOMETIME'

WE TAKE out life policies, and don't expect to die tomorrow. We insure the house, and don't expect it to burn down tomorrow. So why do so many of us have an unspoken nameless fear that making a Will somehow means that the world will end tomorrow? **Why bother anyway?** Take a look at some of the potential winners and losers:

- WINNERS:**
- Relatives, who may stand to gain from the strict laws of intestacy. It is not necessarily true that your spouse will inherit your whole estate.
 - A separated, but undivorced spouse.
 - Lawyers - the process of intestacy involves more work for a solicitor at the expense of your estate.
- LOSERS:**
- Your partner, particularly if there is no marriage or civil partnership.
 - Old friends or helpers whom you always meant to 'see right'.
 - Charities.
- It needn't be complicated to make a Will. At DM MacKinnon we will discuss your circumstances with you, draft an appropriate Will for you, explain this and arrange for the valid completion of the document. We will store the principal copy in our firm's safe (free of charge) and provide you with a copy.

Jean Ainsley & Co

TAX ADVANTAGES OF MAKING A WILL
MAKING a will is a duty we owe to ourselves and our loved ones. It allows us the opportunity to give what we want to who we want. Also, writing a will is an excellent opportunity to start Inheritance Tax planning, which should be done with advice from your accountant. If your estate is worth more than the Inheritance Threshold, £325,000 for 2011-12 tax year, there are some important exemptions that allow you to make gifts to others and not have to pay tax on them when you die. In addition you can make gifts worth up to £3,000 each year, which will be exempt when you die. There are special exemptions each year for wedding gifts up to a limit to your children and grandchildren and small gifts of £250 to as many people as you like. One of the most important matters for Inheritance Tax planning should be consideration of 'the seven-year' rule, which means that any gifts or transfers made to individuals will be exempt from Inheritance tax as long as you live for seven years after you made them. These gifts could include a property or other assets. The rules are quite complicated and other taxes may apply so you should seek professional tax advice. Jean Ainsley and Co can offer Inheritance Tax Planning Advice

We offer a wide range of legal services including advice on Wills and Inheritance Tax

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Queens Building, George Street, Oban,
PA34 5RZ, 01631 562308

During the month of April 2012 our Fort William office are offering a **Wills Charity Month** giving you the opportunity to make a Will - instead of paying our legal fees you make a donation between our two chosen charities, which are **Lochaber Hope** and **Lochaber Friendship Group for the Visually Impaired**. Then during the month of May 2012 our Oban office will be offering a **Wills Charity Month** with donations going to the **RDA (Riding for the Disabled, Oban)** to find out more please contact either Mairi Macdonald or Kelie Cooper or check out our website on www.macphee.co.uk

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See our website www.racllement.co.uk for further details of IHT planning then make an appointment to see us.

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Stevenson KENNEDY
Solicitors & Notaries

We can offer advice on preparation of Wills and Codicils.

All fees in respect of Wills prepared during May 2012 will be divided between the following two local Charities:

1. North Argyll Eventide Home, Bealach-an-Righ, Oban and
2. Argyll Animal Aid

Stevenson Kennedy Solicitors
Linnhu House, 19 Stevenson Street
Oban, PA34 5NA
Tel: 01631 562317

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, March 26, 1992

Landlord calls 'time' as Skye inn runs dry

THE LICENSEE of what claims to be Skye's oldest inn has called 'time' after 'fourteen months of hell'.

Barry Ranicar has closed the historic Stein Inn after a year of financial difficulties and months of living on the breadline. The final straw came when the inn ran dry as there was no cash to buy more drink.

Mr Ranicar, of Watnish, said: 'We ran out of drink on the night I closed. At closing time we had no drink left on the optics. No whisky, no rum, nothing and I just wiped my hands of it.'

'We were living in the hope that the owner would turn up, but he never did.'

The inn's absentee owner, Mr John Thompson, has not set foot in the place for more than a year. He kept away after an action group fought plans to partially demolish, rebuild and extend the rundown inn, which dates back to 1648.

Mr Ranicar claimed: 'This made him totally lose interest. On one occasion we had no draft beer and some of the locals bought two kegs. We paid them back when we sold it.'

'Since Christmas it has gone down so much that it wasn't even paying my wages - or the barmaid's wages. I was only getting £20 a week. We couldn't let the bedrooms because they all need painting - the place is falling apart.'

Illegal election posters

IN THE run up to the election it was revealed this week that illegal fly posting carries a maximum fine of £400.

Party agents have been approached by returning officer, Mr Michael Gossip with a view to discouraging illegal political advertising.

'Posters can only be erected on private land with the owner's consent and Argyll and Bute District Council has indicated it will withhold permission for fly posting on its properties.'

Dogs shot in sheep attacks

THREE dogs were shot in Dunbeg when a farmer caught them attacking sheep on Friday.

Mr David Clark, owner of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, by Dunbeg, said: 'They were putting sheep into the water. One sheep tried to get out but another dog on-shore attacked it. I shot them and buried them. Nobody has come forward.'

He added: 'When we do shoot dogs we immediately telephone the police and tell them what has happened.'

'If I can catch the dog or get the owner, he gets the dog back but if it gets to a stage where they have started killing and worrying sheep there is only one way to deal with it.'

Chief Inspector Alex Clark, from Oban Police, said: 'Farmers have the right to do this.'

Mr Clark, of Lorn Road, Dunbeg said: 'That same day I caught another dog and took it back to the owner.'

Twelve of Mr Clark's sheep are still missing, presumed drowned.

Oban Mart talks

THE FUTURE of Oban Mart is expected to be announced during April, it was revealed by the Chairman of United Auctions (Scotland) Ltd, Mr Roland Fraser, this week.

Mr Fraser, also Chief Executive with United Auctions, told a Scottish Crofters Union meeting on Tuesday night that he hopes to return to Oban next month and confirm that a new market will be built in the town.

He said: 'We have been talking about selling Oban for quite a considerable time. In the last five years it has lost £300,000.'

'We are hoping we will be able to build in Oban. Things are looking more optimistic now. We are holding our AGM in May - the decision about the market will be made before that.'

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Despicably (6)
- 8 Synagogue singer (6)
- 9 Barred chamber (4)
- 10 Small period of time in school (4-4)
- 11 In temper (7)
- 13 Calculating beast (5)
- 15 Gathering of fliers (5)
- 17 Engine type (7)
- 20 One who teaches (8)
- 21 Job (4)
- 23 Where to find the attributed name in the paper (2-4)
- 24 Fill in (6)

Down

- 1 Honey pig (4)
- 2 Vendor (6)
- 3 What to put the thread through (7)
- 4 Coldly (5)
- 5 Married (6)
- 6 Days in a fortnight (8)
- 12 These times (8)
- 14 Chivvy (5,2)
- 16 Back away (6)
- 18 Happen to (6)
- 19 Additional (5)
- 22 Fill (4)

Last week's solution

B O R S C H T O N E D G E
 U O K A S O E F S
 D E S K T O P B E F I T
 H I C A L A A
 H U N C H C R E W C U T
 A U P A T C H B O X
 M M R A
 O C A R Y N A N U D G E
 S G C V D N R R E
 A L I B I E N S N A R E
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Farming

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Prime lamb trade continues to rise at Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 63 prime cattle and 1,921 prime sheep including a show and sale of Beltex cross lambs, kindly sponsored by Norvite.

Lambs averaged 212.8p (+5.1p) and sold to 237.9p per kg for 37.5kg Texel crosses from Bunchrew Farm, Inverness, and £105.00 for 46kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge. Beltex cross lambs show results: 1 Torgorm, Conon Bridge, 46kg, £96.20; 2 Gairloch, Alva, 43kg, £96.20; 3 Greenlands Farm, Arabelle, 40.5kg, £94.00.

Prime bullocks averaged 204.6p (+2.7p) and sold to 221p per kg for a 655kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,465.20 for a 740kg Simmental cross from Findon Mains, Culbokie.

Prime heifers averaged 205.0p (+0.8p) and sold to 220p per kg for a 590kg Limousin cross from Udale, and £1,313.40 for a 660kg Charolais cross from Mountrich Farm, Dingwall.

Elphin dispersal sells in-lamb Cheviots to £170

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,673 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Wednesday when all classes continued to sell extremely well.

Lambs averaged £66.76 and sold to £97 for Cheviots from The Willows, Elphin.

Ewes and gimmers averaged £68.71 and sold to £135 for Texels from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose.

In-lamb ewes and gimmers averaged £122.79 and sold to £170 for Cheviots from the part dispersal of the Elphin flock from The Willows, Lairg.

Rams and feeding sheep averaged £65.52 and sold to £125 for a Cheviot ram from Clune Farm, Dores.

Argyll young stock sell at Millhall

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 197 cattle at their weekly primestock sale comprising of 99 bullocks and heifers, 12 young bulls, 12 Over 30 Month cattle and 74 cast cows and bulls at Millhall Market, Stirling last Thursday.

Stirks sold to £560 for a British Blue from Airthrey Carse.

Lorn sold Simmental stirks to £440 and £425 with Ormsary selling Montbeliards to £320 and Aberdeen Angus crosses to £365 and £355.

Young calves sold to £300 for a Simmental from Nether Pratis

with Eden and West Drumlemble, Kintyre selling Friesians to £100.

East Drumlemble sold Ayrshires to £65 and £60.

Heavy Charolais bullocks
Bullocks averaged 211p per kg and sold to 227.5p per kg (twice) for heavy Charolais crosses, from Easter Auchtermuthill Farm, Muthill and Easter Frew Farm, Kippen and to £1,582 for 695kg Charolais crosses, also from Easter Auchtermuthill.

Heifers averaged 208p per kg and sold to 238.5p per kg (twice), for heavy Limousins,

from Knockhouse Farm, Dunfermline and Easter Auchtermuthill Farm and to £1,396 for 630kg Limousins from Mains of Cultmalundie Farm, Perth.

Over 30 Month cattle sold to 196.5p per kg, for a 600kg British Blue heifer from Wester Thomaston Farm, Banknock and to £1,568 per head for a 850kg Simmental heifer from Foot O'Green Farm, Stirling.

Cast bull sold to £1,500 for a Charolais from Drumcrair Farm, Blackford with cast cows selling to £1,350 for a Limousin from Westhills, Lochwinnoch.

Islay Texels top Stirling sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 1019 store hoggets and grit ewes at Stirling last Monday when Texel hoggs from Cunningham, Neriby, Isle of Islay led a brisk trade and selling to £84 and £81 to average at £66.46 - up £10.32 on the previous sale.

Neriby also sold Cheviot crosses to £71.

Easycare hoggs from Dinar Estates sold to £83.50 with Aucheskine selling Cheviot crosses to £82. Cheviot crosses and Blackface crosses from Tangy, Kintyre sold to £71 with Blackface ewes lambs from Kirkton fetching £77.

Blackface ewes scanned as carrying twins sold to £108 from Kinrara Estate, Aviemore, with the same home selling Blackfaces carrying singles to £78.

Cheviots scanned with twins sold to £88 from Colcruch.



Prime lamb trade continues to rise as fewer fat lambs go through the sale rings

Bullocks sell to 287.5p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 2101 store cattle, young bulls and breeding cattle, 196 cast cows and 390 store and breeding sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 223.51p (-10.85p) and sold to 287.5p per kg for a 240kg Limousin cross from Parks of Garden and £1,350 for a 684kg Simmental cross from Badenheath.

Heifers averaged 217.86p (-9.26p) and sold to 257.6p per kg for a 264kg Charolais cross from Lephinkill and £1,310 for a 514kg Limousin cross from West Shirva.

Young bulls averaged 187.94p and sold to 237.4p per kg for a 297kg Limousin cross from Altwan and £1,140 for a 582kg Simmental cross from Newmains.

Cast cows averaged 142.21p and sold to 205.3p and £1,770 for a British Blue cross from Upper Auchlenay.

In the breeding cattle ring, British Blue cross heifers and Charolais cross heifers, both with bull calves at foot from Harvey Bros sold to £2480, with Limousin cross heifers with bull calves at foot from Greystale selling to £2,000.

Simmental and Charolais cross cows with heifer calves at foot from Arnprior sold to £1,350.

Aberdeen Angus cross in-calf cows from Whitehill sold to £1,500 and to £1,100 for Limousin in-calf cows from the same home.

Suffolk and Texel hoggs from Newra sold to £74 with Blackfaces from The Garrows to £64.

Mule, 4-crop grit ewes from Whitfield sold to £139, with 1-crop Blackface ewes from Kilmichael selling to £102 and 2-crop to £101.

Dingwall prime sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 63 prime cattle and 1,826 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday of last week.

Prime bullocks averaged 201.9p (+0.3p) and sold to 227p per kg for a 540kg Limousin cross from Little Kildrummie, Nairn, and £1,511.25 for a 775kg Charolais cross from Tore Farm, Culbokie.

Prime heifers averaged 204.2p (+0.3p) and sold to 218p per kg and £1,329.80 for a 610kg Charolais cross from Woodend, Killearnan, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall.

Lambs averaged 207.7p (+3.4p) and sold to 220.7p per kg for 41kg Cheviots from Glebe Farm, Kiltarity, and £93.20 for 43.5kg Charolais crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge.

Caledonian prime sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 511 store cattle, 18 breeding cattle and two young bulls at its sale in Stirling on Monday.

Bullocks (averaged 225p per kg (-3p) and sold to 276p for a 210kg Limousin from Wester Whin, Slamannan and £1385 for a 680kg Aberdeen Angus from Castlehill, Torrance. Heifers averaged 217p per kg (-2p) and sold to 252p for a 380kg Limousin from Laigh Gree, Beith and £1,330 for two 600kg Limousins from Carmichael Estate, Biggar.

Breeding cattle sold to a top of £1,480 for a Simmental cross heifer with Limousin cross calf at foot from A & M Houston, Ben Venue.

Market reports

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
Blackface - Allt Nan Subh, Dornie, £96;
Suffolk - Craggiemore, Daviot, (Henderson), £92;
Cheviot - Tulloch Farm, Bonar Bridge, £88;
TexelX - North Calder, Halkirk, and 19 Larel, Halkirk, £87;
SuffolkX - Ardnagrask, Muir of Ord, £86;
Cross - Cloves Farm, Alva, £78;
Zwarble - Muirton, Munloch, £72;
Lley - Corrimony, Glen Urquhart, £72.
Ewes:
Texel - Balfanfetach Estates, Cromdale, £134;
Cheviot - Tulloch Farm, £116;
Suffolk - Inshes Farm, Inverness, £130;
TexelX - Inshes Farm, £130;
BlackfaceL - Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £128;
SuffolkX - Woodend, Killearnan, £106;
Charmoise - Kinchyle Farm, Scanport, £106;
Mule - Cloves Farm, £104;
Blackface - Dell Farm, Farr, £85;
Cross - Blargie Farm, Laggan, £85;
Lley - Corrimony, £80.
Gimmers -
Cross - Buntait, Glen Urquhart, £82;
Texel - 68 Foindie, Lairg, £70.
In-lamb ewes:
Cheviot - The Willows, £165, 55 Rhue, Ullapool, £138, 226 Tanachy, Rogart, £130;
Cross - Silverwells, Edderton, £112.
Widders:
Cheviot - Rheguile, Edderton, £114;
TexelX - Castlecraig Farm, Nigg, £80;
SuffolkX - Achalona, Shebster, £70.
Rams:
Texel - Castlecraig Farm, £108;

BlackfaceL - Teanluick, Beauly, (Beaton), £102;
Cheviot - 67 Strathcanaird, Ullapool, £93;
Suffolk - Gateside, Alva, £88.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Rare Breeds
Highland:
In-calf heifer - Uvie Farm, Laggan, £600
In-calf cow - Colaboll Farm, Lairg, £500.
Sheep
Ewe with lambs at foot:
Dorset - Achnahinich, Plockton, £105
Jacob: Bogallan, North Kessock, £100;
Gotland: Wester Lawrenceton, Forres, £100.
Lambs
Black Cheviot: 1 & 2 Ose, Isle of Skye, £105;
Jacob: Loanhead Croft, Huntly, £75
Dorset: Achnahinich, £70.
Poultry
Large Fowl:
2 Black Orpington pullets, £120;
Trio Copper Black Maran pullets, £110, Trio Welssummer, and Trio Cream Legbar, £100.
Ducks:
5 Cherry Valley, £120; Pair Mandarin, £75; Trio Cayuga, and 4 Khaki Campbell, £70.
Call ducks:
Pair Apricot & 2 call duck females, £70; 1 Light Silver call duck, £65; Pair of call ducks, £60.
Bantams:
4 Chamois Polish females, £140;
Trio Gold Dutch, £90; Trio Poland, £80.
Pheasant:
Pair Golden, £80; Pair Reeves, £60.
Quail:
6 Coturnix (mixed), £70; Six Italian, £50; Quartet Japanese, £45; Geese: Pair Chinese, £135; Pair Embden, £120; Trio Dewlap Toulouse (twice), £100.

Turkeys:
1 Bronze stag, £70; 1 Bronze hen, £60.
Peafowl:
2 Indian Blue Peahens, £85; Pair Indian Blue, £55.
Guinea Fowl:
5 guinea fowl, £50.
Eggs:
Dozen Wheaten Maran, £45 & £40, Dozen Blue Orpington & 4 Embden goose, £30; Dozen Welssummer, £28.

STIRLING Caledonian Marts

Bullocks:
0-250kgs - £610 Balcachie, 276p Wester Whin;
251-300kgs - £765, 260p Loanhead;
301-350kgs - £825 Maidenwells, 260p Officers;
351-400kgs - £1065, 266p Blairhall;
401-450kgs - £1090, 242p Blairhall;
451-500kgs - £1145, 231p Dunrod;
501-550kgs - £1340, 252p Dunrod;
551-600kgs - £1260, 218p Gilmastersland;
601-650kgs - £1335, 207p Castlehill;
651-700kgs - £1385, 204p Castlehill.
Heifers:
0-250kgs - £580 Balcachie, 250p Glenmachrie;
251-300kgs - £650 Maudsle Mains, 239p Heads;
301-350kgs - £710 Auchenthothie, 216p Walton;
351-400kgs - £960, 252p Laigh Gree;
401-450kgs - £1075, 239p Mains of Burnbank;
451-500kgs - £1200, 240p Gilmastersland;
501-550kgs - £1210 Carmichael Estate, 228p Gartfairn;
551-600kgs - £1330 Carmichael Estate.
Prices per kg:
Bullocks: 260p Loanhead; 258p Walton; 256p Laigh Gree; 254p

Aiket Castle & Loanhead; 248p Glenmachrie; 247p Heads; 245p Laigh Gree; 244p Balkachie; 241p Officers & Glenstockdale Several; 239p West Mitchelton.
Heifers: 250p Glenmachrie; 245p Mains of Burnbank; 242p Balkachie; 240p Gilmastersland; 239p Glenstockdale Several & Mains of Burnbank; 237p Maudsle Mains; 231p Summerhouse; 229p Mains of Burnbank, Balkachie & Loanhead; 225p Wester Whin.
Breeding cattle
Simmental heifers with calf at foot - £1850, £1800, £1750 Ben Venue; Limousin cow with calf at foot - £1450 Hopestead;
Simmental bull - £1380 Easter Glentore.

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks
Up to 250kgs Parks of Garden £690, 287.5p;
251-300kgs Muirston £800, 277.8p;
301-350kgs Auchlin £880, Courance Farms 274.5p;
351-400kgs Dalhanna £990, 259.2p;
401-450kgs Wester Clunie £1070, Mid Auchencarroch 254.3p;
451-500kgs Middle Coldrain £1150, Boydston 247.8p;
501-550kgs West Shirva £1230, Parkgatestone 224.1p;
551-600kgs West Shirva £1250, Wester Myle 216.2p;
601-650kgs Ladyands £1280, 209.8p;
651-700kgs Badenheath £1350, 197.4p.
Heifers
Up to 250kgs Dyke £620, 247p;
251-300kgs West Shirva £745, Lephinkill 257.6p;
301-350kgs Lochlea £820, 246.2p;
351-400kgs Stenrieshill £910, Dykehole 246.5p;
401-450kgs West Shirva £1020, 228.2p;
451-500kgs West Thomaston £1190, 240.9p;
501-550kgs West Shirva £1310,

254.9p;
551-600kgs Bridgeouse £1160, 205.7p.
Young Bulls
251-300kgs Altewan £705, 237.4p;
301-350kgs Briarlands £745, 225.1p;
351-400kgs Lochlea £810, 219.5p;
401-450kgs Deepark £890, 218.1p;
451-500kgs East Dowally £980, 210.3p;
501-550kgs Newmains £1140, 192p.
OTM Cows
Upper Auchlenay (BB) £1770, 205.3p; Kinneil Mill (Lim) £1730, Greenyards 201p; Westerhill (Cha) £1535, 195.8p; Lochty (Sim) £1335, Lochlea 174.3p; Lochty (HE) £1185, 150p; Meikle Camoquhill (Mo) £1145, 156.8p; Glenlyon Est (Lui) £1135, 160.4p; Lochty (Sho) £1035, Westerhill 152.1p; Balmeadie Cott (AA) £1015, Lands of Drumhead 157.5p;
OTM Bulls; Noblehouse (Cha) £1790, 155.7p; Longfauld (Lim) £1735, South Flanders 167.9p; Woodend (Ho) £1245, 119.3p; Patrickstone (AA) £1145, 181.2p.
Breeding cattle
Hfirs & Calves - Harvey Bros (BBX & ChaX Bcf) £2480; Graystale (LimX & LimX Bcf) £2000; Strathavon (BAX & BAX Hcf) £1200.
Cows & Calves - Arnprior (SimX & ChaX Hcf) £1350.
In-calf - Whitehill (AAX to Lim) £1500; Whitehill (LimX to Lim) £1100; Centric (AAX to AA) and Brackenhill (GAX to Sho) and Hollybush (SimX to Sim) £1020; Graystale (LimX to Lim) and Whitehill (LimX to Lim) £1000; Whitehill (SimX to Lim) £980; Brackenhill (GAX to Sho) £920.
Sheep
Hoggets
Newra (Suf) and (Tex) £74; Garrows (BF) £64.
Grit ewes
Whitehill (Mule - 4crop) £139; Kilmichael (BF -1 crop) £102; Kilmichael (BF - 2crop) £101.

C. Hodge Fencing

This fencer has run out of fencing materials. If you or someone you know have been affected by this issue please call C. Hodge Fencing 01631 563271

Wood fuels also available (Lerags, By Oban) Telephone: 01631 563271 TRADE AND RETAIL

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COMMERCIAL

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LARGE DOUBLE SHOWROOM, TOTAL 220SQ.METRE. FRONT SHOWROOM 60SQ.M REAR SHOWROOM/WORKSHOP STORE WITH LARGE ENTRY SHUTTER DOOR 160SQ.M

ON SITE CAR PARK, ALARM SYSTEM AND TOILET.

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CONTACT JOHN 0779592072 OR john.stoddarts@btconnect.com

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Whisky Macs is a very popular bar and is ideally located to take advantage of the waterfront developments, with great restaurant potential.

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Leisure & Hospitality Surveyors

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FOR SALE BARCALDINE HOUSE HOTEL Restaurant & Self Catering Accommodation Near Oban, Argyll

Freehold Offers Over £475,000

- Delightful period property dating from around 1700
- 11 en suite letting bedrooms, restaurant, lounges, kitchens & ancillary accommodation
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- Wooded setting but in a coastal location, approximately 12 miles north of Oban and 32 miles south of Fort William
- Ceased trading January 2012 but for sale furnished and equipped

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TO LET EASDALE ISLAND

Two bed fully furnished detached ex holiday let cottage, £400 pcm.

Details from no39easdale@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

4 bedroom detached house in country location 5 miles south of Oban. Available for long term let. References required, no DSS, rent £675 pcm + council tax etc.

Contact 07795972665.

To let in the picturesque village of Carradale, 3 bedroom detached bungalow, large garden, driveway, L-shaped lounge/diner, whirlpool bath and shower, dual central heating oil and solid fuel, references required, £525 pcm.

Telephone 07401835333.

TO LET MID ARGYLL

Traditional but newly appointed one-bedroom cottage in courtyard setting on private estate, unfurnished, no pets, no DSS, rent £350 monthly, deposit £350. Apply to Box No 78 The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

3 BEDROOM DETACHED DWELLING HOUSE IN CENTRAL OBAN, EITHER FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED.

£725.00 pcm plus Council Tax and utilities. References required.

For viewing and any further details, please telephone 01631 562317

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West Coast Property Guide

Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft
Mrs Judith Harriet Crerar and Mrs Shirley Margaret Isobel Murray are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at 3 Sanna, Ardnarmurchan, Argyll to Graham Crerar of Tigh Rois, Sanna, Kilchoan, PH36 4LV. If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.



BREEDON AGGREGATES
Blast at Banavie Quarry- Tuesday 27 March at noon

Kilchattan South Common Grazing
A meeting of the shareholders will be held at Drumclach on Monday 26th March 2012 at 7pm to establish a new Grazings Committee.

Lower Ardtoe Common Grazings
meeting to elect a new grazings committee on Saturday 7th April at 4pm at Sonas, Ardtoe.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Time period for comments
12/00764/FUL	Development site in grounds of Auchindarroch Duror	Erection of 3 no dwellinghouses	(14 days)
12/00824/FUL	114 Glenkingie Street Cool Fort William	Alterations and extension	(14 days)
12/00954/FUL	Strathfield Glencoe	Erection of house and garage - revisions to consent 07/00099/FULLO regarding position of house, garage, services and access	(14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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



PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00337/PP	Temporary siting of modular site office building and formation of access for a period of 5 years	Land South of The Bunker North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RW	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/00480/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground of Cardentrive Gallanach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4PD	Oban Area Office
12/00489/PP	Erection of croft house	Land North West of Brolas Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JR	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
12/00511/PP	Erection of single storey side extension	Komani Aros Mains Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JP	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
12/00547/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent to Tigh A Chaolas Gallanach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4PD	Oban Area Office

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

An Comunn Gàidhealach
Coinneamh bhliadhnail Meur Loch Abair (Lochaber Branch AGM)



Diciadain 28mh Màirt, ann am Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain aig 6f
(Wednesday 28th March At Fort William RC Primary School At 6pm).

Thathas a' cur fàilte air duine sam bith aig a bheil fios air dèidh miann ann a bhith cumail suas cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig ann an Loch Abair. Anyone with an interest and commitment to keep the Gaelic language and culture thriving in Lochaber is urged to attend the meeting.



Callert Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

Scottish Natural Heritage gives notice that on 22 March 2012, it confirmed the denotification of Callert SSSI made on 3 November 2011. The site is on the north shore of Loch Leven, one mile east of North Ballachulish. A copy of the confirmation can be inspected and obtained free of charge from Martin Faulkner, Area Officer also at the address below.

George Hogg, Unit Manager, South Highland Area Scottish Natural Heritage, The Governor's House The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6BA.

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number
Mr R Campbell
Port Kerrera, Kilmore & Kilbride
0.11 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
4.85.37563
Conditions:
(1) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of the date of the direction
(2) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00450/LIB	External and internal alterations to dwellinghouse	22 Toberonochy Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UE	Sub Post Office Cullpoull
12/00487/PP	Erection of croft house, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank.	Plot 2A Kilmaluaig Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6XB	Tiree Area Office
12/00492/PP	Re-paint exterior of building.	Visit Scotland Information Centre North Pier Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5OD	Oban Area Office
12/00493/LIB	Re-paint exterior of building and the display of 2 illuminated fascia signs and 1 non illuminated projecting sign.	Visit Scotland Information Centre North Pier Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5OD	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Dalriada House, Lochneil Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SL, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00040/MFF	Extension to existing shellfish farm by the siting of an additional 1625 Oyster trestles.	Shellfish Farm at Loch Crean Benderloch Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/00043/MFF	Extension to existing shellfish farm by the siting of an additional 1625 Oyster trestles.	Caledonian Oyster Co Ltd Loch Crean Benderloch Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrossan PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00433/PP	Partial change of use of clothing shop to coffee shop (class 3)	Labels Ballygrant Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA45 7UR	Sub Post Office Port Askaig
12/00454/PP	Alterations, erection of extension and formation of external stairs	Warehouse 1 Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/00409/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and installation of air source heat pump	Braeside 86 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
12/00412/LIB	External and internal alteration, erection of extension and installation of air source heat pump	Braeside 86 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
12/00490/PP	Installation of new glazed automatic front doors and lean-to storage extension for gas canisters (retrospective)	Swimming Pool School Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
12/00500/LIB	External and internal alterations, erection of extension and formation of external stairs	Warehouse 1 Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SL.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

RECRUITMENT

Part Time Office Manager
Required for a local Contracting business. Duties will include responsibility for all aspects of accounting, correspondence, credit control, supplier payments and VAT. Applicants must be computer literate, familiar with SAGE software and have appropriate experience to be able to work with minimal supervision.
Hours 15 to 20 per week over 5 days
Rate of pay in accordance with experience
Apply by sending your CV to the following address
Donald McLean Contractors
Tangytavil Farm
Campbeltown
PA28 6QE
Closing date for applications is 6th April 2012



WIND TOWERS LTD TOWER PRODUCTION MANAGER
We are currently looking to employ a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Tower Production Manager at our factory.
As Tower Production Manager you will be responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of the Fabrication Department. Reporting to and working closely with Head of Production.
Essential skills will include the ability to manage and motivate personnel, first class planning and organisation abilities and computer literate. Salary negotiable.
Please send CV and covering letter to: Head of Production, Wind Towers Ltd PO Box 9263, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6WA Or email to: wtl.info@marshcompanies.com

KINLOCHLEVEN COMMUNITY TRUST - GROUND MAINTENANCE WORKER 16 HOURS PER WEEK SALARY BASED ON EXPERIENCE SEASONAL APRIL TO OCTOBER 2012 TUESDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 1PM
A vacancy has arisen for a person to carry out a range of ground maintenance tasks including: moving, trimming, watering, weed control, strimming, litter picking, aerating and fertilizing lawns, clearing culverts, and other associated ground maintenance duties.
A combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates the ability to perform the duties and responsibilities in one or more of the ground maintenance trades would be an advantage.
Closing Date: Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 4pm
FOR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT: Mrs Moira Hartley, Development Officer, Kinlochleven Community Trust, Unit 4A, Kinlochleven Business Park, Kinlochleven, PH50 4SH Tel: 01855 831 779 or Email: moira@kinlochleven.co.uk



Oban depot LGV driver Concrete Batching Technician West Coast Loos driver service operator Fort William Depot Customer service agent delivery Driver for West Highland Gas Ltd
Please download application form from the people and vacancies section of our website www.argyllresources.co.uk info@argyllresources.co.uk Tel 01631 566370
JOHN MACLACHLAN LTD, Torran Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL

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Property Officer/ Clerk of Works
£23,724 - £25,932 **Completown Ref: CTF00978**
35 hrs per week
Completown
☎ 01546 604041
Closing date: 6 April 2012. To apply visit our website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



Two new part time posts available on Isle of Coll
An Cridhe Centre Manager
Permanent p/t contract; hours variable, minimum of 16 hours per week Salary paid at £10,585 per annum (pro-rata) hours may increase. Start date: May 1st 2012 or as near as possible.
An Cridhe Book-Keeper/Assistant Centre Manager
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Interview date on Coll Thursday 19th April 2012
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deposit per month

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- Bluetooth hands-free facility
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- iDrive controller



BMW 116i Sport 5-door - representative example

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£10 Option to purchase fee [^]	£9090 Optional final payment	£22,962 Total amount payable by customer	£24,086^{.58} Total amount payable	4.9% Rate of interest (fixed)	4.9% APR Representative	

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deposit per month

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- Bluetooth hands-free facility



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09 09 120 Diesel M Sport Coupé
• Titanium silver • Black half leather
• 17" Alloys • PDC • Auto air-con
• MF steering wheels **£15,995**



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• 9,798 miles • 17" Alloys
• Front seat heating • USB **£25,995**

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06 06	116i SE 5dr, Quartz blue, grey cloth seats, 50,162 miles, 16" alloys, PDC, auto air con, CD, MF steering wheel.....	£6,995
10 60	118 Diesel M Sport Coupé, Titanium silver, coral red leather, 7,392 miles, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, comfort package.....	£19,995
09 09	120 Diesel M Sport Coupé, Titanium silver, black half leather seats, 17" alloys, PDC, auto air con, MF steering wheel.....	£15,995

3 Series

10 60	318i SE Touring, Deep sea blue, black cloth, 14,315 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con.....	£16,995
11 61	318 Diesel Exclusive Edition, Space grey, black leather, MOA, 17" alloys, bluetooth, PDC rear, servotronic steering.....	£22,995
09 59	318 Diesel M Sport Auto, Titanium silver, alcantara/cloth, 14,186 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto climate air con.....	£17,995
08 58	318i M Sport, Black sapphire, black leather, 44,467 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....	£14,995
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11 61	320 Diesel SE Convertible Auto, Alpine white, coral red leather, 4,500, 18" alloys, bluetooth, PDC front & rear.....	£29,995
08 08	320 Diesel SE Coupe Auto, Crimson red, black cloth, 41,500 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, front foglamps, xenons.....	£14,995
07 07	320i M Sport Coupé, Sparkling graphite, cloth/alcantara, 45,777 miles, 17" alloys, PDC rear, cruise, auto air con.....	£13,995
09 09	320i SE Coupe Auto, Space grey, grey cloth, 23,228 miles, 17" alloys, electric glass sunroof, PDC, xenons, cruise.....	£15,995
11 11	325i M Sport Convertible Auto, Titanium silver, coral red leather, 7,000 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth.....	£33,995
10 60	330i M Sport Coupé Auto, Mineral white, black leather, 5,302 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth, BMW assist.....	£28,995

5 Series

08 58	520 Diesel M Sport, Le Mans blue, beige leather, 57,431 miles, 18" alloys, navigation, CD changer, cruise, PDC.....	£15,995
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11 11	520 Diesel SE, Imperial Blue, oyster leather, 5,107 miles, 18" alloys, media package, heated seats, Bluetooth prep.....	£26,995
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11 11	M3 Coupé Auto, Interlagos blue, black leather, 8,206 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, Bluetooth, BMW assist, PDC.....	£49,995
X1		
11 11	X1 sDrive18d SE, Titanium Silver, black cloth, 8,647 miles, 17" alloys, PDC, auto air con, MF controls, front fogs, CD.....	£19,995

X5

10 60	X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 18,873 miles, 20" alloys, media pack, reverse assist camera with top view, PDC front & rear, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, electric front seats & driver memory, seat heating front, powered bootlid, exterior mirrors folding & auto dimming, panoramic glass sunroof, headlight wash, sun protection glass.....	£42,995
11 61	X5 xDrive 40 Diesel M Sport, Alpine white, black leather, 20" alloys, media package, BMW assist, loudspeaker system, reverse assist camera, PDC front & rear, electric folding exterior mirrors, panoramic glass sunroof, seat heating front, powered bootlid operation, electric front seats & driver memory, xenons, headlamp wash, rain sensor, auto headlight activation, sun protection glass, 5 year service inclusive.....	£48,995

X6

09 09	X6 xDrive30 Diesel, Vermilion red, beige nevada leather, 19,320 miles, 20" alloys, media package, heated seats, Bluetooth, PDC front & rear, auto lights, auto climate.....	£31,995
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Z4

11 11	Z4 30i M Sport Roadster Auto, Melbourne red metallic, black leather, 3,769 miles, 19" alloys, navigation, BMW assist, Bluetooth, comfort package, connectivity package, seat heating, sport automatic transmission.....	£32,995
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Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door, Z4, 5 Series, and 3 Series Coupé models ordered between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012, subject to availability. Representative finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the models pictured, a 116i Sport 5-door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile; a Z4 sDrive20i M Sport, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 8.10p per mile; and a 318i Sport Plus Coupé, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6.6p per mile. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. BMW Service Inclusive covers servicing costs for 5 years or 60,000 miles on new BMW or 3 years/30,000 miles on any approved used BMW (whichever occurs sooner). Covers routine manufacturer servicing only. Service must be undertaken by Douglas Park Ltd in accordance with manufacturer's servicing schedule. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

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PERSONALS



Ewen Stewart A big thank you to all the Mull and Iona farmers and crofters and businesses who contributed to and organised my retrial presentation in the Mull Rugby Club. Also, a special thank you to Linda Cameron for the marvellous spread she laid on. Margaret and I had a lovely evening and shall treasure the memory.

Many thanks St Jude for all prayers answered. C.S.

Oban Times PERSONALS

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BIRTHS

CAMERON - Iain and Marion (nee MacLean) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Euan on March 10, 2012 aboard the air ambulance. A wee brother for Catriona and Eilidh. Fifth grandchild for Colin and Christian, Fishnish and third grandchild for John and Linda Knockvologan. Many thanks to the Oban midwives, Dr Jack, Scottish Ambulance Services (land and air) and friends and neighbours.



CAMPBELL

Colin and Fiona (nee McGregor), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Euan Colin Campbell on March 7, 2012. A little brother for Alasdair and another grandson for Donnie and Isobel Campbell, North Connell and John and Margaret McGregor, Oban.

GILLIES MACCORQUODALE - Duncan and Eilidh are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Maisy on March 18, 2012. A wee sister for Owen and Abbie, third grandchild for Duncan and Marie, Taynult and seventh grandchild for Ronnie and Sheila, Dunbeg. Many thanks to midwives in Oban and Paisley.

ENGAGEMENTS



MACLENNAN - GRAHAM

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Ross, youngest son of Harry and Catriona MacLennan, Isle of Tiree, to Caroline, only daughter of John and Sharon Graham, Linlithgow.

RUBY WEDDINGS



MACLAUHLAN - TOUGH

At Inveraray and Glenaray Parish Church on March 22, 1972 by the Rev David Kellas, Kenny to Moira. Smell the flowers!

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Tragically on 15th March 2012, Helen, beloved and precious partner of Douglas Lamont, (Cookie) much loved by Kirsty and Martin, cherished sister and adored by all who knew her. Funeral will take place on Saturday March 24 at St Patrick's Church, Mallaig at 1pm, family flowers only, donations to the Parish and RNLI.

CRAWFORD - Duncan MacVicar, Brechnoille. At home on Friday, March 9, 2012, dearly loved husband of Phyllis (nee Baxter), loving and much loved father of Jane, Duncan, Mairi, Colin and Ernie, devoted Papa of eighteen grandchildren and one great grandchild. Funeral service was held at Inverary Parish Church, on March 14, interment thereafter at Kileven Cemetery.

FORSYTH - Peacefully at home on Saturday, March 17, 2012, with her husband by her side and after an illness bravely borne, Mary (Calac), dearly beloved wife of James, dear sister of Ronnie and Margaret and much loved aunt and great aunt to the family. She will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace.

MACDONALD - Peacefully in her 96th year, in the Belford Hospital, Fort William, on Saturday, March 17, Sarah Elizabeth MacDonald (Lily), loving wife of the late Ewen and dear mother of Maureen, Cathie, Eileen, Doreen and the late Ken and Margaret. Greatly loved nana and great nana. Grateful and heartfelt thanks to Dr Brown and all the staff at the Belford, particularly Sister Mairi MacKinnon, Dr Barlas and Mr Sedgewick for the loving care and attention extended to Lily and all her family over the last number of weeks. Also many thanks to the carers who came in daily to look after her over the last few years in Pinegrove. Funeral to be held on Friday, March 23 at 12 noon from St Mary's RC Church, Fort William, followed by interment at Cille-Choirill Cemetery, Roy Bridge. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses.

MACPHEE - Ronnie aged 44, beloved husband of Margaret, devoted father to Daniel and Jennifer, a much loved son, brother and uncle, tragically taken from us on Thursday, March 8, 2012. Sorely missed and lovingly remembered. R.I.P.

WILLIAMSON - Peacefully at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on Friday March 9, 2012, Catherine (Kate/Catriona), last surviving member of the family of the late Lachlan and Mary MacLean, of Fannore, Isle of Mull, beloved wife of the late John (Jack), loving mother of Marlene and the late L. James, devoted gran of Karen Marie and her husband Kenneth.

WYLIE - William King passed away peacefully in his 96th year at the Belford Hospital on Friday, March 16. Beloved husband, father, grandad, great grandad and friend. Service at the Salvation Army Church, Kinlochleven, today, March 22 at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations to charity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CRAWFORD - The family of the late Duncan Crawford thank all relatives and friends for their kind support during Duncan's illness and more recently for their many cards, phone calls and baking. We also wish to thank friends who attended the funeral and graveside services. The comforting funeral service given by Rev Louis Beuzidenhout and by Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod was greatly appreciated, as were the efficient arrangements provided by Stan Lupton. To John Holt and Fyne Folk for their music and the George Hotel for lunch, many thanks. £2,000 will be shared between Cumlodden Church and the Beaton Institute.

DUNCAN - Dally. Betty and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for sympathy, support, many cards and flowers received and to all those who paid their last respects at the funeral. Rev R Corbett for uplifting service, Ewen at McLellan & Co for great help, guidance and kindness, Shiona at MacDonald's for beautiful floral arrangements and Meg and Liz at the Railway Club for providing excellent refreshments. The sum of £366 was collected for the Belford Hospital where Dally spent his last days under the wonderful care and attention of all the staff.

KIRSOP - Mary and all the family would like to thank everyone for their support, cards, flowers and sympathy at the very sad loss of Robert. A special thanks to all the medical staff in Mull, Oban and Glasgow who cared for Robert over the last four years. Thanks to David Violet for funeral service and Billy McClymont for funeral arrangements. Thank you all. A retail collection of £2,029 is donated for Macmillan Care Nurses.

MACAFFER - Menzies, Cheryl and all the family have been greatly comforted by the massive volume of cards, letters, floral tributes and baking handed in to both the house and the Columba Hall for the marines, and for the sympathy and caring words received from friends over this difficult time. Thank you to all who attended Menzies's funeral and to Rev Rob Barlow and Father Simon Beveridge for their spiritual support and friendship, organist Jean Campbell, Pipers James and Andrew McEachern, Roland and staff at the Islay. And as always the respect shown throughout the village as the cortege passed through. Thank you to Dr Knowles, Dr MacTaggart, their medical teams and also his medical team at the Beaton Ward B4. A special thank you to the Royal Marines for the professional manner in conducting the funeral and in particular the bugler for his rendition of the last post which will long stay in the memory of all those who attended. Donations at the church service for N.E.T. Cancer Fund R.M.C.T.F and Islay and Jura sick childrens fund amounted to £2,500. Thank you all for your very generous donations.

MACINNES - The family of the late Margaret, would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for their sincere messages, cards and flowers of sympathy following their recent bereavement. A special thanks to Doctor Holliday, Doctor Todd and the District Nursing team for their unfailing attention

also the Rev Elspeth MacLean for the comforting service, friendship, prayers and support throughout the last five months, Andy and the staff at the Co-op for the funeral arrangements and the Tirez Scarinish Hotel for the catering. Finally, the family very much appreciated all who paid their last respects at Kirkopol Church and Graveyard including the generous donation of £864, which was donated to the Tirez Church of Scotland fabric fund.

MACKAY - The family of the late Margaret MacKay would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their expressions of sympathy following their recent sad loss. Sincere thanks to Rev Chris MacRae and Rev Alasdair MacLeod for their comforting service, to Mike McFall for his caring and efficient funeral arrangements, the Railway Club, Inverloch for looking after us so well. The sum of £1,005 was raised for A&E Department, Belford Hospital. God Bless You All.

MACPHEE - Following the tragic death of Ronnie (Ronald A MacPhee), Margaret, Daniel, Jennifer and Ronnie's extended families would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all who expressed their condolences by phone or card and to all those who were able to make the journey to his funeral from near and far and to everyone who came to his childhood home in Daliburgh, South Uist to support and pray with the family. Thanks to Fr Joe Calleja and clergy who celebrated the Requiem Mass in St Patrick's Mallaig where he lived, also to Mr Bobby Corson undertaker and to Gavin and Sine at the West Highland Hotel who provided the reception. Thank you. The retail collection amounted to £1,038 and was divided between the River Fund and Cancer Research UK. Please continue to pray for both Ronnie and his family.

NICOLSON - The family of the late Margaret Nicolson would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for all their kindness, cards, flowers and phone calls following our sad loss. Thanks also to all who attended the service and graveside, to all who travelled from near and far. Sincere thanks to the Rev James Beaton for his comforting service and D & A Munn for their efficient, caring and professional way. Our special thanks to Dr Eric Jespersen, Gill Bamsley, the staff at The Renal Unit and drivers especially Lyle, Jackie Beaton (CPN), Choices care group especially Donna, Fiona and Rachel for their exceptional care, understanding and kindness. Also the Rowantree Hotel for a lovely buffet. Donations of £284.17 were raised for The Renal Unit at the Western Infirmary Glasgow.

MEMORIAMS

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 and his dear wife Dolina, also Donnie Ferguson a very kind and caring vet and remembering also John Alan MacNeil, Barra.

- Inserted by Mrs Mary Lamont.
CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear mother and grandmother, Betty Lyall, who died on March 19, 1979. Never a day but in our thoughts.

- Inserted by her loving daughter, Ann, Angus, Lorne, Gordon, Gillian, Ardness, Bunesnan, Mull.
DEMPSTER - In loving memory of our dear mother Morag Scouler, who died March 24, 1986 also her husband Kenny, who died December 1, 1989. - Fondly remembered by Hugh, Annabel and her grandchildren.
FLETCHER - Loving memories of Peggy dear mum, mum-in-law, nana and great-nana who died March 26, 2011. Always in our thoughts. - From family in Islay, Perth and New Zealand.
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. - Effie and family.
Also remembering Neil, a dear brother and uncle who died January 14, 2006 and Bella, a dear sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt, who died March 29, 2010. Always in our thoughts. - Effie and family.

MACGREGOR - In loving memory of Annie Mac who died on March 23, 2000, a dear friend and godmother. Sadly missed. Always in my thoughts. - Archie.
MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear Auntie Annie MacLeod. Tobermory, Mull, who died March 17, 1987. To us you were someone special. Someone kind and true. You'll never be forgotten. As we thought of the world of you. And also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

- Inserted by Ann, John, Alistair and Patricia, Rosyth, Fife.
McCLOUNNAN - In loving memory of my son Calum 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. - Mum, Balpheil, Tirez.

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.
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 knows the heartache. As I turn and leave you there. - Xx

- Your loving daughter Sheena
WILSON - Fond memories of my sister Effie, who passed away March 24, 2010. R.I.P. Time may pass and fade away. But silent thoughts and memories stay. - Flora.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

GRADUATIONS



Dr Catriona M Douglas (MacKenzie) BSc, MB ChB, MRCS, graduated MD from the University of Manchester. Her research thesis was on Head and Neck cancer. She is the daughter of James and Christine Douglas, Seafield Gardens, Fort William and a former pupil of Upper Achintore School and Lochaber High School. She continues surgical training in Glasgow.

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Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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Thoughts for the Week

AS I WRITE this I am looking over the Firth of Lorn to Lismore and beyond to An Sleaghoich on Morvern. The sun is has enlivened the earth, sky and sea so their colours are at their brightest as they stretch for the spring.
People too have been smiling - the sun does that to us - and perhaps we are more hopeful when we are sun-kissed. It is one of those days when we who live in the West know that in the

land and the people we truly blessed. Now that last word is religiously loaded.
"Blessed" requires someone or something to grant us blessing. In the faith we are told of a God whose love overflows; in creation, in His relationship with us, in His compassion for the poor and the rejected. It is humanity that seeks to restrict the flow of God's love and constrain it within rules or

the limitations of our experience or imagination.
Perhaps these words of an old Celtic prayer open to us the generosity and grace of the Son pouring upon us.
'The form of God is behind thee, The form of Christ is before thee, The stream of Spirit is through thee, To succour and aid thee.'
Rev Dugald Cameron (Kilmore and Oban)

Not just for one day!

'MOTHERS are in it for life - not just for one day in the year...' that's what I tell my own children!
In the run-up to Mothering Sunday I reflected on this, while sitting in the A&E Department of a busy city hospital. In the paediatric section many mothers, grandmothers and a few fathers, anxious and mostly patient, waited, cuddling sick children. My daughter had just had her first baby. I had expected celebration in the midst of domestic chaos. I did not expect to be in A&E (none of us did). But it

was a good place to reflect on what it means to be a parent.
Mothering Sunday in Mid-March has, for many, become Mothers Day - when most of us for send cards, give presents and flowers; and when shops make a fat profit. But it's about more than that. In the past Mothering Sunday was a rare holiday when young folk working away could go home, taking presents for which they had saved up.
Families would go to church together on a Sunday which let up on the severity of Lent. Congregations celebrated 'Mother Church'.

The church can still bring us together as a family - even when things are not going well for us (like the troubled families gathered in A&E). And there's a deeper meaning for each of us.
Jesus encouraged his followers to see God as a loving parent, to call God 'our Father'. I saw this reflected in the caring and patience of the mothers and fathers in A&E: a love that copes with good times and bad, is a life-long commitment.
Similarly, God's enduring, healing love for us is something to celebrate - not just on one day, but every day.
Jan Sutch Pickard, Mull

Mull arts group appoint chief executive

COMAR, the new organisation hoping to take Mull's arts to the world, has appointed Caroline Winn, from the Hebridean Ensemble, as its new chief executive.
Currently the ensemble's general manager, Caroline is a former youth music officer with what is now Creative Scotland and former distribution and production manager with Glasgow-based techno record label, Soma Records.

Her remit will be to establish Comar - a partnership between An Tobar and Mull Theatre - as a creative hub for Argyll and Bute, producing high quality professional theatre, music, dance and visual arts activities locally, regionally and nationally, as well as developing a wide-ranging community participation and education programme.



Caroline Winn will take up her role as Comar's first chief executive in the summer.

Originally from just outside Glenrothes, Fife, the 32 year old is looking forward to her new posting, which she will take up towards the end of May.
She said: 'It is a privilege to be appointed the first chief executive for Comar, a very exciting role to fulfil for this significant new organisation.'

'I am looking forward enormously to building and developing this new creative hub on the island of Mull, bringing together two established and highly respected organisations, An Tobar and Mull Theatre.'
Caroline hopes her background in dealing with funding applications will help as she prepares to take on the role.
She added: 'I think there's a new energy - almost a youthful energy - and hopefully we can create a stronger organisation with a wider remit. It makes sense to link these organisations.'

'We will be looking to develop new areas of work. With Hebridean Ensemble, we've taken them down south and next year they'll be going to Holland for the first time.'
'To see what opportunities we can build with Comar will be very interesting.'
Comar aims to have an impact on the growth of the local economy, community development, skills, training and employment opportunities. It will work with a wide range of funding and creative partners, and will develop work across Argyll, as well as nationally.

Norman Quirk, chair of Comar said: 'We are delighted Caroline will be joining Comar as chief executive. She brings a wealth of experience of the Scottish arts scene and is the ideal person to take Comar forward.'
Andrew Dixon, chief executive of Creative Scotland said: 'Comar is an exciting new initiative for the Isle of Mull and the arts community in Argyll.'

'Bringing together two already skilled and experienced organisations, the new organisation is a great opportunity for Argyll and has chosen a good leader in Caroline for its first chief executive.'



Benderloch's Angus MacColl takes a shift on the drums, joined by Tom Adams, left, and Michael Garvin on the accordion during Friday's successful family ceilidh at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. Picture Kevin McGlynn

Success of charity ceilidh sparks call for annual event

SUCH was the success of the first family ceilidh dance fundraiser for Cancer Research UK's Oban committee that it is likely to be repeated next year.

A large crowd turned up for the event at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday, which regular performers, Michael Garvin, Neil MacKay and Tom Adams returning to put on a terrific performance.
They were joined in entertaining the families by a host of local performers, including Angus MacColl - who put in a shift on the drums - the Eilidh MacInnes dancers, Euan Dewar on pipes and Dr Scott Bennett, from Harris.

Dorothy Rodger, a volunteer co-ordinator with Cancer Research UK, gave a short presentation at the event on the importance of the charity and some of the work it does locally.
A spokesperson for the organisers said: 'Plans are afoot for next year and it is likely to be another family ceilidh following the success of this event.'
'There was a lot of children there and it was a lot of fun.'
'There's a very limited number of functions for young families that they can take their kids to and there was such a wonderful atmosphere it would be good to repeat it.'



Lochaber High School and St Augustine musicians

Lochaber High in big band action

SIXTEEN pupils, five staff and a multitude of instruments set off on the long journey from Lochaber High School to Blackburn in Lancashire on March 1, writes Lochaber fifth year student Sally Swanson.

Standing ovations
To mark the occasion, each member wore a personalised 'Blackburn 2012' hoodie for the much-awaited 'LHS Big Band world tour of Blackburn'.
We played three school concerts, which saw us receive standing ovations from both students and staff alike.
The highlight was a concert with St. Augustine's Swing Band, who had visited Lochaber High two weeks before to perform a concert with our Big Band.
The evening show was a great success featuring solos on saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar and piano.
We also heard the St. Augustine's band in full swing and had the chance to play two pieces together, including Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World'.
All three performances were brilliant fun and thoroughly enjoyed by both audience and the players.

We also played at a wedding, after the bride discovered the Big Band was staying at the same hotel as her wedding reception.
She invited us to play at the evening party where we performed such crowd pleasers such as YMCA, Respect by Aretha Franklin and Smoke on the Water by Deep Purple. We even had many people up dancing!
Musical aspects of the trip aside, we visited an award winning fish and chip shop, where we played a couple of numbers outside and munched fish suppers.
We also visited the Trafford Centre in Manchester, one of the largest shopping centres in Great Britain, and were let loose for the afternoon with a map and compass.
After months of rehearsals and anticipation, the trip to Blackburn lived up to expectations and was a brilliant experience.
I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we can't wait until we are preparing for 'LHS Big Band World tour of Blackburn 2013'.

Muckairn reflect on justice

A SERVICE held in Muckairn Church, Taynult, during the World Day of Prayer had an Order of Service written by Christian women of Malaysia.
The service on March 2, which was attended by different denominations, was on the theme: Let Justice Prevail and was led by Marlene Stanners.
Rev Margaret Millar gave a reflection on the theme and the evening concluded with tea and fellowship.
Muckairn Church Guild met in the church on March 5 opening with the hymn, Sing to the Lord, for He is good',

then a reading by Marlene Stanners from chronicles saying the same.
Stella Huntingford led the prayer and introduced Rev George Cringles to follow the theme: 'Called to walk humbly with God'.
He gave a brief account of the writers of several hymns, which mention walking, and everyone enjoyed singing them as he accompanied superbly on the organ.
Rev Robert Brookes gave the thanks from everyone for a most enjoyable time. The next meeting will be on April 2 with three playlets, followed by the AGM.

Campbell nets second hat-trick in two games

Saints stage brave fight back after losing early goal against St Joseph's

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 3
St Joseph's FP 1

A SECOND hat-trick in two successive games from striker Donald Campbell earned Saints all three points in this tough

home fixture against St Joseph's FP from Duntocher at Glencruitten last Saturday, although the home side had to come back from losing a goal in the first minute of the match.

Manager Iain Jackson was not available for this game so the job of running the team on the day fell to club secretary David Buchanan and coach Peter MacCallum.

A couple of changes were made from last week's winning team against Castlemilk, with Willie Gemmell and Myles McAuley coming into the starting line-up.

The home side were in for a shock as St Joe's came flying out of the starting blocks and forced a corner in the first 30 seconds of the match. The ball was fired across the face of the Saints goals and the clearance went back to the taker, who sent the ball across the six yard line again and this time central defender Lee Halpin got to the ball unchallenged to head it past a stranded Graham Douglas.

This was a major shock to the home side and it took them a while to get going and it was the visitors who dominated the opening part of the game with Kevin Seagrave causing all sorts

FOOTBALL

of problems with his intelligent running off the ball.

After a tactical change the home team came more into the game and equalised in the 32nd minute. Willie Gemmell fired a long throw into the box for Alex Craik whose header came back off the crossbar but luckily the ball fell kindly for Donald Campbell who volleyed home from close range.

After a shaky start Saints were getting to grips with the game but in general the defences were on top and scoring chances were limited as the first half came to a close.

The home side got off to the perfect start in the second half, as they took the lead after four minutes, when Jamie Graham and Marc MacCallum, pushed forward from the back.

After a neat interchange Marc prodded the ball through the middle of the visitor's defence to Donald Campbell who made no mistake slotting the ball into the corner of the net past a helpless keeper.

Saints were on top as the half wore on and Donald Campbell was unlucky when he volleyed a



Saints hat-trick hero Donald Campbell takes on St Joseph's central defender Lee Halpin during last Saturday's 3-1 win for the Oban side at Glencruitten. 15_t12saints4

superb strike against the St Joe's crossbar from a Craig MacEwan cross. If this effort had hit the back of the net it would have been the goal of the season.

Saints got the vital third goal in the 73rd minute when they were awarded a penalty. Young Lewis Cameron weaved his way past a couple of defenders and made a great run into the box and was clearly pulled back by a St Joe's defender leaving referee John Scott, who had a good game, no option but to point to the penalty spot. Donnie Campbell picked the ball up and blasted it into the corner of the net to make the score 3-1.

The Oban side were in control of the game now and were quite content to pull players back behind the ball and hit St Joe's on the break and although they created a couple of half chances there was no further scoring and the home team comfortably ran down the clock to pick up another three league points.

Good Value

Club secretary David Buchanan said: 'Giving St Joe's the early goal certainly wasn't in the script, but once we got going we played some excellent football and in the end I think we were good value for the three points. Donnie Campbell is on fire

at the moment and to score six goals in the last two games is a tremendous feat. He's actually scored 10 goals in our last three league matches although one of these games was back in September.'

Saints are at home again this Saturday when they take on Kilbowie Union in a premier division league game. The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off with referee Jimmy Lister from Lochgilphead in charge.

Congratulations go to club captain Keith Millar and his partner Marion on the birth of their new baby daughter Emily.

Fort William Under 17s net 13 against Strathspey Thistle

YOUTH FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM under-17's travelled away to Strathspey Thistle on Sunday and returned with a resounding 13-3 win.

Due to genuine call offs and injuries the Fort team was depleted and called in Lewis Morrison and James MacDermott from the 15's squad for their debuts, and had Andy McLean just returning from his lay off due to a broken ankle.

Remarkably, with young Morrison and McLean up front the Fort raced into an early 3-0 lead after only 15 minutes and this set the tempo for the remainder of the match.

Fort continued to dominate the game and the impressive wing play from Munro and MacLellan was creating numerous chances, which the Fort readily took as they raced into a 9-0 lead at the end of the second period. Munro and MacLellan had assists in 9 of the goals.

The final period saw Strathspey not give up and they scored two long range goals to make the final 30 minutes of play more even, but the Fort continued to impress as Aaron MacPhee and Cameron Grant in midfield along with defenders Calum Boyd and Kieran Lopez were dominant throughout. As the referee blew his final whistle the Fort had run out impressive 13-3 winners.

Coach John Matheson said: 'Overall, it was an excellent team performance with a high work rate throughout the team. The two young players brought in from the 15's squad excelled themselves with Morrison scoring four goals on his debut.'

Scorers: Morrison 4, McLean 2, Grant 2, Lopez 2, Munro 2, Noble 1.

Squad: Cameron, L. McLean, Clarke, Boyd, Lopez, Munro, MacLellan, MacPhee, Grant, A. McLean, Morrison, Noble, MacDermott.

Fort's next game is scheduled for Sunday 26th March against Wick Academy at Claggan Park, 2pm kick off.



Almost the perfect ten

The Trialists won the Oban Over-35s League for the ninth time in 10 seasons after a hard-fought 3-2 victory over title rivals Taynuilt on Monday night in Atlantis Leisure. Both teams were locked on equal points at the top of the table going into this last game. It took an own-goal to separate the teams, as the game seemed deadlocked at 2-2. 16_t12trialist01

Good away win for Taynuilt Amateurs at Knightswood

Central Scottish Welfare League

Knightswood 1
Taynuilt Amateurs 2

TAYNUILT Amateurs mounted a spirited comeback to win by the odd goal in three after going a goal down in Bearsden.

The new-look Taynuilt side was missing Scott Maitland and Stephen Kelly but there were debut starts for Stephen MacLeod and Innes Paterson at right back and centre half, respectively. There were also starts for Kenny McKechnie and Euan Mackie.

Taynuilt stayed with the 4-3-3 formation that proved vital in the semi final win against Westcliff but it soon became apparent it was not having the same effect.

Lost possession
Some sloppy passing was gifting Knightswood possession in good areas, but they didn't hurt the Taynuilt defence, well marshalled by Paterson and John Napier.

However, in the 37th minute, Chris McCaig lost possession

to the Knightswood striker, who stabbed the ball under Ben Pollock in goal.

Taynuilt manager Stuart Reid reverted to a more familiar 4-4-2 formation at half-time, with young George McMillan coming on for McKechnie and Stefan Campbell coming on for Euan Mackie.

Opportunity
It took till the 60th minute for Taynuilt to settle down and find their passing game and on 62 minutes the first real chance fell to Allan Beaton, but the ball was played behind him and the opportunity to equalise was lost.

However, the equaliser came in the 68th minute, some excellent passing by Craig Campbell, Stefan Campbell and Kris Gillies found McCaig who brought a good save out of the Knightswood keeper but he tapped home at the second attempt.

The Knightswood heads went down and Taynuilt came to life with some excellent football and great hold-up play by Gillies,

FOOTBALL

who also enjoyed nut-megging his marker at will.

On 74 minutes Taynuilt went ahead. Gillies worked his markers well and linked up with Beaton. The ball was squared to Craig Campbell and his first shot was saved but he made no mistake with the rebound to chalk up his 12th goal of the season.

Knightswood never looked like scoring again, as they found Pollock in great form, making a few 'for-the-camera' saves into the bargain.

Manager Stuart Reid said: 'This was a chance for some fringe players to step up to the plate and I was pleased with the debuts by Innes and Steven.'

Their experience was vital and they slotted into the team as if they'd played there all season.

Next weekend Taynuilt are at home to Clydebank AFC with a 2pm kick-off at Oban Community Pitch.

Oban ladies squash club up and running

SQUASH

A LADIES squash club is making the sport one of the fastest growing in Oban, as its membership continues to grow just six months after it started.

The club, based at Atlantis Leisure, has a membership of

around 25 and they kicked off their fundraising with a mixed tournament on March 10 that raised £160.

The club has arranged for a professional coach to visit, which has been fully booked

up, and members have received coaching locally from male members of Oban Tennis and Squash Club.

Billy Thomson and Colin MacNiven from the squash club helped to organise the recent

tournament and Billy provided the prizes from his Oban Sports Shop.

Club organiser Jackie Kersley said: 'I have played squash for years but there were only really three women playing until recently.'

'We thought there must be more women wanting to play, so approached Willie Gemmell at Atlantis Leisure to see if we could set up a ladies' night.'

'We got 10 that first week and since then the club has just grown. We've now got a range of players: from those who haven't played before to those who last played 20 years ago, and from 18 years old to older ladies.'

Club member Nicola Morgan said: 'I think the interest in squash was already there but we needed a scene where the ladies would feel comfortable.'

'The ladies come for a chat and the social aspect. It's not just about the squash.'

The club meets every Monday between 6.20pm and 9pm, with games also played during the week.



Some of the members of the new Oban ladies squash club. 16_t12squash01

The history of shinty in the Western Isles

SHINTY

BROADCASTER Hugh Dan MacLennan will delve into the history of shinty in the Western Isles when he addresses audiences in North Uist and Stornoway next week.

In 'Dà Mhaide Dhìreach - An Ingenious Caman' Caol-born Hugh Dan will examine the way forward for the game throughout the islands, building on the current wave of enthusiasm from the competitive matches at Shawbost.

The Islands Book Trust sponsored talks will be in Gaelic and English. Non-Gaelic speakers are very welcome - translations will be provided.

Uisdean will be at the Claddach Kirkbost Centre in North Uist on Monday evening (26 March 8pm) and on the Tuesday evening at An Lanntair (27 March 7.30pm). The heritage and songs inspired by camanachd will all be part of his presentation.

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No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

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'Shiel hope to get back to winning ways after defeat to Newtonmore

KINLOCHSHIEL will seek to carve out a win against Glenurquhart this weekend after going down 4-2 at the Eilan against title contenders and 2011 champs Newtonmore last time out.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill set a target of two points from the first three games in the top flight before the action started and his team has more than delivered, taking three from tough matches against Kingussie, Fort William and More.

Now the task will be to consolidate their healthy league position by winning against clubs of lesser rank, which is no disrespect to Glenurquhart, who on their day can be difficult to break down.

But after Glens' 6-1 hiding at home from Kyles, Kinlochshiel must be strongly fancied to take full points and maintain their early season charge.

The Lochalsh men came close to surprising More, but truth be told they left themselves too much to do in handing their physical opponents a 3-0 lead in under half an hour.

A second half double from captain Finlay MacRae put the outcome in the balance, but Steven MacDonald's late strike settled matters.

'Shiel assistant coach Murdo Fraser admitted the first half had been 'a baptism of fire' for the defence against a powerful and mobile More team, but the game was exactly what 'Shiel needed to give them a benchmark for the season ahead.

He told The Oban Times: Johnston ('Shiel head coach) gave the boys the hairdryer effect in the changing room at half-time.

'We were staring down the barrel of a 6-0 or 7-0 defeat - but credit to the boys, they got an early goal through Keith MacRae and when he scored again we had a chance, because we are a fit team and were challenging all over the park.'

'Shiel should have a full squad available against Glens. 'We need to keep the momentum going,' Fraser said.

Orion Group Premiership surprise package LOVAT return to league duty on Saturday when they welcome Bute to Balgait Park.

The Kiltarity men have full points after two matches played after shocking Newtonmore in the opener and snatching a hard-fought 2-1 win at Kilmallie.

Now coach Allan MacRae's task will be to keep the momentum going after sitting idle last weekend.

Once again, talismanic forward Greg Matheson will play a central role in Lovat's game plan. With four goals to his name already, Matheson is proving a lethal talent up front and is likely to prove a hot hand for Bute.

Bigger tests lie ahead, and if Lovat harbour any notion of mounting a serious title challenge matches like this fall into the 'must win' category.

FORT WILLIAM struck a huge blow for their reputation as early season title contenders with a comprehensive 3-0 dismantling of Kingussie at The Dell.

Daniel Stewart fired Fort ahead on 18 minutes and a quickfire second half double from young Scott Henderson sealed the points.

The win lifts the An Aird men to joint top of the Orion Group Premiership, although Lovat have a game in hand.

Fort are still undefeated and could be a force to be reckoned with as the reshaped team continues to gel. Youth figures strongly in Peter MacIntyre's squad - and as the campaign unfolds, that's looking more and more to be an advantage rather than a drawback.

However keen Fort may be to keep up momentum in the league, this weekend they switch to the Co-operative MacFavish Cup when they take on Caberfeidh in the first round at Black Parks - pitch conditions notwithstanding. Throw up is at 2.30pm.

NEWTONMORE travel to unbeaten Inveraray on Saturday for what will be another telling indicator as to their credentials for retaining their championship crown.

'More looked to be on easy street when they outclassed Kinlochshiel in the first half at The Eilan last Saturday, with a David Cheyne double and a Danny MacRae strike the least they deserved.

But spirited 'Shiel fought back to 3-2 and it took a late Steven MacDonald goal to seal the win - so 'More will want to make sure that any winning position against Inveraray is maintained to the final whistle.

KINGUSSIE defeated Kyles 3-1 earlier this month - but will have to improve their form if Saturday's rematch in the Orion Group Premiership is to have a similar outcome.

Kings were comprehensively put to the sword by Fort William at The Dell, uncharacteristically failing to get on the scoresheet for the first time this season.

With only two points from three matches so far, Kings can

SHINTY

ill afford to drop many more if they are to be up among the challengers for the title come the sharp end of the campaign.

GLENURQUHART were on the wrong end of a 6-1 hammering from Kyles last weekend, with David Smart's 75th minute goal their only consolation.

Another formidable task awaits on Saturday - an away trip to strong-going Kinlochshiel.

'Shiel almost came back from the dead against Newtonmore last time out, fought out a creditable draw against Fort William and shocked Kings 5-3 - so Glens will have their work cut out.

KILMALLIE grabbed their first point of the campaign with a fighting 2-2 draw in Rothessay, but must wait for their chance to build on that performance as they have no game this weekend.

The Blues were guilty of failing to take their chances in the first two games against Glenurquhart and Lovat, but Liam MacDonald made short work of that problem when he opened the scoring after only two minutes.

Kilmallie held the lead until Robert Walker's equaliser on 70 minutes and edged ahead again five minutes later courtesy of Michael Rodger's penalty.

With five minutes left Hector Whitelaw drew his side level for a second time and Kilmallie could not fashion a winner before the final whistle.

Chairman Hugh MacIntyre reckoned the team more than held its own, despite being without the services of Ross Lavin. Alan MacDonald and John Stewart.

He told The Oban Times: 'We were very short of players, but the team played well. We lost a goal near the end but we were quite pleased with the result. It was a pity we could not hold out, but it was good progress.'

INVERARAY'S Benidorm boys will be back in the squad to take on reigning premier league champions Newtonmore on Saturday.

The Royal Burgh had no game last weekend, as a handful of the first team were on Andrew McMurdy's stag do in the Spanish resort.

'We'll need to see who made it back from Benidorm,' joked manager John Smylie. 'But I think I'll have a full squad, apart from Neil Campbell, for this weekend.'

The challenge of Newtonmore is not being underestimated but Inveraray have a new-found confidence this season.

'We believe we can get something from this game but we've got to play to our own strengths and get them moving around the pitch.'

'We're hoping to have a good playing surface and that it stays dry this week.'

A late equaliser against Kilmallie would suggest BUTE had been lucky to snatch a draw against their northern visitors but, according to manager Barry Martin, that was far from being the case.

The home side had the majority of the play and only a misfiring forward line prevented the islanders scoring more than their two goals, through Robert Walker and Hector Whitelaw, the latter scoring on 85 minutes after being moved forward from full back.

Barry said: 'We were relieved to get something from the game but disappointed it wasn't the



Newtonmore's Danny MacRae lines up a shot watched by his namesake from Kinlochshiel, Paul, during last Saturday's match at the Eilan.

two points. 'They did score first but after that we took the game to them and had the better chances. I also think their penalty decision was a soft one.'

Bute now face a long journey north to Lovat but Barry reckons he knows what to expect from the league's early pace-setters.

'We haven't played them for a couple of years but they have made a great start to the season. 'I am expecting them to come out of the traps quickly so the boys will need to be aware of that.'

Bute's Brian Liddell (chipped ankle bone) is expected to be missing long term but Barry believes he will otherwise have a full squad to pick from this weekend.

KYLES ATHLETIC'S story of success to heartache last season was one of the talking points of the 2011 shinty year.

But it was a script straight out of Hollywood that helped them inflict a devastating 6-1 battering of Glenurquhart at Drumnadrochit on Saturday.

Having been ruled out of the season because of work commitments, Kyles favourite Peter Currie had not been registered by the Tighnabruich club.

But upon returning home from California last Friday and viewing his injury-ravaged team's struggles on Facebook, Peter immediately declared himself available.

A swift registration allowed Peter to play at centre and his dominant performance, which included the final goal in the 6-1 away win, proved pivotal.

It is likely to be Peter's only game of the season, as he jetted back to California this week. 'A bit of a turnaround,' was how Kyles trainer James Perlich described his side's performance last Saturday at Drumnadrochit. 'Peter had a great game and was applauded off the park.'

'It was an expensive registration for just one game, but a good one.'

While Peter took the plaudits on the day the performance of 16-year-old debutant Cammy Keith impressed the coaching staff.

Kyles were suffering a hangover from last season's exertions as they slumped to a 3-1 defeat at Kingussie in their first game of the season but, after working out their most settled team, seemed to have struck form once more and will be looking for revenge this weekend.

Duncan Kerr and David Zavaroni missed last weekend's match but are poised to make a return this Saturday.

LOCHABER CAMANACHD welcome Lochcarron to Spean Bridge on Saturday looking for an improved showing from that dour clash at their visitors' home ground in the opening fixture of the season.

In Lochaber's defence, the 1-1 draw was played in awful

conditions and coach Michael Delaney is all too aware his team tends to click into gear better when a pitch lends itself to rapid shinty.

He told The Oban Times: 'We were disappointed with our performance up there, but conditions were really shocking. We like to shift the ball quickly and when the weather gets better we get better.'

'Touch wood, the pitch should be good and hopefully if we can play the way we played against Skye we should not be far away.'

Lochaber have a full squad available. Throw up is at 3pm.

SKYE CAMANACHD put memories of their 7-1 mauling at Lochaber behind with a comprehensive 4-1 Marine Harvest North Division 1 win over Strathglass at Paic nan Laoch.

An early Geddes goal gave Strathglass a shock lead, but Skye roared back and Palmer levelled before half-time.

After the break Skye's superior fitness - a factor coach Willie MacRae has been highlighting since the season started - really began to tell and a Gibbs MacDonald goal followed by a Jordan Murchison double sealed the win.

Next up for Skye is the visit of Inverness to Portree. MacRae should have Iain Nicolson available again after work commitments prevented him travelling up for the Strathglass game.

Ben Dalgety's late strike salvaged a hard fought draw for LOCHCARRON at Inverness last weekend - but a different challenge lies in store on Saturday.

Lochaber will be doubly dangerous because Michael Delaney's side will be desperate to avenge the 1-1 at Lochcarron in the opening North League Division 1 fixture.

With two draws and one defeat in three games, Lochcarron will have to play to the peak of their form to have any chance against a powerful Lochaber outfit that demolished Skye 7-1 at Spean Bridge last time out.

It is two wins out of two for **GLENORCHY** as they made a perfect start to the season last Saturday.

But that is not enough for manager Allan MacKechnie, who urged his players to step up a level for their derby this weekend with Tainuitt.

Allan berated his side's lacklustre first half performance against newly-promoted Strachur last Saturday and got a response in the second half, with Alex MacPherson and new signing Lorn Brown securing a 2-0 win.

But the manager insists his side will improve if they are to beat their Lorn neighbours this weekend.

He said: 'We've had two victories but we are not playing particularly well. We were quite

lucky to win on Saturday. I had to have a few words with them at half-time.

'It might sound a bit harsh on the lads but if we play like that this Saturday, we won't get away with it.'

'We have a young team, which is still trying to settle but our players are better than what they are showing just now.'

New signing Brown is missing for this Saturday and John Sartain remains a doubt after suffering an injury in the first game of the season.

OBAN CAMANACHD maintained their dominant start to the new season by scoring four without reply.

The result takes their goal ratio to 13 for and none against, as they plot a seemingly simple route back to the premier league.

However Diarmid MacMillan's men will face their stiffest challenge yet as they take on Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) at Mossfield.

Last weekend's comfortable victory saw Jonathan Will hit a brace, alongside the more habitual scorers of Iain 'Scally' MacMillan and Aidan MacIntyre.

OBAN CELTIC take on the unknown quantity of Aberdeen away from home this weekend.

Having been demolished by Oban Camanachd two weeks ago, the Fifers nicked an unexpected away victory against GMA last weekend.

Like his opposite number at Glenorchy, TAYNUITT manager Davy Thomson is insisting on an improvement from his team's previous performance if the east Lorn derby is to go in their favour.

Having performed admirably in their league opener against Oban Camanachd, Tainuitt slumped to an 'embarrassing' 6-1 defeat by GMA and are now bottom of South Division One.

However, Davy's players will need no extra incentive to perform well against rivals Glenorchy this weekend.

KILMORY CAMANACHD take on newly-promoted Strachur in Lochgilphead this Saturday, hoping to bounce back from a 4-0 defeat by Oban Camanachd last weekend.

It has been a mixed start by the Mid Argyll boys, who produced the result of week one by beating Aberdeen 6-1 in Fife.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS take on Tayforth in Oban in South Division Two this weekend.

The Oban side, subsequently relegated after Oban Camanachd dropped down to South Division One, have justified their favourites tag in the league, with Ballachulish the only other undefeated side.

Last weekend's match against Bute was called off after the islanders failed to raise a team.

Lochside Rovers were therefore awarded the points.



Results

Saturday 17 March

Orion Group Premiership
Bute 2-2 Kilmallie
Newtonmore 4-2 Kinlochshiel
Kingussie 0-3 Fort William
Glenurquhart 1-6 Kyles Ath

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Caberfeidh 1-1 Beaulieu
Inverness 2-2 Lochcarron
Skye 4-1 Strathglass

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kingussie 1-2 Fort William
Glenurquhart 4-1 A'deen Uni
Glenurquhart 5-1 Lovat
Kinlochshiel 0-3 Newtonmore
Lochaber 3-4 Skye

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Strathglass 0-0 Lewis Cam
Beaulieu 5-1 Caberfeidh
Lochbroom 5-0 Inverness
Lochcarron 7-1 Kilmallie
Strathspey 1-7 Boleskine

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glasgow MA 0-1 Aberdeen
Glenorchy 2-0 Strachur
Kilmory 0-4 Oban Camanachd

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Lochside Rovers v Bute
Postponed Bute unable to raise a team points to Lochside Rovers

Marine Harvest South Division 3
Ardmurchan 7-0 Glasgow MA
Col Glen 1-3 Kyles Athletic
Inveraray 0-0 Aberdeen
Tayforth 1-2 Ballachulish

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Glasgow MA 0-1 Aberdeen
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Ardmurchan 7-0 Glasgow MA
Col Glen 1-3 Kyles Athletic
Inveraray 0-0 Aberdeen
Tayforth 1-2 Ballachulish

Fixtures

Saturday 17 March

(all throw-ups 2.30 unless stated)

Orion Group Premiership
Lovat v Bute
Innes Wood - 1pm
Inveraray v Newtonmore
Robert Baxter
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Deek Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie
Graham Irving

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu v Strathglass
John Angus Gillies
Skye v Inverness
John Matheson
Lochaber v Lochcarron
Evan MacRae - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Lochaber v Lovat
Dougie Cameron - 12pm
Aberdeen Uni v Fort William
Graeme MacMillan
Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel
Duncan Kelly
Kingussie v Skye
Iain Kennedy
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
Davy Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Kilmallie v Lewis Camanachd
John Sloggie - 1pm
Boleskine v Lochcarron
Callum Duff
Inverness v Caberfeidh
Kevin Cheeseman
Strathglass v Lochbroom
Donald MacRae
Strathspey v Beaulieu

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour v Oban Celtic
Dunkie Kerr
Kilmory v Strachur
Billy Wotherspoon
Oban Camanachd Glasgow MA
David Mitchell
Tainuitt v Glenorchy
Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ardnamurchan v Inveraray
Colin MacDonald
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Jim Innes
Col Glen v Aberdeen
George O'Rourke
Lochside Rovers v Tayforth
Ewen MacDonald

The Co-operative MacFavish Cup
Fort William v Caberfeidh
Graham Cameron



From left: Player Kirsty Deans, Shona Robison MSP, player Anna Sadler, Marine Harvest's Steve Bracken and Women's Camanachd Association president Fiona Mathie help to announce the new sponsorship deal.

Major sponsorship for women's shinty

MARINE Harvest has pledged nearly £10,000 of funding to the Women's Camanachd Association (WCA) - the biggest sponsorship women's shinty has seen.

The three-year sponsorship deal will help to promote the women's game and run development camps to increase participation in the sport.

Additionally, through SportsScotland's Sportsmatch programme, the WCA has successfully added a further £2,000 for the development of the women's game.

The sponsorship was announced this afternoon at the Scottish Parliament with Minister for Commonwealth Games

and Sport, Shona Robison MSP, Marine Harvest's Business Support Manager, Steve Bracken and WCA President, Fiona Mathie.

Speaking about the sponsorship, Fiona Mathie, President of the Women's Camanachd Association, said: 'We really appreciate the sponsorship from Marine Harvest, not only has it given us the chance to improve the development of women's shinty but, through our successful SportsScotland Sportsmatch application, it has also enabled us to take this money further and run two development camps.'

'These camps give women and girls from all over Scotland the chance to improve their skills and take these skills back to

WOMEN'S SHINTY

their own clubs. 'The money will also help us promote women's shinty and increase participation levels, ensuring long term and sustainable benefits.'

The continued support for the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup has enabled the creation of a high level cup competition that without Marine Harvest support would not be possible.'

Steve Bracken, Marine Harvest's business support manager, said: 'Since 1988 Marine Harvest has been proud to sponsor shinty and in particular to see the sport develop and new teams established.'

Glorious sunshine welcomes the players and spectators at Oban Primary League

THE Oban Express Primary Football League once again took to the 3G Oban Community Pitch on Sunday morning in glorious sunny conditions which ensured a large gathering of both players and spectators enjoying the festival of football on offer on two fronts with the youngsters continuing with fun 4s and the others battling away at 7 a side..

A cracking game between Lochgilphead Scorpions and Lochnell opened the day with the Scorpions taking an early lead through Cameron Williamson after a good through ball from Craig Millar.

Lochnell equalised when Sandy Bevington slid in at the back post to finish from a tight angle but Cameron Williamson then scored again after great work from Euan Finlay. Lochnell pushed strongly for the equaliser but well timed tackling from Campbell Litster and steady organised defending from the Munro brothers Iain and Jamie kept Lochnell out until the final seconds when a Lochnell goal bound shot was well saved by Alastair Cupples to ensure a great win for the Scorpions.

Over on pitch 3 the Jags started their day with a comfortable

win over Galaxy with Finlay Lawson grabbing a rare goal and a magnificent long range effort from Roan Martin from the left wing the pick of the bunch. The Jags followed that with another win over Wasps and had Mark McKnight score a brace with Finbar Dunne going one better with a hat trick but the result of the day was in their final match against the all conquering Saints Boys who took the lead through Beppe Lopez only for the Jags to storm back with an equaliser after Cameron Hill lofted a free kick into the box which was finished by Ryan Woodrow. The Boys again stormed into the lead but the hard fighting Jags earned just reward and a draw when a calamitous back pass from Ruairidh Horne was missed by the keeper and trickled over the line.

The Jags stable mates Thistle also started well with a convincing win over Saints 03 and had both Rory Dowd and Jamie Anderson score two apiece. Their next match was a stuffy encounter against Lochnell with Thistle scoring the only goal through Rory Dowd but their day was blighted with a final match defeat at the hands of the All Stars who had Andy Ritchie in fine form scoring with a direct

free kick which screamed into the top corner. Ritchie had earlier netted a hat trick in All Stars win at Tralee.

Tralee's game against Saints 03 saw two well matched teams pitched against one another and the 03's took and an early lead with a Ross Campbell rocket but Tralee plugged away and got an equaliser when Ryan Henrickson pounced. Both teams went for the winner to no avail. The 03s once again took the lead in their next match with Galaxy when Adam Munro lobbed the keeper but their lead was cancelled out by a Kenni Gray equaliser and Galaxy held on for the draw with some fine goalkeeping from Rory Johnson keeping the 03s at bay.

On a day for the one all score lines another was served up by Lochnell and Saints 02 with the Saints taking the lead after a slick passing move involving most of the team opened up the Lochnell defence to leave Lennon Campbell to finish what was the best all round goal of the day. The younger Saints held on for long spells but eventually conceded the equaliser through a trade mark thunderbolt from Finlay Bennet. Neither side could find a winner and settled

for the draw.

It was a great result to cap a good day for the Saints 02 which started with a comfortable win over the Wasps with the in form Sam Coates scoring a hat trick and also setting up Jude Bain and Gavin Forgiveve counters but the score would have been more had it not been for the tough tackling of Wasps defender Callum Robertson. The Saints 02 continued with another win in their next match against Galaxy and found it difficult to get past the Galaxy defence with Daniel Baird in fine form but the break through came when Cameron Clark slid a through ball into space for Jude Bain to latch on to and coolly slot home. Saints striker Lewis Campbell added a quick second to put the game out of reach of the Galaxy.

The league now takes a break and will not return until after the Easter holidays giving the players, coaches and spectators time to draw breath and regroup for the final rounds of fixtures on their return.

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

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www.krispprint.co.uk

Tobermory Golf Club results

GOLF

JUNIOR Winter Medal Final played on March 17: 1 Lewis Wilshire, 33-06-27; 2 William MacCrone, 33-05-28; 3 Lewis Brown, 47-13-34.

Men's Winter Stableford played on March 18: 1 Donald Brown snr, 21pts; 2 Tom Nunn-18pts; 3 Shaun Fisher, 18pts.

The Winter eclectic was shared by Donald Brown snr and Graham Davidson with 28 gross, third place was Graham Brown with 29 points.

Excellent start for Craig in Brick and Steel Rally

RALLYING

MULL Honda Civic Type R driver Craig Rutherford made a blistering start to his Ecosse Challenge 2012 season after finishing second overall.

The crew also collected trophies for being first 2000cc front wheel drive car, first Civic Type R and Craig took maximum points in the Scottish Junior Rally Championship at the Brick & Steel Border Counties Rally last Saturday.

The Jedburgh-based event used some classic Kielder Forest roads and it was the first outing for new pairing of Craig, aged 21, from Fionnphort and co-driver Martin Maccabe (51) from Glasgow.

Martin was the Civic Ecosse Challenge co-driving Champion for 2011 but Craig's last outing had been the Mull Rally in October 2011 and he had not been 'in the woods' for a year.

The first three stages went very well for the team and they entered the half way halt in a very strong position, leading the other 35 front-wheel-drive cars - but only by two seconds from a hard-charging John Boyd in his Fiesta R2.

The flying Boyd hit back in the second half of the rally and in the final stage a couple of overshoots by Rutherford dropped more time, allowing Boyd to take the win by 16 seconds.

Craig said he was delighted with his first rally and thanked his family and friends for their support, as well as sponsors Fidden Campsite, Mull and Steven Patterson (Salen) for the use of his trailer.

The next event for the team will be in the forests South of Aberdeen at the Granite City Rally on April 14.

Magnus to lead out Scotland

AN OBAN teenager said he was shocked to be handed the captain's armband for Scotland's under-17s match at Melrose this Sunday against the Auld Enemy.

Magnus Bradbury, aged 16, was told of his appointment last weekend at a training camp and despite being the most experienced player at that level, admitted the news came as a shock.

Magnus, who made his debut for Oban Lorne's senior squad this season, said: 'The coach, Peter Lavery, pulled me aside at training and asked if I would like to captain the squad against England.'

'I think I just nodded, because I was in shock.'

Lead by example

Like senior national team captain, Ross Ford, Magnus is naturally one of the quieter players in the dressing room and is likely to lead his players by example, rather than roaring through the game.

But the Merchiston School pupil admitted he may have to become more vocal on the pitch. Magnus's experience at this level - he played for Scotland under-

RUGBY



Magnus Bradbury

17s last season against England and France - will be crucial to his teammates, who will all be

new to the international set-up and the expectations placed upon them.

'I know I'll have to talk a bit more on the field now because I am the only one who knows what it is like to play at this level,' Magnus explained.

'The step up to international level is massive. 'You can't compare it to anything else.'

'The guys you are up against are five times faster, stronger and bigger but this is the level I want to be playing at.'

Magnus, who narrowly missed out on a place in the Scottish under-18 squad will be playing at his favoured number eight position on Sunday.

And at 6' 4" and almost 16 stone in weight, the youngster will be more than a match for his English counterparts.

'I'm expecting the English team to be bigger and they will use their bulk to their advantage but if we do the basics well and do what we've been taught, we can win it.'

Magnus' younger brother, Fergus, captained Argyll under-16s in their West Bowl defeat to Hamilton at the weekend.



The players who took part in the inaugural Oban Hockey 6s Tournament.

Hockey tournament a big success

A FUN six-a-side indoor tournament to promote hockey in the Oban area was well attended at Atlantis Leisure - and it was the hosts that won the overall prize.

The Atlantis Leisure team finished ahead of both Oban Hockey Club teams, Oban High School, Oban Lorne Rugby Club and SAMS in the mixed tournament.

Organiser Tara Pollock thanked

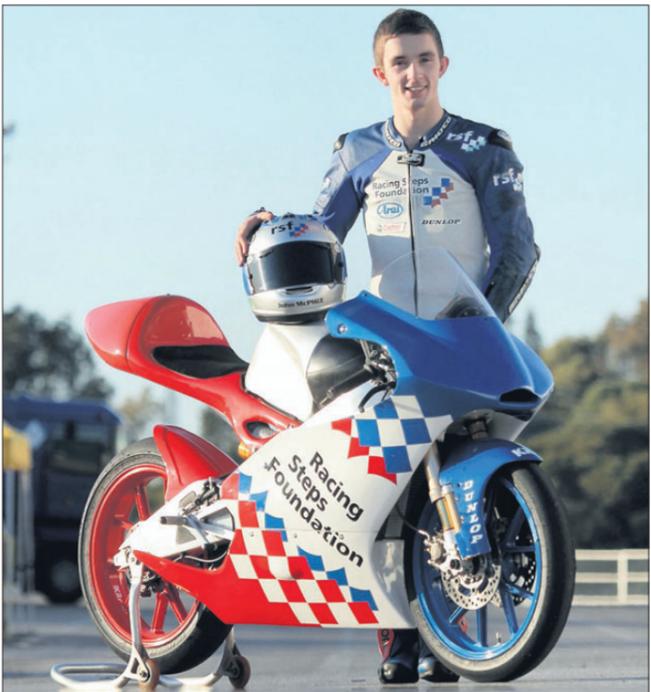
club coach Derek Pretswell for refereeing the matches and said she hoped to make the tournament an annual event.

Oban Hockey Club train on Thursday nights between 6-7pm at Oban High School and is keen to attract new members, male or female.

Oban Hockey 6s Tournament Awards: Winning Team - Atlantis Leisure Staff; Wooden

HOCKEY

Spoon - SAMS; Best Female Player - Denise Gemmel; Best Male Player - Kevin Keen; Best Fancy Dress - SAMS team; Best Goal - Mairi Livingstone, Murray Hamilton and Donna Smith; Best Fall - Larni Wright; Best Tackler - Euan Paterson.



John pictured with his Moto3 Honda at the test circuit in Jerez.

John MacPhee - racing to success

CONNEL road racer John MacPhee has given his all-new Moto3 Honda a cautious thumbs up after completing a successful test drive at Jerez this week.

The 17 year old, part of a three-man Racing Steps Foundation squad, took part in a preliminary two-day test three weeks before the start of the inaugural CEV Buckler Moto3 Championship at the end of this month and was the quickest of the three racers in the team.

The KRP-run team - comprising John and Englishmen Fraser Rogers and Wayne Ryan - completed just short of 2,000 kilometres on the KRP-designed and built 250cc four-strokes as they evaluated a series of basic configurations.

MOTOR CYCLING

All three riders clocked laps close to their 125GP personal best times from last season after blowing away the cobwebs following their three-month winter lay off.

John said: 'It's looking like we're reasonably competitive as we were running well against the competition throughout the test,' he said.

'So, while we've still got a lot of work to do to get the most from the bike, the consensus is we're starting from a reasonably good place.'

The riders' CEV Buckler Moto3 campaign gets underway with the season opener at Jerez on April 1.

President issues a call to arms

OBAN Lorne president Dee Bradbury has issued a call to arms to the first team squad to keep the club in the RBS West Division Two.

The men in green have their final home fixture of the season this Saturday when they host Wigtownshire at Glencruitten at 3pm in a match that will be pivotal in deciding whether the team survives relegation from the division.

The team has struggled to field 15 players on a couple of occasions this season because of

a lengthy injury list and suspensions.

Dee Bradbury said: 'It is absolutely essential that we step up to the mark for this match.'

'We have been struggling for numbers recently due to injury and other commitments but I appeal to players who have not made themselves available recently to come and play for Oban Lorne with pride and commitment.'

'We want to field a first class side this Saturday, secure a good win and finish the season on a

RUGBY

secure position in the league.'

In order to maximise support for the team for this crucial match, a cordial invite has been extended to the club sponsors to participate in a post match dinner with the players.

Tomorrow (Friday) the club will host a fundraising Race Night in the clubhouse, hosted by Sandy Rokitta. All players (youth to 1st XV), families and friends are invited to attend.

Islay Rugby Club prepare for the new season

RUGBY

ISLAY RFC are ready and looking forward to the start of the 2012 rugby season, after playing the William Brandy Memorial Game in December 2011.

The playing season commenced on March 17 by welcoming the Islay RSPB team for a game, followed by the veterans' team travelling to the Melrose Vets Tournament before their well-known 7s tournament on April 13 and 14. Dumfries RFC will visit the island at the end of April. The White Hart Hotel is now the 'clubhouse', and games will be played on the Port Ellen pitch as well as in Bowmore.

Islay Beach Rugby will be held this year on June 9 at the White Hart beach.

Islay RFC have also been invited to take part in the first Colonsay 15-a-side competition on June 28, see www.colonsayrugbyfestival.com Uddingston RFC will play in Islay on August 18, and discussions with other teams are in hand to fill blank weeks in this year's season.

The Islay team membership is open, so if you are interested in playing rugby, contact Kenny Carter on 01496 302353 or 07733257985

Saints youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Renton Craigandro v Under 13s postponed. Under 14s no game; Milngavie v Under 15s postponed. Lenzie Youth Club 5, Under 16s 2. Netting for Saints were Ryan MacDougall and Aidan Campbell.

This weekend's fixtures: Antonine v Under 13s; Under 14s v FC Thistle; EDFC United v Under 15s; Under 16s no game.

SFA coaching courses

COACHING

ARGYLL and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae is hoping to run two SFA coaching courses within the next couple of months and is looking for names and possible dates.

The Level 1 Club Coach Certificate is the first course on the adult coaching pathway and Martin recommends that youth coaches should get this certificate as the SFA coaching pathway will be changing next year.

The second course Martin hopes to run is a Level 2 Goalkeeping course.

For further details contact Martin on 01631 572194 or e-mail him at martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Ross wins Foreland Trophy at Islay GC

GOLF

FORELAND trophy result: 1 Ross MacMillan, 71 less 5 net 66; 2 Arthur Holyoake, 74 less 6 net 69; 3 Angus MacAllister, 91 less 21 net 70. C.Ss 71



Craig Rutherford and co-driver Martin Maccabe celebrate their trophy wins in Jedburgh. t12craig1no

Disappointing defeat for young Argyll rugby players

West U16 Bowl third round Hamilton U16s 36 Argyll U16s 17

ARGYLL U16s ended their 2011/2012 season on a disappointing note after losing out in the third round of the West Bowl competition at Hamilton.

The Argyll team, made of players from Oban Lorne, Isle of Mull and Mid Argyll had been out of competitive action for some time due to the persistent refusal of teams to make the trip to Oban for fixtures.

Despite this the team travelled almost at full strength and in confident mood.

Argyll made a fairly good start to the game and found them-

selves camped in the Hamilton 22.

The home side, however, came into possession of the ball and scored from their own half with some impressive running and passing from their backline.

Quick Tries

The Argyll boys didn't let this dampen their spirits and hit back to equal the scores with a try from captain Fergus Bradbury. After a short period of scrappy play from both sides, Hamilton scored two quick tries to lead 19-5 at the end of the first half.

Three more scores followed in the second half for the hosts with Argyll replying with a further score from Bradbury and also

YOUTH RUGBY

from prop Daniel Broderick. Despite the scoreline the Argyll boys performed very well on the day considering that the majority of the team are still U15, meaning the region will have a strong side for next season.

Standout players included Daniel Broderick from Mid Argyll, Jim Ratcliffe from Mull, who dominated the lineout, and Oban's Robert Dempster, who didn't miss a tackle throughout.

Argyll would like to thank Hamilton for hosting the game and wish them well throughout the rest of the competition.



Argyll Under 16s pictured after the game with Hamilton.

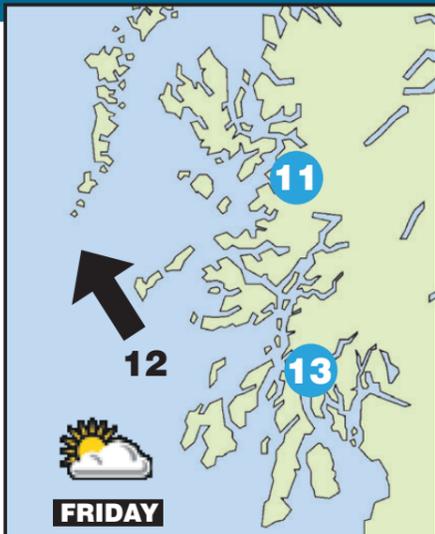
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate south, south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 11°C

Friday Sunny
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate, south, south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 22, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.33	3.9 11.56 0.8 17.46 3.8	** ** *
Fri 00.14	0.7 06.04 4.0 12.28 0.8	18.14 3.9
Sat 00.47	0.8 06.35 4.0 12.59 0.8	18.42 3.9
Sun 01.17	0.9 07.05 3.9 13.30 0.9	19.10 3.9
Mon 01.46	1.1 07.34 3.8 14.01 1.1	19.38 3.8
Tues 02.14	1.3 08.03 3.6 14.32 1.3	20.08 3.6
Wed 02.40	1.5 08.32 3.3 15.05 1.5	20.41 3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardnishraig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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Clocks go forward

REMEMBER your clocks 'spring forward' one hour for the start of British Summer Time on Sunday March 25 at 01:00 GMT (02:00 BST).

Stornoway ferry fare protest

FERRY fare campaigners the Outer Hebrides Transport Group (OHTG) are to stage a protest rally in Stornoway town centre on Saturday at 1pm.

The event will include a cavalcade of vans, cars and lorries and a rally with speeches from OHTG members.

The group wants the Scottish Government to postpone the removal of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) subsidy from lorry fares from March 31. The government has set up a £2.5million transitional relief fund to limit fare increases to 50 per cent. RET pegs ferry fares to equivalent transport costs by road.

High school pupils graduate from boxing academy

TWENTY Kinlochleven High School pupils graduated from Nether Lochaber 'Claymores' boxing academy on Monday night.

Craig McAvoy of Amateur Boxing Scotland led the ceremony, which featured routines learned in nine weeks of training in non-contact boxing at the club's base on Kinlochleven Business Park.

Only 10 clubs currently participate in the scheme across the country and the event was the first of its kind in Scotland. Cash Back for Communities sponsors the initiative.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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



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Music festival hits the high notes

Talented young musicians Francesca Rose, left, and Corran Wineberg were among the winners at Lochaber Music Festival, which concludes with a Grand Festival Concert in Kilmallie Hall tonight. The five days of competition saw some exceptional performances and entries well up on last year. See full report and photo coverage, page 4. 20_f12music12

Lochaber schoolgirl to carry Olympic flame

A LOCHABER schoolgirl has been announced as one of the 8,000 torchbearers carrying the Olympic flame on its journey round the British Isles in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in June.

Lorna Linfield, from Muirshearlach, Banavie, will run with the torch around 300 metres along the A82 near Fort William on June 9 as the flame heads to Inverness.

Lochaber High pupil Lorna, 12, is believed to have been nominated by someone at the school.

She helps with the Mary's Meals charity, which supports schoolchildren in developing countries, and is a member of a traditional Gaelic music group.

The school is currently running several Olympics-themed activities and will have an Olympics-style sports day in June.

Depute head teacher Paul Reynolds said: 'We are really proud Lorna will be part of the Olympic torch-bearing team.'

The torch will stop at Glencoe, Ballachulish, Fort William, Spean Bridge, Fort Augustus,

Invermoriston and Drumadrochit on Saturday June 9.

Stornoway will welcome the torch on June 11, starting with a relay at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's offices on Sandwick Road at 6.30am.

The Olympic flame will travel through the town to Lewis Castle College, before being taken to Stornoway Airport.

Comhairle convener Alex MacDonald hoped local people would get involved by 'lining the streets of Stornoway'.

Thieves target Glencoe House

THIEVES have targeted a former Lochaber hospital undergoing work to transform it into holiday accommodation.

Valuable household goods, builders' tools, plumbing materials and alcohol were taken sometime between 5pm on Sunday March 11 and 8am the following day from Glencoe House. The missing valuables had significant sentimental value to the owner. Anyone with information is urged to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361.

Deer shooting rule change welcomed

UNREGULATED shooting of pregnant female deer out of season is to be banned, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) announced this week.

From April 1, landowners must obtain special authorisation to shoot in-calf red and roe deer on their ground.

Until now, bodies such as Forestry Commission Scotland, conservation groups and farmers could shoot any deer 365 days a year - including females either

pregnant or with young calves - if they were thought to be damaging crops or woodland.

But changes to the Deer Act, which cover close seasons and owner-occupier rights, mean any deer culled out of season can now be shot only under authorisation from SNH.

Robbie Kernahan, SNH head of wildlife operations, said the rule changes followed protracted negotiations with all interested parties and were designed with

animal welfare in mind. He told *The Oban Times*: 'This allows us to put in place positive controls about how deer are shot in the close season and specifically prevents the shooting of female deer in the close season. The changes allow us to better regulate what goes on in the close season through better governance.'

Mr Kernahan reassured owners and occupiers they would not need authority from SNH every time they wanted to cull deer to protect their interests. A general licence running from April 1 to March 31 would still permit deer culls to prevent damage to farmland or enclosed woodland, he said.

However, those wishing to cull hinds between April 1 and a still to be confirmed date in early autumn must now apply to SNH for a specific licence.

The changes will also allow SNH to authorise night shooting in the interests of public safety - for example, where there is an increased risk of deer-vehicle collisions.

Over the harsh winter of 2009-10, *The Oban Times* reported wholesale close season cullings of red deer seeking shelter in woodland. Lochaber stalkers warned their jobs would be at stake if the killings continued.

John Cameron, stalker at Kingie Estate near Invergarry, welcomed the new regulations.

He said: 'It's good for deer welfare. By April the hinds are quite heavily in calf and anybody with respect for deer would not shoot them in that condition. Killing them after the calf is born is even worse, because it will just die without its mother.'

The shooting season for red deer hinds runs from October 21 to February 15, and from July 1 to October 20 for stags.

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Lights out for WWF's Earth Hour

HIGHLAND Council will switch off lights for 60 minutes at 8.30pm on Saturday March 31 as part of WWF's Earth Hour 2012 to highlight the threat posed by climate change.

Floodlighting at key landmarks including Urquhart Castle and Eilean Donan Castle will be switched off. The council hopes the blackout will make people think about the energy they use, where it comes from and its impact on the environment.

Pupils pound out a mile

HUNDREDS of S1-S3 Lochaber High School pupils will take part in the Sport Relief Mile tomorrow (Friday).

The children will follow a route around Camaghael and return to the school hall via the Blar road. Each pupil in the walk will pay a £1 donation towards the charity.

Jessie celebrates 100th birthday

KINLOCHLEVEN woman Jessie MacRae marked her 100th birthday with friends and family in her home on Saturday.

Originally from Perthshire, Jessie moved to the Lochaber village with her husband Donald, known as 'Dopey', in 1945.

Jessie celebrated the special milestone with her extended family and her niece Elizabeth told *The Oban Times* of her auntie's formula for a long, happy life.

She said: 'She doesn't smoke, she doesn't drink - she's very clean living. And she's a very determined lady which could have something to do with it.'

Bren Gormley delivered flowers on behalf of Highland Council, while Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire Iain Thornber delivered a congratulatory card from Queen Elizabeth.

Landmark Forest Adventure Park

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False claim car had been stolen

A FORT William man told police his car had been stolen – then after he sobered up remembered he had left it a friend's house the day before. Fort William Sheriff Court heard police officers spent eight hours investigating Alexander Brown's claims – until he phoned the next morning to say he had parked it in Caol and left the keys with a friend.

Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan said Brown was 'intoxicated' when he reported the supposed theft.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey ordered the 40-year-old to be of good behaviour for one year.

Brown, of 3 The Malt Barn, Old Glenloch Distillery, pled guilty to falsely telling police officers his car had been stolen on July 26.

Pair deny breaking into minibus

TWO LOCHABER men have denied breaking into a minibus in Corpach on New Year's Day with intent to steal.

Liam Johnstone, aged 21, of Aon Sealladh Na Beinne, Camaghael, and Kevin Sabiu, aged 17, of Harland, Glen Nevis, both pled not guilty to breaking into the minibus on Hillview Drive.

The pair are due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on May 24.

Man accused of car fire threat

A FORT William man has denied threatening to set fire to a police officer's car during a phone call to Inverness Prison. Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Antonio Sabiu pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by telling a woman at the jail he was going to burn the officer's car. The charge also alleges he made threats of violence towards the constable in the presence of other officers.

Sabiu, of The Willows, Achintore Road, was on licence after being released from prison two weeks previously after serving three years for supplying class B drugs, the court heard.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey ordered the 54-year-old be kept in police custody until the trial on March 29, calling the charge 'a serious offence'.

History in the making at crofting elections

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

IT WAS history in the making on Friday as crofter candidates gathered at the Town House in Inverness hoping to become the first ever elected representatives on the new Crofting Commission.

Five commissioners' places were up for grabs – Shetland, East Highlands, Western Isles, West Highlands and South West Highlands. Arnie Pirie had already been elected unopposed for Orkney and Caithness.

The electronic count of thousands of postal votes went smoothly, taking just over two hours to complete.

The occasion was not without surprises as crofters confirmed their legendary disregard for rank or reputation.

Both Highland Council convener Michael Foxley and TEC services chairman John Laing failed to be elected, beaten by Coll's Colin Kennedy and Ian George MacDonald from Braes, Isle of Skye, respectively.

Another shock came in the East Highlands, where Nethy Bridge crofter Marina Dennis, a Crofters Commission representative for 10 years, lost out to veteran Kinraig crofter Donnie Ross.

Brought up in Roy Bridge, Ms Dennis failed by just seven votes. Her father John MacDonnell was grocery manager with the Co-op in Fort William and grandfather Alan crofted at Inverroy.

Returning officer and Highland



Ian George MacDonald: hand of history on his shoulder

Council chief executive Alistair Dodds declared Shetland first, with Kathleen Ann Sinclair of Scousburgh elected.

Mr Ross won East Highlands, before Murdo MacLennan took the Western Isles, defeating Roderick MacDonald 941 to 609 in the fifth count.

The alternative vote election saw candidates with fewest votes after each round drop out, with his or her votes redistributed to the next preferred candidate until a clear winner emerged.

Mr MacLennan, who currently sits on the Crofters Commission, told *The Oban Times* after the declaration: 'I am honoured to be elected to represent the crofters of the Western Isles.

In this new scenario I hope to continue my work within the new commission in taking aspects of crofting development forward to the Scottish Government.'

From nine candidates standing in the West Highlands, Ian MacDonald, Sandy Murray from Strath Halladale in northwest Sutherland and Mr Laing were in contention with 354, 205 and 215 votes respectively after the opening round. Mr Murray overtook Mr Laing to become sole remaining challenger, but Mr MacDonald won strongly by 641 votes to 366. The victor, absent from the count because he was involved in events marking the history of crofting on Skye, put his success down

to campaign strategy. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I thought that the vote would be split among the candidates because it is such a huge area. My campaign acknowledged that while people might vote for their local candidate, I would be happy for them to put me down in second.'

Mr MacDonald, 61, who retired as deputy head teacher at Portree High School in 2006, said a priority would be using the Crofting Reform Act to get absentees back on their crofts.

'We need to promote population retention – that's the most important thing,' he said. 'There will need to be genuine jobs for folk in rural communities – you can't rely on crofting alone.'

"We need to promote population retention – that's the most important thing."

Ian George MacDonald.



Election officials scrutinise votes set aside by the computerised system for checking.



Harris and Lewis crofter Murdo MacLennan shows his feelings as he is elected as Western Isles commissioner.



Colin Kennedy and wife Karen show their delight as the result is declared. Mr Kennedy will represent the South West Highlands on the Crofting Commission.



Returning officer and Highland Council chief executive Alastair Dodds announces the West Highlands result.

Newsdesk
01397
703003



From left, Crofting Commission candidates Michael Foxley, Sandy Murray from Strath Halladale in Sutherland and East Highlands hopeful Marina Dennis, right, in pensive mood as the count continues. Mr Murray's wife Debbie, second right, also keeps a close eye on proceedings.

Angling club AGM and prizegiving

KINLOCHLEVEN Angling Club handed out the prizes for the season at its annual general meeting in the Highland Getaway on Friday night, with Stuart Symmers winning the overall championship.

First fly award also went to Mr Symmers, while Gary Gardner picked up the trophy for second fly.

Mr Gardner and Alan Blair won the pairs trophy and Sandy Wilson was given the open award.

Mary Robertson handed out the trophies and was given a bouquet of flowers by the club.

Leaving present

The AGM followed the prizegiving, where secretary Trevor Bodenham stepped down. He was given a card and a new angling jacket as a leaving present by the committee.

Club treasurer Gary Gardner said: 'I want to say thanks to Trevor for all his hard work over the years.'



From left: Mary Robertson, Gary Gardner, Stuart Symmers and Trevor Bodenham.

South Uist hosts major conference on climate change impact on coasts

SOUTH Uist will next weekend host an international major conference examining how climate change could impact and threaten remote European islands and coasts.

Entitled 'The Sea as Our Neighbour: Adapting to Climate Change by Coastal Communities and Habitats on Europe's Northern Periphery', the event follows three years of work involving coastal communities in southern Iceland, northern Norway, western Ireland and the Outer Hebrides.

Project leaders CoastAdapt says the conference will give local people, the comhairle and

national government an understanding of what actions can be taken in the face of rising sea levels.

South Uist's Atlantic seaboard is particularly vulnerable and has suffered severe erosion to its machair dunes in recent years.

The conference, in Southend Community Hall, Daliburgh, will be held over March 27 and 28. The comhairle is the lead partner in the CoastAdapt project, which is part funded by the EU Northern Periphery Programme and in the Outer Hebrides by the Scottish Government.

Organisers set Gallop and Grind date

ORGANISERS of one of Lochaber's biggest charity fundraisers have set the date for this year's event.

And the 2012 Gallop and Grind on Saturday September 29 promises to be bigger and better than ever. All entrance fees and money raised go directly to the event's charity, The Sharon Fraser Memorial Trust Fund, Cancer Care in the Highlands.

Money raised at last year's run and cycle from Lochaber Leisure Centre is already making a difference to families affected by cancer, trustee Karen MacInnes said.

'This year £5,000 from the Gallop and Grind event has been donated to the Inverness branch of CLIC Sargeant, a charity that provides support to children and young peo-

ple who have cancer,' she said. 'The funds donated will be specifically used to provide a much-needed holiday for five families, living in the Highlands, to CLIC Sargeant's holiday house in Prestwick.

In addition, £4,070 was donated to the Maggie's Centre at Raigmore to fund one year of nutrition and tai chi workshops, which will greatly improve the quality of life for patients with cancer.'

She added: 'The Gallop and Grind committee would like to express our sincere thanks to all sponsors, participants and volunteers who have contributed so much to the success of previous events.'

Anyone wishing to support the charity can register at www.gallopandgrind.co.uk.

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FW



Primary pupil Wallace Dempster of Lady Lovat took first place in the bagpipe solo novice competition. 20_f12music01

High standards at music festival



Lochside RC Primary's Martin MacKinnon finished first out of 17 competitors in the chanter solo 12 and under. 20_f12music02



Liam Stewart-Stevenson's performance of John MacColl's March, 'Captain Colin Campbell' and 'The High Drive' gave him first place in the accordion solo intermediate. 20_f12music03

LOCHABER Music Festival rounds off with its Grand Festival Concert in Kilmallie Hall tonight (Thursday) at 7pm, after five days of high standard competitions.

The concert will feature a varied selection of the best performances from the whole week, along with the presentation of trophies.

The popular event, the 38th since it began in 1975, saw hundreds of local participants singing, playing, reciting or dancing in 142 different classes in venues in and around Fort William.

Friday's piping and chanter competitions were followed on Saturday by piping, fiddle, accordion, clarsach and Scots piano, culminating in the Premier Traditional Instrumental Award competition in Lochaber High School.

In a compelling play-off against Helena Rose, clarsach, Hannah MacRae, fiddle and Liam Stewart-Stevenson, 14-year-old piper Sandy Cameron from Roy Bridge earned the adjudicators' verdict courtesy of some virtuoso playing. Sandy had already scored two exceptionally high marks of 96 to win two piping trophies, with younger brother Finlay also winning a cup. Sandy's dad Kenny said of his success: 'He's chuffed to bits.'

Monday's speech classes (poetry), strings and singing, were followed by an evening of string playing and singing at Lochside RC Primary School.

Tuesday's singing, brass instrumental and piano classes preceded Scottish country dancing in Kilmallie Hall and the Young Musician of the Year and the premiere Vocal and Instrumental Award competitions at Lochside.

Yesterday, a programme of

choirs, action drama, group music making and woodwind classes brought the competitions to a close.

Festival chairperson Lillian MacDonald was 'delighted' to have so many young people taking part again this year, with entries 'well up' on 2011.

Trophy winners from Friday and Saturday:

Elizabeth Findlay Memorial Trophy for Scots Violin Solo (Age 17 & Under) - Hannah MacRae; Lydia Jackson Trophy for Clarsach Solo - Helena Rose; Lochaber Cup for Chanter (Age 10 & Under) - Alistair MacRae; William MacLeod Trophy for Chanter Solo (11 & Over) - Martin MacKinnon; Kenny Nicholson Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Novice) - Wallace Dempster; David MacGregor Cup for Bagpipe Solo (Intermediate) - Finlay Cameron; Archie Kennedy Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Age 14 & Under) - Laura Paterson; Alexander MacDonald Cup for Bagpipe Solo (Age 15 & 16) - Sandy Cameron; James Grace Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Age 17 & 18) - Leah Philip; Evan MacRae Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd - 1st Year) - Finlay Cameron; Lochaber Piping Society Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd - 2nd Year) - Rebecca Shearer; David MacGregor Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd - 3rd Year) - Ewen MacQueen; John MacCallum Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd - 4th Year) - Sandy Cameron; Lochaber Pipe Band Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Open) - Sandy Cameron; Alec MacDonald Memorial Trophy for Bagpipe Quartet (18 & Under) - Lochaber Pipers.

For more results see www.obantimes.co.uk.



Above: Piper Sandy Cameron was awarded the top prize in the festival, the Premier Scots Traditional Award. 20_f12music08

Left: The top performers at the festival - Liam Stewart-Stevenson, Sandy Cameron, Helena Rose and Hannah MacRae. 20_f12music09



The foursome of Sandy Cameron, Finlay Cameron, Connor McCallum and Laura Paterson took the top prize in the bagpipe quartet competition. 20_f12music04



Eoghan MacArthur's rendition of 'Loch Lomond' and 'I see Mull' won him a commendation from adjudicator Gillian Fleetwood. 20_f12music05



Helena Rose of Roy Bridge was chosen to take part in the Premier Scots Traditional Award. 20_f12music06



Hannah MacRae won first place in the violin solo advanced category. 20_f12music07

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Caught with cocaine twice

A FORT William teenager who was twice caught with cocaine in the town has been ordered to be of good behaviour for the next nine months.

Allan MacMaster, of Kamas, Lower Banavie, admitted possessing the class A drug on Belford Road on November 4 and on Ardour Road on December 18. The cocaine had a total street value of £108, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the 19-year-old was unlikely to re-offend as he had recently started a job with a building firm where he undergoes regular drug checks.

Honorary life membership

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

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

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

Man accused of causing accident

A MAN accused of causing an accident on a Lochaber road through careless driving is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on May 8.

Jason MacLean, of 2 Templeview, Croyard Road, Beauly, pled not guilty to driving without due care and attention on the A830 at Callop railway bridge on November 26.

The 36-year-old is accused of driving at excessive speed, crossing the road and colliding with another car, injuring the driver and a passenger.

Trial date set

A FORT William man accused of threatening a man at Morrisons supermarket is due to stand trial at the town's Sheriff Court on May 24.

Stuart Crichton, aged 42, of 26 Grange Road denies behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on September 28.

Good behaviour reaps reward in court

A FORMER Banavie man who threatened two women in his house has been admonished.

Andrew Ross, of 124 Willowbank, Wick, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by threatening violence on the two women at Alisary, Tomonie, on May 19.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Ross, aged 48, had been of good behaviour for the past nine months.

Teenager narrowly avoids jail term

A FORT William teenager has narrowly avoided a prison sentence after admitting a series of offences in the town.

Dennis Liversedge, who only moved to Lochaber from Leeds last September, stole a sandwich and a bottle of cider from Tesco's High Street shop on February 2, challenged people to fight and swore at employees.

Three days later he refused to leave the Crofter Bar at closing time after being asked to do so by a police officer, shouted and swore at police, kicked a wheelie bin and threatened to spit at an officer. Still on bail, he then stole a box of lager from Grange Stores on February 25.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey considered jailing Liversedge, who appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody.

But he released the unemployed 19-year-old on bail on condition he does not touch alcohol for a year.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said Liversedge was already on the Lochaber pubwatch list banning him from entering licensed premises in the area.

Sheriff Bovey said: 'I am prepared to deal with this in a non-custodial manner to give you a chance to behave. Maybe I'm just wasting everybody's time with this, but that's up to you.'

He added: 'Good luck. You'll need it.'

Liversedge, of 33 High Street, was ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work in the community, attend alcohol treatment counselling and be of good behaviour for one year.

Trio deny stealing gas cylinders

THREE Fort William men have denied stealing two gas cylinders from the Underwater Centre.

David O'Hara, aged 18, and Desmond McGowan, aged 21, both of 16 Kennedy Road, and Donald Stewart, aged 20, of 7 Telford Place, Claggan, are accused of breaking into the centre at An Aird on November 5. Nine witnesses are due to give evidence at the trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on April 10.

Remarkable achievement by trainee deerstalker

A TRAINEE deerstalker from Lochaber has won a prestigious national training award.

Grant Symmers, an understalker on Ardnamurchan Estate, was voted Lantra Awards Scotland game and wildlife learner of the year at an awards ceremony at Crieff Hydro.

For former Kinlochleven High School pupil Grant, aged 19, it was second time lucky after being runner-up for the award two years ago.

He is currently completing a National Certificate course for gamekeeping at Thurso College.

Grant's dad Stuart, a Kinlochleven-based tree surgeon, said his son's achievement was remarkable in that a serious road accident last year kept him off work and away from college for seven months. 'Grant stuck in himself and did an awful lot of his own homework,' said Mr Symmers. 'The awards are very prestigious



Grant Symmers: Lantra Awards Scotland game and wildlife learner of the year.

and could really set up him up for the rest of his career.' Lantra specialises in qualifications and training for people in the land-based and environmental sectors.



Mallaig Primary School pupil Stefan Buchan with his 'Oscar' after the premiere. Photograph Jim Manthorpe.

School rolls out red carpet for film premiere

MALLAIG Primary School pupils rolled out the red carpet at the premiere of their short film, 'Mallaig in its Own Way' in the port's Fishermen's Mission.

The English medium P4-7 class composed, edited and produced the four-minute clip, which has the history of Mallaig as its theme - fishing, tourism and trains in particular.

Sam Firth of Knoydart-based Tiny Spark Productions acted as adviser throughout the eight-week project.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'The kids did most of the presentation on the night. They showed some of the test films, how they made the film and, of course, the main film itself.'

'We had lots of folk from Mallaig, which was great. We started off with 60 people, but had to get more chairs in twice and ended up with 100.'

'All the children got an 'Oscar', which teacher Fiona MacKellaig had organised for them. She put a lot of work into the premiere.'

She added: 'The children have worked very hard on the film and we are very pleased with the result.'

The event raised £132 for the mission. The film can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/38503367>. The making of the film is at <https://vimeo.com/38503368>.

The project was funded with Lottery money and from the British Film Institute's First Light Movie scheme.

Caol man left restaurant without paying

A CAOL man has been fined £320 after leaving a Fort William restaurant without paying a £46.20 bill.

Stuart Lawrie, of 22 Glenpane Street, was also ordered to pay £50 to the Spice Tandoori restaurant.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 21-year-old chef had been drinking with friends before going to eat out on February 1. After realising he had no cash on him, Lawrie attempted to leave and when approached by a member of staff outside refused to go back inside and pay the bill.

Man assaulted brother during row

A CAOL man who drunkenly punched his brother in his house during a row has been ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work and attend alcohol counselling.

Martin Lawrie pled guilty to assaulting Robert Lawrie at 20 Carn Dearg Road, Claggan, by punching him on the face and struggling with him on September 16.

Lawrie, of 22 Glenpane Street, also admitted resisting two police officers by struggling violently with them. Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Sentencing the 22-year-old, Sheriff Mungo Bovey said:

'There is a repeated pattern of drunken rage on your part. You need to consider where your future lies in respect of alcohol.'

Charged with hitting police officer

A MAN will stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on April 10 accused of punching a police officer on the face in a Fort William house.

Ian Stewart, 53, of 1 Brown Court, Fort William, also denies behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by swinging a bottle of vodka round his head and kicking furniture at 7 Young Place on January 26.

Man accused of sending threatening text messages

A MAN accused of sending threatening texts to three people in the Fort William area is due to stand trial in the town Sheriff Court on April 10.

Andrew Brotherton, aged 34, of 1 Lyndsay Avenue, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, denies

sending messages which were grossly offensive, or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character between October 6 and November 5 from 5 Glenroy Street, Caol, and from 31 Polmona, Claggan, on November 22.

Spean man who punched brother fined £400

A SPEAN Bridge man who punched his brother on the head to his injury and gave a false name, date of birth and address to police afterwards has been fined £400 and ordered to be of good behaviour for one year.

John McPhee, of plot seven, Spean Bridge travellers site, pled guilty to assaulting his brother on Heaste Road, near Broadford, Skye, on September 3. The 30-year-old also admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice by giving false details to police officers at Heaste Campsite, Broadford, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Ranger Michelle makes her mark

A LOCHABER woman was one of only three countryside rangers in Scotland to receive a new national award last week.

Michelle Melville received the Scottish Ranger Award from environment minister Stewart

Stevenson at the Countryside Rangers Forum at SNH HQ at Battleby, Perth.

Ms Melville, Highland Council's ranger for South Lochaber, is based in Glen Nevis near Fort William.

Skye house in running for top design award

A HOUSE by Skye architects Dualchas Building Design has been shortlisted for the prestigious Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) Awards.

The two-bedroom house in Borerraig near Dunvegan, is one of 23 up for honours at the awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel, Glasgow, on June 20.

The longhouse-type dwelling features a larch exterior enclosed by a stone wall, interior of oak walls and a Caithness stone floor.

Dualchas partner Neil Stephen said: 'Other nominations include the refurbishment of the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and the Maggie's Centre at Gartnavel Hospital in Glasgow, so it is a great accolade to be shortlisted alongside these outstanding projects.'

He added: 'Skye is definitely on the map when it comes to modern architecture - but it is a modern architecture that respects our beautiful landscapes.'

Fort William newsdesk:
01397 703003

On-line Fairtrade directory published

HIGHLAND Council has published an on-line Fairtrade directory to provide information on all Fairtrade activity throughout the region.

The directory, the first of its kind in Scotland, comes as council backs moves for the Highlands to become a Fairtrade zone.

A spokesperson said: 'The council is grateful for the responses that it has received so far and looks forward to adding more businesses and organisations to this register in the future.'

More at www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/sustainabledevelopment/fairtrade.

Call for equal broadband coverage

LARGE tracts of the Highlands and Islands could miss out under plans to extend broadband coverage, it is being claimed.

The Westminster government, which is responsible for telecommunications policy, has pledged to deliver broadband to 98 per cent of the UK population.

But Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson fears much of the remaining two per cent will be in the Highlands.

He warned the successful bidder to extend broadband could provide England with universal

coverage, leave much of remote Scotland unconnected - and still meet the 98 per cent contract requirement.

Mr Thompson wants the Scottish Government to press Westminster to apply the 98 per cent target equally across each nation in the UK.

In a letter to Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment, Mr Thompson said: 'The 4G mobile phone network is likely to be one of the most economical ways of achieving broadband coverage in sparsely populated regions.'

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Islay woman found dead after Bruichladdich fire

AN ELDERLY woman was found dead after a fire in her house on the Isle of Islay last Thursday.

A neighbour found 81-year old Morag MacEachern in her house Glenfield on the outskirts of Bruichladdich on Thursday morning.

Her dog was also found to have died.

The neighbour went to check on Ms MacEachern after seeing the living room window blacked out with smoke. The fire had put itself out by the time Ms MacEachern was found.

Strathclyde Police said there was 'fairly extensive damage' to the inside of the house, but added that there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Nominations for council called for

THE NOMINATION period for local government elections on May 3, 2012 is now open, with anyone interested in standing for election advised to request a nomination pack or contact the council's election office as soon as possible.

Nomination forms and guidance for prospective candidates are available online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections, at local council customer service points or by calling the election office on 01546 603264. The last date for nominations to be received by the returning officer is 4pm on March 29.

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Ring of fire for Queen's Jubilee

Town plans 'Obang' blaze

A GIANT bonfire is set to illuminate McCaig's Tower for miles around as part of ambitious plans for Oban to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Bid4Oban will collect as much waste wood as possible between now and June 2 for the midnight bonfire in the tower as it aims to create one of Britain's most spectacular tributes to the Queen's reign.

Permission for the unusual event was given by Argyll and Bute Council at a meeting on Tuesday. It is hoped the bonfire will draw interest from across the world.

Likely to be called the Obang Bonfire, it is hoped the company behind last November's spectacularly short show firework display, Pyrol, can return to put on a show to remember.

That, however, is still subject to permissions and availability. The bonfire will be the highlight in a weekend of events organised to mark the Monarch's landmark celebration.

It is thought to be the first time the monument, finished in 1902, has been used for such a purpose.

Graham MacQueen, the man behind the proposal, said: 'There will be a bonfire within McCaig's Tower. It should be re-

ally spectacular with the flames visible through the windows and coming out of the top.

'It's an exciting event for Oban and it really will put the town on the map.'

'Last year, Oban went viral across the internet with the fireworks display and we hope this event could repeat that level of interest.'

Mr MacQueen's own removals business, MacQueen Brothers, will immediately start collecting leftover wood and pallets for the bonfire, while un-sellable furniture from the MacQueen Brother's Charitable Trust will be added to the pile.

The Sea Cadets have volunteered their services to ensure no unauthorised persons enter the tower on the day of the event.

Other celebrations organised for the weekend include a ceilidh organised by Oban's Winter Festival Committee on Friday, June 1, while there will be a special lunch for the town's volunteers at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on the Sunday.

Furthermore, both the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) and the Oban Lions Club have lodged applications to light brazier beacons on the official day of the Diamond Jubilee, Monday, June 4.



Appin Comical Carers, Plus One, above, were putting the finishing touches to their production, the Ginger Horror by Nick Newbold, on Monday night, ahead of this year's North Lorn Drama Festival. The annual event at Appin Village Hall got under way yesterday (Wednesday), and continues tonight ahead of Friday's final.

Blind woman's thief held in custody

POLICE have thanked the public for their assistance minutes after a woman pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday to robbing a blind, 92-year-old Oban woman last week.

Alice McNeil, 56, who appeared from custody after a warrant had been issued for her arrest for missing her court date the previous day, had been apprehended at Tyndrum on the Glasgow-bound train.

Sheriff David Hall deferred sentence on McNeil, calling for criminal justice reports after reading her criminal record which includes robbing a blind woman who was lost in Greenock in 2009. Six months earlier McNeil robbed four elderly women - an 87-year-old from whom she stole £100, an 82-year-old, a 76-year-old and her 67-year-old neighbour.

McNeil have confirmed she does not have any drink or drug problems.

Oban Police thanked the local community for their assistance with the investigation although they would not divulge the methods they utilised in catching McNeil.

McNeil, who could not provide an address to apply for bail, will be remanded in custody until sentencing on April 3.

Dunollie's 1745 House opens door

EXCITEMENT is building at Dunollie ahead of this weekend's official opening of the 1745 House to the public.

It opens just 18 months after the decision was taken to convert the old servant's quarters into a museum. Curator, Catherine Gillies, is busy putting the finishing touches to a building that is as alive with history as any in Scotland.

Opening from 11am this Saturday, visitors will be taken on a trip back to the house's heyday, with a range of artefacts found within the house on display.

While Dunollie is the seat of the Clan of MacDougall, Catherine says the 1745 House,

which remains true to its original layout, is much more than a simple trip through noble history.

She said: 'This isn't about the chiefs of the clan, it's about the normal people.'

'Yes, on one hand it details a lot about the old feudal system but also you can see quite clearly this was a community.'

Catherine paid special tribute to Graham MacQueen for his continued and considerable help in getting the museum open, to the local builders' merchants for providing items at cost and to the team of 30 volunteers in working tirelessly on the project.

No Argyll forest searches to follow Pilley murder trial

NO FURTHER organised searches of Argyll Forest are planned to find the body of murdered Edinburgh book-keeper Suzanne Pilley.

Confirmation from Lothian and Borders Police came after her former partner, David

Gilroy, 49, was convicted of her murder at Edinburgh High Court last Thursday following a lengthy trial.

There had been speculation that another co-ordinated search of the forest would take place after CCTV footage

shown in court tracked Gilroy driving through Crianlarich and Tyndrum on his way to Lochgilphead shortly after Pilley's disappearance on May 4, 2010.

However, a spokesperson for Lothian and Borders Police said: 'Any future searches will

be intelligence led but there are no immediate searches planned of the Argyll Forest area.'

'Should any future searches take place they will be intelligence led as they have always been.'

Acting for the Crown, advo-

cate deputy, Alex Prentice QC described 49-year old Gilroy as 'cold and calculating' as he murdered his former lover and disposed of her body somewhere in Argyll.

Sentence will be passed on April 18.

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Lorn Lines

AFTER another year of hard work, the 15th annual Lorn Drama Festival is set to entertain over three nights, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 28, 29 and 30, at the Corran Halls, Oban.

The usual mix of comedy and drama sees teams representing local drama groups from Appin, Kentallen and Duror, Benderloch, Carradale, Dalmally and Oban.

Curtain up is 7.30pm each night and the Corran Halls bar will be open for refreshments.

For further information about the festival contact martyngibson@phonecoop.coop.



THERE was a full house in the McCaig Room of the Regent Hotel on Monday March 12 when Oban Photographic Club hosted this year's Frank Walton Argyll Trophy.

The competition is competed for by the four Argyll camera clubs and was judged this year by Alan Gawthorpe from Aberdeen.

There were some stunning images put forward and the result was in doubt right up to nearly the end.

Results: 1 Helensburgh; 2 Cowal; 3 Oban and 4 Mid Argyll.

The judge's choice of best picture was one from Neil Ross of Helensburgh depicting a racing motorcyclist appearing to head straight for the camera.

The next meeting of the club is the AGM on Monday March 26 when a good turnout is hoped for.



Not only did pupils at this year's Lorn Mathsfest 2012 solve maths puzzles to win the contest, they had to answer some of the questions in French and Gaelic. The annual competition, held in Oban High School, saw 96 S1 and P7 pupils compete in groups of four throughout the day. The winning teams were: Beth Menzies, Scott Robertson, Mila Bicanovr, Eilidh Black and Jenny McIntyre, Alec Wall, Morven MacFadyen-Donald and Bronwen Davies.



THE EASDALE branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland agreed at the branch meeting on Saturday March 10 to donate £500 each to the following Service charities: Combat Stress, Erskine Hospital, Linburn (War Blinded), Ghurka Pensioners and SSAFA.

This £2,500 is the money raised during 2011 from holding a book sale, the annual summer sale and a raffle.

Branch secretary Jean Alexander said: 'We thank all those in the community who have generously supported us.'

Following the meeting, a minute's silence was held outside the Tigh an Truist Inn, in memory of the six soldiers who died in Afghanistan on Thursday March 8. Piper Jim Robb played *Flowers of the Forest*.



STUDENT chefs served up a treat at a Scrumptious Scotland evening at Argyll College, Oban, last week.

A delicious nine course meal was served to diners in the college's canteen, cunningly transformed to resemble a restaurant.

The would be chefs created the dishes using fresh, locally sourced ingredients including a shellfish plate of lobster, scallop, mussels, crab and langoustine.

There was also roast venison, wild mushroom consommé and Isle of Mull cheddar soufflé among the dishes.



OBAN Hospice is looking for volunteers to help run its shop which opened recently in Craighard Road, Oban.

If you have spare time and would like to help get in touch with hospice volunteers. Donations are also welcome.



Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra is £400 better off following a coffee morning and art exhibition in St John Cathedral Hall. Pictured at the event are volunteers Barbara Topping, Elsie Matheson, artist Lucille Michie and Christine Marlow. 15.111ar01



BODY zorbing and pin the tail on the bunny are just some of the fun activities on offer at an Atlantis Leisure fundraising fun day this Easter.

Organised by students at Argyll College UHI's Working in the Community course, the event takes place on Easter Sunday, April 8, with money raised going towards Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Among the fun activities on offer is an egg hunt from 11.30am-12.30pm, an inflatable pool, face painting and glitter tattoos.

There will be prizes for the best decorated eggs, a raffle and a baking stall.

The event will be held from 11am-2pm.



THOSE looking to spring into action for the local community will have the perfect opportunity to do so at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls next week.

Argyll Voluntary Action's event, next Thursday between 2pm-6.30pm, will host a range of fun activities for all the family, while volunteers and voluntary groups will be on hand to say how you can help them, be that on a one-off basis or regularly.

Current volunteers are also welcome and it is hoped Spring into Action will present an opportunity for ideas to be exchanged.

Everyone is welcome to the event. There will also be refreshments and home baking.

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Dialysis push gains support

A CAMPAIGN led by a Taynuilt woman to have dialysis treatment available in Oban has made its way to Holyrood after her petition received nearly 1,000 signatures.

Cathy Reid began having dialysis treatment in August 2011 and travelled by taxi to Fort William three times a week.

Another Taynuilt resident travelled to Glasgow by taxi for treatment. The travel cost for both patients is estimated to be £63,000 per year.

At a public meeting last Friday morning in Taynuilt Village Hall, which was attended by 65 supporters and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, Mrs Reid made an

impassioned speech in support of her cause.

Taynuilt woman takes campaign and petition for Oban dialysis unit to Holyrood

She said: 'A lady from Oban, who travelled with me, found the journey most uncomfortable as she had a very sore back. She was recently

admitted to Raigmore Hospital and unfortunately has had to have one leg amputated.

'She will now remain in Raigmore Hospital indefinitely because there is no dialysis unit in Oban.

'Another lady, who has lived on the island of Mull for over 30 years, has had to sell her home and move to the mainland to be near a dialysis unit.'

Others at the meeting spoke emotionally about their experiences, including Wilma McIntosh, whose late husband councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, had to travel for dialysis treatment and also campaigned for a unit in Oban. She

said: 'Travelling 600 miles a week to the Vale of Leven and Stobhill really took it out of 'Skye' but he had fought to get dialysis treatment in Oban for years.'

Mr Russell paid tribute to his former SNP colleague, 'Skye' McIntosh, and told the meeting: 'I spoke to Nicola Sturgeon about this yesterday but I wish I had seen the number of people at this meeting before I spoke to her because there are more people here today than at the debate in the Scottish Parliament yesterday.'

'I support this campaign 100 per cent and will push hard to get this change made.'

Computer scam catches users

A SCAM that uses the Metropolitan Police logo to dupe online users into paying out money has already caught out several people across Argyll.

Internet users who have downloaded unauthorised material, such as free music, have had their screens frozen before a pop up message that appears to be from the Metropolitan Police instructs them to pay £50 to have their screen restored.

Police forces do not ask for payment in this manner.

Speeding at Kilninver - again

SPEEDING problems in Kilninver are continuing, despite police intervention over a number of weeks.

A man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal after being clocked driving at 50mph in the 30mph speed limit at 6.40am on March 13.

Elsewhere, the same day, a 42-year-old man was charged after driving through Connel at 56mph in a 30mph limit.

Tire Windfall Fund deadline

APPLICATIONS to the next round of the Tiree Windfall Fund must be submitted by the end of the month.

Forms can be obtained from the rural centre, can be emailed, or can be downloaded from the trust website.

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Mull baby born in air ambulance 'doing just fine'

Euan thought to be first baby born in a helicopter in Scotland

THE NEWEST addition for a Mull family is back at home in Tobermory and 'doing just fine' - with his protective four year old sister keeping a watchful eye.

Little Euan Cameron made national headlines after being born in an air ambulance over Loch Awe on March 10 but now the family is just happy to be back at home and settling into a routine.

Delighted father Iain said: 'This is our third child but our first boy. His oldest sister has been very helpful and has been keeping an eye on Euan.'

A home birth had been planned but because of Euan's size an air ambulance was summoned to take Marion to Paisley. The healthy baby weighed 10lb 5ozs at birth.

Marion said: 'He is the only known baby to be born in a helicopter in Scotland so I think that is why it has turned into quite a big story, but for me it was just giving birth to my son.'

'The important thing for us was getting home the same night and back to the girls. They have both taken to him really well and are proud of him. Euan is settling in and we are trying to find our feet and get into a routine.'

She added: 'It is nice just to be back home, all well that ends well.'

Neighbours have been rallying round the couple who are grateful for all the support they've received from the community and the ambulance service.



Proud parents Marion and Iain are delighted with new arrival Euan.

Oban court case delayed by Sudan's civil war

A MAN arrested in London's Heathrow Airport for failing to appear in Oban Sheriff Court was delayed by Sudanese rebels in the war-torn African state.

On Monday of this week the accused's astonishing explanation for failing to appear earlier this month was accepted by the court.

Ibrahim Ashman was in the dock

on Monday after a warrant had been issued for his arrest after he did not turn up to a court date related to driving offences.

Mr Ashman explained he had been visiting his family after his father was killed in Darfur.

He had travelled to Sudan where he intended to spend only a few days before returning to the UK,

the court heard. Unfortunately for Mr Ashman there is only one primary road to the airport which had deteriorated following rebel fighting and had become impassable during his stay meaning he was unable to safely travel to the Sudanese airport.

When asked why Mr Ashman could not have contacted the court,

his defence agent, Stephen Macleod said: 'My client informs me the communications in the area were being switched on and off by the government in an effort to combat the rebel action.'

Mr Ashman's not guilty plea to the failing to appear charge was accepted by the Procurator Fiscal Depute.

Scottish Ferry Review meeting hears of complaints

A STATEMENT in the Scottish Ferries Review that ferries to the islands of Kerrera, Luing and Easdale were fit for purpose has sparked angry reactions.

The review, which is seeking responses by March 30, was discussed at a meeting in the Corran Halls, Oban, last Friday, at which RET, haulage costs and routes from Oban to the Western Isles caused most debate.

Complaints

But referring to the section of the consultation on Luing, Easdale and Kerrera, Highlands and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie said: 'Whoever carried out that part of the consultation must have had their ears stuffed with cloth.'

'I can tell you council officers have been driven to tears with the number of complaints about the Luing and Easdale ferries.'

Sandy MacTaggart of Argyll and Bute Council, which operates many of the ferries, conceded the Luing ferry in particular, the MV *Belahua*, was 'an aged lady'.

Western Isles councillor Donald Manford, who was also at the meeting, welcomed the review in principle, adding: 'Although it causes acrimony and grief, the Ferries Review is something that has been badly needed for a long, long time and no matter the distress, it is a damn good job we had it.'

Pupils pick litter at 1,000 pieces an hour

MORE than 1,000 items of litter were collected by school pupils during a clean-up of the beach at Oban's Corran Esplanade - in just one hour.

Concentrating on the section between the War Memorial and St Columba's Cathedral, the team of 25 Park Primary School pupils from P5/P6 and five adults collected more than 20kilos of litter as part of their quarterly Marine Conservation Society (MCS) clean.

Operating under the Adopt a Beach scheme, the pupils gathered 590 pieces of glass, 95 pieces of polystyrene, 44 pieces of plastic, 39 sweet/ crisp wrappers, 38 glass bottles, 35 cigarette stubs and 29 plastic containers.

Items such as a plaster, aerosol cans, nappies, corks, an unbroken lightbulb and car parts took the total collection to 1,145 items.

The school's deputy head teacher, Irene Bissett, said: 'I was quite surprised by the quantity but it's not the first time we've picked up that amount of glass. We do this four times a year but people should be aware bottles thrown into the sea come back and break up on the rocks.'

'There's a lot of dog walkers and children who use that stretch of beach.'

The clean-up was carried out in conjunction with the GRAB Trust.

Cruachan's injured climber is back on the hill

CHARLIE Ramsay, who broke three ribs on Ben Cruachan just three weeks ago after his first accident in 50 years of climbing, has returned to conquer the hill.

160 foot fall

The 68-year-old mountaineer, who ran around all Lochaber's 24 Munros in less than a day - establishing the famous Ramsay's Round hill race in the process - was determined to get 'back on the horse' as quickly as possible after the 160 foot fall.

He was carried off the hill by Oban Mountain Rescue Team, who had to dig a snow trench to get to him, and such were his injuries that he was unable to stand upright properly for more than a week.

Three could be his lucky number though, as it took him just three hours to reach the summit on Monday and recount his first ever 'crash'.

Charlie, who lives in Edinburgh and is a former member of Lochaber Athletic Club, said: 'It was interesting

because when I was walking up the hill I could hear water running - just as I did when I was being carried down in the stretcher.'

'I think psychologically I thought I'm back on the ridge as I heard water when I was being carried down on the stretcher.'

'When I did get back down I heard a helicopter. That brought it all back'

'I think when you're faced with these things you get back and do it again quickly.'

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Two late goals see Fort exit League Cup

Manager pays tribute to the club's youth coaches as eight teenagers take the field against Formartine

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT BOSS Danny Conlon, still smarting after last Saturday's powderkeg cup clash, has praised his youth coaches for their role in producing the youngest squad in the Highland League.

No fewer than eight players who played in the 4-3 Breedon Aggregates Highland League Cup loss to Formartine were teenagers, a situation likely to continue as Fort seek to leapfrog Strathspey in the basement battle.

With homes games due against high-flying Rothes last night (Wednesday) and Rothes on

Saturday, Conlon's young team have a great chance to produce the goods.

'I'd like to pay tribute to the hard work the youth coaches are putting in,' the coach told The Oban Times. 'The fact that we eight players under 19 on Saturday shows just how much has been achieved. I think the whole club is going in the right direction and all we can hope for is that these young players stay with us.'

Big Game
He added: 'Rothes is a big, big game for us - if we have any thought of getting away from where we are we have to win on Saturday.'

FOOTBALL

Centre back Mark Gillespie is an injury doubt, but central defender Andy Martin will make his return, Conlon said.

Late Goals
Against Formartine, Fort were through to the third round with two minutes left - but were suckered by two late, late goals as the visitors, 3-2 down in the dying minutes, found enough resolve to chisel out victory.

Bagshaw opening the scoring on nine minutes, but Formartine paid the price for failing to extend their lead when Chris MacLeod rifled a low shot past



Darren Quigg challenges a Formartine forward during his side's 4-3 loss on Saturday. 20_f12foot01

for the leveller on 33 minutes.

Two minutes later Fort's Barker volleyed just over and rejuvenated Fort were soon ahead courtesy of MacLellan's cool finish.

Fort needed a period of controlled football after the break, instead Park equalised

after Bagshaw's drive had been blocked.

Smith's clever header almost gave Formartine the lead but Fort still looked dangerous and went ahead with 12 minutes left after a fine move saw Barker plant MacLeod's cross past the keeper.

The visitors had MacVitie red-carded, and Fort could have killed the tie when MacLellan's cross found Barker with only the goalie to beat, but the diminutive striker blazed over.

It was now or never for Formartine and after a frantic spell of pressure Soane grabbed

headed past Donaldson to make it 3-3.

Fort's Farquhar Macrae earned himself a straight red for a tirade of abuse and two minutes into injury time Soane broke Fort hearts when he lashed home after a desperate goalmouth scramble.

Andrea is the new Scottish champion

FIELD ARCHERY

KINLOCHLEVEN has a new Scottish champion after a female member of the local field archery club won a national title.

Andrea Koster claimed the adult female freestyle crown at the Scottish field archery indoor championships at Linlithgow. Andrea, who shoots with South Lochaber Bowmen, was one of 13 local archers from SLB and Fort William-based Garrison Bowmen competing.

The 47 year-old Highland Council clerical assistant, who originally hails from Tilburg in the Netherlands, led a strong Lochaber challenge at the championships.

SLB president Dubh Irbhinn said: 'We were very unfortunate not to bring back more medals.' South Lochaber Bowmen will further strengthen their presence in the sport when they host the Highland Open in Fort William on May 12-13.



Andrea Koster: struck gold at the indoor field archery championships. 20_f12andrea01



Award winners at Lochaber Athletic Club's Winter League presentation in the Nevis Centre.

Lochaber Athletic Club holds winter league presentation

FORTY runners completed Lochaber Athletics Club's Lairigim Race from Kinlochleven to Fort William on Saturday.

Conditions were good with sunshine and showers for the last of the Winter League races of the season.

First senior male was Craig Mitchell in 1hr 31mins 50secs. Second across the line and first male vet 40 was Arian Davies, closely followed by long distance expert George Cairns.

Thanks to Lynn, the marshal with refreshments at halfway, and Theresa for assisting with timekeeping.

Results: Senior males - 1,

Craig Mitchell 1.31.50; 2, Peter Davenport 1.36.34; 3, Allan Ross 1.36.48; Senior males vet 40 - 1, Arian Davies 1.33.06; 2, George Cairns 1.35.09; 3, John Binnie 1.35.11; Senior Male vet 50 - 1, Ali Kennedy 1.44.20; 2, Brian Campbell 2.04.50; 3, Iain Adams 2.06.52.

Females
Senior Females - 1, Sarah MacKenzie 1.58.05; 2, Laura Barbour 2.10.17; 3, Jo MacGuire 2.15.19. Senior Female vet 40 - 1, Susan Jane Ross 2.05.31; 2, Lucy Prinn 2.07.30; 3, Margaret Rose McPhee 2.33.33; Senior Female vet 50 - 1, Elvire Finney 3.07.32; Senior vet 60 - 1, Elma Murdoch 2.43.45.

ATHLETICS

The race was followed by the Winter League prizegiving in the Nevis Centre at 8pm. Among the trophy winners was Ian Adams, who received the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils trophy for his service to sport.

Ian, one of the driving forces behind Jog Scotland's success in Fort William, has been a committed member of Lochaber Athletic Club and a race organiser. He is also a regular competitor in the clubs' races and competes around the country in a Lochaber vest.

Nightmare season of postponements a concern for Lochaber Rugby Club

LOCHABER Rugby Club's nightmare season continued on Saturday when their match at Banavie against Garioch was cancelled.

The call-off was the 12th time the club has had a home game postponed this season - the last time the park was fit for purpose was back in November.

With yet another re-arranged fixture against Aberdeenshire 2nd XV due this weekend, Lochaber are hoping Highland Council drainage works will mean the pitch is ready in time.

The fixture headache follows similar problems on March 3, when the club had to

phone around for an alternative pitch for their 'home' fixture after being informed the Black Parks were no longer available.

Banavie was unplayable - although the Council lined the pitch - and thanks to Strathspey RFC the game was played in Kingussie.

Tough Season
Club secretary Pauline Donaldson told The Oban Times: 'To say it's been a tough season for the players in an understatement.'

'The current pitch conditions have meant that the players have only managed to take part in a handful of train-

ing sessions at Banavie, mostly in the dead ball areas to try and preserve the playing area. The impact of this has had a detrimental effect on the team's performance, development and morale.'

'The most frustrating thing for the players is that the Black Parks has not been used for the last two Saturdays and was playable for a game of rugby.'

Ms Donaldson said the other casualty of the situation was the impact it is having on the thriving youth section.

She said: 'Since November the mini rugby session held on Saturday morning has been

RUGBY

moved to the King George V Park, three miles from Banavie. The club's annual rugby festivals were cancelled and the under 16s are experiencing inconsistencies in training sessions and home fixtures due to the pitch conditions.'

Worrying
She added: 'The financial knock on effect is worrying for the club who depend on homes games to help with the extensive running costs of a senior team, youth teams and the clubhouse.'

Postie John delivers the goods

TABLE TENNIS

LOCAL postie John Grant has edged out Fort William Tennis Club rival Monte Bleasdale in their latest head to head match.

The club's top two division one players will meet again at the club's weekly sessions in the Nevis Centre on Monday nights from 6.30pm-9pm.

Anyone wishing to try out or return to the sport will be given a warm welcome. For more information www.tabletennisfortwilliam.org.uk

Lachlan helps Scottish team to fifth place in world championships

LOCHABER skier Lachlan Veitch helped the Scottish schools junior boys alpine ski team take fifth place at the recent World Schools Ski Championships at Gressoney, Italy.

The Lochaber High School pupil, who is from Torlundy, performed outstandingly well, especially given the fact that most of the other boys competing in the 14 and under category were a year older.

Scotland's teams were up against stiff competition from 15 mainly Alpine nations, including France, Italy, Germany, Austria

SKIING

and Islamic Republic of Iran.

The event, run by the International Schoolsports Federation, included a cultural programme which featured a 'Meeting of the Nations'.

Scottish team boss Andy Teiger said: 'It was a truly fantastic experience for our athletes and could be the only time in their lives that they represent Scotland on skis. They got a great write-up in the local Italian newspaper, La Stampa.'



Lachlan Veitch, right, with the Scottish team in Italy.

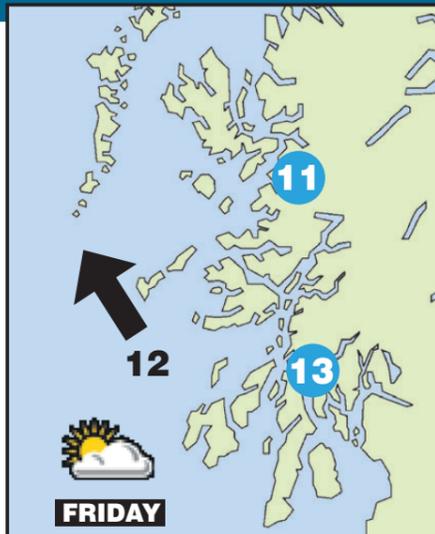
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate south, south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 11°C

Friday Sunny
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate, south, south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 22, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	11.56	0.8	17.46	3.8	**	**
Thur	05.33	3.9	11.56	0.8	17.46	3.8	** **
Fri	00.14	0.7	06.04	4.0	12.28	0.8	18.14 3.9
Sat	00.47	0.8	06.35	4.0	12.59	0.8	18.42 3.9
Sun	01.17	0.9	07.05	3.9	13.30	0.9	19.10 3.9
Mon	01.46	1.1	07.34	3.8	14.01	1.1	19.38 3.8
Tues	02.14	1.3	08.03	3.6	14.32	1.3	20.08 3.6
Wed	02.40	1.5	08.32	3.3	15.05	1.5	20.41 3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardnishraig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk

